

NERC Management Board (NMB) Meeting

Summary of discussions

**25 April 2019 MRC,
London**

Members present:

Professor DJ Wingham, Mr PJ Fox, Mr R Gledhill, Dr P Heads, Dr H Collins.

Apologies: Mr P Hayden, Ms A Robinson.

Other attendees: Dr S Reid (Interim Joint Head of Capital, Item 2), Professor S Mobbs (Director, NCAS, item 3), Dr B Schlarb-Ridley (Director of Innovation and Impact, BAS, Item 4), Ms J Thompson (Head of Comms Campaigns, Item 5), Ms E Body (Head of Strategy and Planning, Item 6), Mrs C Exton (NERC HR Business Partner for Head Office, Item 7), Mrs M Simpson (Head of Operations, Item 7), Mr N Cooper (NERC Risk Business Partner, item 12).

Secretary: Mrs SJ Morrell.

Executive Chair Update

Professor Wingham opened the meeting and welcomed members.

He provided updates on the following:

- Spending Review
- Pay Harmonisation
- Transformation

Capital Roadmap

NMB was advised of the activities informing the upcoming Spending Review (SR) submission with respect to capital investment: identifying investments that are commitment-ready for 2020/21; and identifying the priorities for longer-term capital spend (post-2020/21 and for the SR period). The Board provided comments on the SR priorities for capital investment, informed by the Environment chapter of the UKRI Infrastructure roadmap.

The Board was advised that the internal preparatory work for the SR would be submitted to UKRI in May, with a submission to HM Treasury in early September based on current anticipated timelines.

Engineering options for the Mid-Life Upgrade of FAAM

The Board considered the proposed science upgrades, proposed aircraft upgrades directly enabling science, proposed aircraft upgrades addressing mandatory or sustainability requirements and the associated scalable finances.

NMB offered suggestions to further improve the business case. Head Office would review the financial position and hold further discussions with NCAS.

British Antarctic Survey ([BAS](#)) Reputation Management: Corporate membership of the [AURORA Innovation Centre](#)

The plans for BAS to establish a category of membership for its AURORA Innovation Centre, which focused on helping Corporates understand the recent IPCC 1.5°C report and the impact of climate warming on their business activities, were shown to NMB.

The Board provided feedback on the plans around membership and ensuring that the plans align to the purpose, objectives and mission of BAS.

2020 Cardiff showcase planning

NMB noted that this had recently been discussed at a Directors meeting. This had been well received and agreement had been given for the planning to be progressed.

Head Office Plan – quarterly exception report

NMB was provided with an update on the progress against the milestones identified in the Head Office Plan, following the quarterly review for the period January to April 2019. The Board reviewed the exceptions and provided updates.

People Survey Action Plan

The Board noted the results from the first cross-UKRI exercise, which had already been published and reviewed at a Directors meeting. The action owners would meet regularly to shape the plans for progressing the actions and would provide updates and ensure senior level accountability.

Met Office Partnerships in SPF Programmes

NMB was advised that a risk had been raised at the UKRI Investment Committee. It was noted that the issues had been discussed at UKRI, NERC and MO level and mitigating actions agreed. The outcome of the next programme meeting would be discussed with the Executive Chair.

EU Exit

The Board was informed that new staff were now in place in UKRI. The in-flight activities had been identified and would be underwritten.

Matters arising from UKRI meetings

The Board was provided with updates from recent meetings.

Standing items

NMB also noted a couple of standing items including the monthly finance update, the risk register review and the rolling programme of business.

Date of next meeting

The next NERC Management Board meeting will be held on 21 May 2019.