

NERC Management Board (NMB) Meeting

Summary of discussions

25th November 2020

Held via Zoom

Members present:

A Robinson (Chair), N Bird, V McMyn, S Waldron, I Williams, R Gledhill, P Hayden, C Bault, K Shillinglaw, C Foster

Apologies: DJ Wingham

Other attendees:

S Gooch (item 4), C Urquhart (item 5), J Mitchell (item 6), C Snelling (item 7 & 8), T Haynes (item 9), H Collins (item 10), B Dark (item 11), A Sharpe (item 12), J Barton (item 14), S Caswell (item 15).

Secretary: Eleanor Oates.

Executive Chair Update

Alison Robinson opened the meeting and welcomed members. She informed members that this was Paul Hayden and Richard Gledhill last meeting and thanked them for their contribution to NERC, she welcomed the new NED's Christine Foster and Kim Shillinglaw.

Future Delivery including: Spending review and Future ways of working

The Board received an overview of a new project initiated to help delivery of the Spending Review settlement and to make NERC Head Office more efficient and effective in both the short and longer term.

NERC Business Continuity Plan

The Board approved the BCP and approved that the NERC Chief Operating Officer should have delegated authority to sign off iterations of the plan. The Board asked for the item to return when ready to present the testing and rehearsal plans put in place.

Proposed Approach to Delivery Plan Progress Reporting

The Board approved the proposed approach to the Delivery Plan progress reporting in 2020-21. The report would return with a first overview of progress against Delivery Plan ambitions using this framework in March 2021.

Head Office Plan

The Board received an update on the progress against the milestones identified in the Head Office Plan, following the quarterly review for the period from July to September 2020 inclusive.

Responsibility Framework Reporting

The Board reviewed and approved proposed arrangements for six-monthly reporting to NMB against the NERC Responsible Business Statement.

UKRI Environmental Sustainability Strategy – NERC response

The Board reviewed and approved the NERC draft to be submitted to the UKRI action planning process, and by doing so, agreed to adopt the core principles and actions outlined in the plan and implement these across NERC.

Evaluation Programme

The Board reviewed and approved the NERC evaluation policy. A coordinated evaluation programme the covered all HO investments would return to NMB in March 2021.

Environmental Science Community Diversity

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposal, NMB agreed that NERC should learn from the evidence produced from the data analysis and determine how NERC could commit to actioning this topic.

Health & Safety Qtr. 2 NERC Report

The Board received a summary of the Qtr. 2 Health & Safety report which was comprised of information and data from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and the British Geological Survey (BGS)

S&F commissioning cycle

The Board discussed the benefits and disadvantages of moving to a longer-term investment model for S&F and EDS, from five to ten years.

National Capability funding request

The Board reviewed and approved the approach proposed to fund a National Capability cruise and deployment of equipment to monitor the A68a iceberg.

Standing items

NMB also noted a couple of standing items including the monthly finance update, the risk register review, matters arising from UKRI meetings and the rolling programme of business. The Board also approved the updated NMB Terms of Reference.

Date of next meeting

The next NERC Management Board meeting would be held on 27 January 2021.