

## **Summary of the NERC Management Board Meeting, 22 June 2017**

The ninth meeting of the NERC Management Board (NMB) took place on Thursday 22 June 2017 at MRC, 1 Kemble Street, London.

Attendees were:

- Duncan Wingham, NERC Chief Executive
- Paul Fox, NERC Chief Operating Officer (Chair)
- Tim Wheeler, NERC Director, Science and Innovation
- Richard Gledhill, NERC Non-Executive Director
- Paul Hayden, NERC Non-Executive Director
- Phil Heads, NERC, Associate Director, Strategy and Evidence
- Alison Robinson, NERC Director, Corporate Affairs
- Claire Turner, NERC Director, Finance (by teleconference)
- Lyndsey Jones, NMB Secretary

Topical issues discussed were:

### **Reforming the Management Information (MI) function**

1. NMB received a report on the current progress on improving the MI in NERC Head Office and the programme's next steps. The Board was pleased with the work carried out to date and agreed that the work now needed to be expanded to focus on the strategic customer requirements.

### **New funding model and its implications**

2. NMB was given an outline of the proposals to reform the Research Centre funding system and highlighted the agreement at Council to integrate overheads into the main funding line. The next steps were summarised and the changes to risk profiles for centres highlighted.
3. The Board suggested that a simplified explanation on the reasons for the changes needed to be formulated and communicated.

### **Report from Centre Assurance Boards (CABs)**

4. The process of the recent round of Centre Assurance Board meetings was outlined and a report highlighting the main issues was presented to NMB for information and comment.

### **Update from April National Capability Partners Forum (NCPF)**

5. NMB was informed of the discussions at the April NCPF meeting and outlined the reasons that the forum was established. Concern was raised that routine business issues were dominating the agenda in place of more strategic discussion items. The Board acknowledged there was no forum for joint Head Office and NERC Centre discussion of business issues, so agreed to consider whether these business issues could be aligned with the ongoing NMB meeting arrangements.

### **Annual Security Report**

6. The Board were provided with the outline discussions at the recent Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) meeting.

7. NMB was advised that all the centres had gained Cyber Essentials certification.
8. It was agreed that a cyber security awareness session should be arranged for NMB at a future meeting.

**Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO) update**

9. NMB received an update on Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO) latest position. It was noted that there had been a BEIS/NERC project Board meeting in May and that the project timeline had been revised.
10. The GRO business case had been approved by NERC Council and efforts were being focussed on preparing for a Ministerial submission for the independence of CEH and NOC.
11. It was noted that further skills and resources would be need to be developed in Head Office to deliver the next phase.

**Reputation risk management: Unconventional hydrocarbons**

12. NMB was provided with the context and advised that this would be a joint programme between NERC and the Economic and Social Economic Council ([ESRC](#)).
13. The Board supported the work to prepare a response to any queries about this funding announcement, and asked for some small amendment to the FAQs .

**14. Standing items discussed were:**

- Chief Executive's update: issues covered were the Industrial Strategy, UKRI and Brexit.
- Monthly finance update, including capital: NMB noted the figures presented.
- Risk register review: NMB reviewed the top risks and identified updates.
- Actions update and forward planner: Members noted progress against actions and identified issues for the July NMB meeting.
- There were no Communications issues raised during the meeting.

The next NMB meeting will be on Tuesday 18 July at MRC, 1 Kemble Street, London.