

## NERC Science Committee 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

### Summary of Discussion

#### 15 & 16 May 2019, Swindon

**Members Present:** Professor Angela Hatton (Chair), Professor Tamsin Mather, Professor Richard Pancost, Professor Rowan Sutton, Professor David Thomas, Professor David Vaughan, Professor Susan Waldron, Professor Mathew Williams.

**Ex-Officio:** Dr Phil Heads

**Apologies:** Professor Jenny Collier, Professor Lora Fleming, Professor Alberto Naveira Garabato, Professor Rosemary Hails, Professor Andrew Shepherd, Professor Graham Underwood and Professor Duncan Wingham

**Other Attendees:** Dr Ned Garnett (**whole meeting**);

**Item 6:** Alison Robinson (NERC Director of Corporate Affairs) dialed in.

**Item 8:** Professor Paul Bates (Previous SB member), Professor Simon Redfern (Previous SB member)

ORCHESTRA: Alex Brearley (BAS), Dave Munday (BAS), Elaina Ford (BAS)

UKESM: Colin Jones (NCAS PI), Tony Payne (Bristol and CPOM) Andrew Yool (NOC, Southampton).

ACSIS: Alex Archibald (NCAS), Bablu Sinha (NOC)

LOCATE: Richard Sanders (NOC), Doug Clark (CEH),

ASSIST: Richard Pywell (CEH PI), Jonathan Storkey (Rothamsted PI), Andy Tye (BGS)

**Secretary:** Gemma Davies

### Key issues discussed

#### Science Committee Terms of Reference and mode of operation

The Committee were updated on the draft terms of reference and it was noted that previous feedback had been acted upon. Further suggestions and positive feedback were received.

#### Update on NERC strategic programmes process

The Committee were updated on strategic programme generation, which is still evolving. This will be on the agenda of the June Council meeting. Council will identify gaps by looking at the ambitions of the new strategic delivery plan and comparing it with the existing portfolio of investments; Council will agree the investment priorities.

## **Highlight Topic Process**

The Committee were updated on the process for prioritising potential highlight topics; noting this is sixth round of HT prioritisation.

## **Infrastructure Roadmap**

The Committee were updated on the infrastructure roadmap which is to show 10-15 years of strategic ambition. The distinction was noted between the UKRI infrastructure roadmap, which is a long-term strategy and NERC's own capital roadmap which relates to NERC's shorter-term capital priorities. NERC's capital roadmap will be informed by the UKRI infrastructure roadmap.

## **Executive Chair update**

The Committee heard about the impacts on NERC of the current political and budget uncertainty along with the topics being covered at the June Council meeting.

## **NC Science Multiple Mid-term review**

The Committee discussed each of the five NC Science Multiple Centre Awards; Ocean Regulation of Climate through Heat and Carbon Sequestration and Transports (ORCHESTRA); UK Earth System Modelling project (UKESM); Land Ocean Carbon Transfer (LOCATE); North Atlantic Climate System: Integrated Study (ACSIS) and Achieving Sustainable Agricultural Systems (ASSIST) and agreed agree if the awards were exceeding, meeting or underperforming.

## **Standing items**

The Committee confirmed the minutes and noted the forward agenda