

NERC Management Board (NMB) Meeting

Summary of discussions

19th May 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: Bryony Exton

Apologies: DJ Wingham

Other attendees:

Shaun Caswell (item 2), Thomas Haynes (item3), Candy Snelling (item 4), Tracy Hanks, Jacky Clake & Robyn Thomas (item 5), Corrina Urquhart (item 6,7 & 8), Daniella Durston & Andrew McConnochie(item 9), Jen Jennings (item 10), Bill Dark (item 12).

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), Trusted Research and highlighted the potential impact to NERC.

Evaluation Programme: 12 Month Rolling Programme

The Board reviewed and agreed the evaluation pilots and the format for reporting progress. The programme allows a more consistent, but flexible NERC approach to evaluation, it provides better evidence for the value of NERC investments, how successful NERC management practices are and assess whether investments are contributing to NERC's broader objectives.

NERC EDI Approach

The Board reviewed the proposed EDI approach. The new NERC EDI approach will cover a three-year period and it had been developed with input from all parts of NERC HO, BGS and BAS including EDI champions network, local EDI groups and the UKRI EDI team. The Board requested a review of measures and timeline prior to approval.

New UKRI Website – NERC Transition and Assurance Agreement

The Board reviewed and noted the project's existing assurance and monitoring, the Board also reviewed the NERC assurance agreement. The Board requested baseline data from the existing NERC website so NERC could use this to compare current and future website use.

Environmental Science Community Diversity

The Board reviewed the approach for convening Community Diversity Roundtables in June 2021. The Board welcomed the programme, however encouraged alignment to determine where these practical decisions would be recognised on the new EDI plan.

Report against delivering the ambitions in the NERC Delivery Plan

The Board reviewed and noted the overall progress in meeting Delivery Plan commitments.

Head Office Plan – Exception Report

The Board reviewed and noted progress on Head Office Change Plan activities following Q4 20/21, discussed management actions and noted the new Plan for 2021-22.

UK GEOS Project

The Board reviewed and approved the proposed project extension and spend reprofile required to deliver the Cheshire site at Thornton Science Park.

NERC COP26 Plans

The Board reviewed details of the proposed NERC HO COP26 programme, they agreed high-level objectives for NERC HO COP26 activities and provided feedback on the proposed activities within the NERC HO COP26 programme.

Antarctic Modernisation Programme

The Board reviewed and noted the annual report on the Antarctic Infrastructure Modernisation Programme (AIMP) and its progress.

NERC Annual H&S report

The Board reviewed and noted NERC's performance on the management of health and safety during the financial year 2020/21.

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 14 July 2021.