

Summary of the NERC Management Board Meeting, 24 October 2017

The twelfth meeting of the NERC Management Board (NMB) took place on Tuesday 24 October 2017 at MRC, 1 Kemble Street, London.

Attendees were:

- Paul Fox, NERC Chief Operating Officer (Chaired in the absence of the Chair)
- Tim Wheeler, NERC Director, Research and Innovation
- Richard Gledhill, NERC Non-Executive Director
- Paul Hayden, NERC Non-Executive Director
- Phil Heads, NERC, Associate Director, Strategy and Evidence
- Claire Turner, NERC Director, Finance (by teleconference)
- Julia Maddock, Associate Director, Corporate Affairs
- Sue Morrell, NMB Secretary

Topical issues discussed were:

Cruise Programme Executive Board (CPEB)

1. NMB considered the options for the update and long term strategic planning for NERC research ships. It was agreed that the proposal should be developed to define a new mechanism to ensure alternative flexible ship-usage options for the medium term as well as the uncertainty of yearly use and submitted to a future NMB meeting. The Board commented that CPEB had been doing a good job.
2. The Board noted the annual report.

Head Office Plan – Quarterly exception report

3. NMB was taken through the progress against the milestones identified in the Head Office Plan following the second quarterly review, particularly the amber and red issues.
4. It was noted that HO arrangements to support BGS with UKGEOS were being reformed. The efforts BGS were making would become apparent over the next couple of months. The six amber issues were mostly the same as the previous quarter.
5. The Board was advised that the Head Office Plan had changed in respect of preparation for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) with the focus now being mainly on the HR function and how staff would be transferred.

CASE studentships – organisational eligibility

6. The Board were advised that a second call for NERC Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTP2) would be launched in January 2018 and the next CASE competition in May 2018. The paper outlined the proposed changes to CASE partner eligibility to remove the current risks and challenges associated with the current mechanisms.
7. NMB approved the proposals in the paper with the request that a mitigation plan for communication to the Centres be put in place.

International recruitment to NERC funded doctoral studentships

8. NMB requested that this paper be taken to a Directors meeting before being re-submitted to NMB if required.

NERC Centres Partners Forum (NCPF)

9. The Board approved the proposed format of the meetings and its terms of reference to include the changes suggested by the NERC Directors Update (NDU) meeting.
10. NMB noted the NCPF report.

UKRI Senior Strategy Group and Design and Delivery Board

11. The Board were provided with updates from recent meetings.

Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO) update

12. NMB received an update on Governance, Responsibility and Ownership (GRO) position. It was noted that the business cases for CEH and NOC had been submitted to the Minister for approval w/c 23 October.

13. Standing items discussed were:

- Chief Executive's update: issues covered were updates on the BGS Governance Project and the recruitment campaign for new Council members.
- 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 November NMB meeting.
- There were no Communications issues raised during the meeting.

The next NMB meeting will be on Thursday 30 November at MRC, 1 Kemble Street, London.