

NERC Management Board (NMB) Meeting

Summary of discussions

27th March 2021

Held via Zoom

Members present:

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

Board Observer: Hannah King

Apologies: DJ Wingham

Other attendees:

Corrina Urquhart (item 2), Robert Gillies (item 4), Mary Goodchild (item 5), Sally Reid (item 7), Sophie Hodgson (item 8), Fiona Goff (item 9), Johanna Barton (item 10).

Secretary: Eleanor Oates.

Executive Chair Update

Alison Robinson opened the meeting and welcomed members. She updated members on the Spending Review allocation, Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), National Lockdown, the Reforming our Business project and highlighted the potential impact to NERC.

Delivery Plan Progress Reporting

The Board reviewed and agreed the approach/format for reporting progress. The Delivery Plan reporting's aim was to track and actively manage NERC's progress towards the long-term ambitions that NERC set themselves in 2019. By doing this NERC hoped to identify opportunities and reveal any issues/obstacles to delivery.

Responsibility Framework Report

The Board reviewed the first 6 monthly Responsibility Framework report. The purpose of this report was to provide an overview of the direction of travel against the Responsibility Framework as a whole and to ensure NMB had sight of key successes and concerns/risks to delivery.

Review of new insight approach

The Board reviewed and agreed the proposal for new Insight activity for 2021-22. This insight would allow NERC to build strategy, activity and make decisions.

Establishing the Polar Research and Operations Board

The Board reviewed and agreed to establish a new board within NERC, this board would support BAS in terms of their planning for polar logistics, research, and infrastructure improvement operations.

Allocation of NERC Research Centre Institutional Funding

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposal to allocate the Institutional Funding (IF) using the outputs from the 2020 Centre Evaluation exercise. However, agreed that NERC had to analyse the full impact this approach could have if approved and ensure this approach would improve quality and excellence.

World Leading Science in NERC Centres

The Board reviewed and the discussed the overall approach of the proposal, to increase cutting-edge science in the NERC Research Centres. However, agreed that NERC had to analyse the full impact this approach could have if approved.

Lessons Learnt from NERC Centre Evaluation

The Board reviewed and noted the lessons learned from the Evaluation of NERC Centres 2020 and next steps for future exercises

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.

Date of next meeting

The next NERC Management Board meeting would be held on 19 May 2021.