

NERC Management Board (NMB) Meeting

Summary of discussions

29th September 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(s): Rebecca Scott & Emma-Jayne Perez Chies

Apologies: D Wingham

Other attendees:

Andrew Bidwell & Carol Exton (item 2), Candy Snelling (item 3), Bill Dark (item 5), Lisa Evans & Nichola Badcock (item 6), Andrea Sharpe & Stephen Mobbs (item 8), Shaun Caswell (item 11).

Secretary: Eleanor Oates.

Executive Chair Update

Alison Robinson opened the meeting and welcomed members. She updated members on the following topics and highlighted the potential impact to NERC: NMB BAS visit in November 2021, Spending Review allocation overview, UKRI Efficiency plan, NERC Equality, Diversion and Inclusion update and next steps, NERC update on people initiative, including work force planning and UKRI COP26 update including COVID-19 risks.

Research Integrity

The Board approved the update to the NERC Research Integrity Statement, noted the current and future activity to promote a positive research culture at NERC's Research Centres and also noted the current UKRI activity, including the Governance of Good Research Conduct policy update.

NBOSAAG annual report

The Board noted the annual report, this detailed NBOSAAGs conclusions and recommendations in respect of the thematic areas for review set by the NERC EC for 2020/21 and reviewed the proposed areas for thematic review during the 2021/22 review period. A separate briefing has been arranged for Duncan Wingham to review the report.

NERC H&S Report - FY2021/22 Q1

The Board reviewed and noted the report. The Board were informed that Safety Leadership training and development sessions were being developed at UKRI level, the Board would be offered this training accordingly.

Project initiation for COSLab – CO2 Storage laboratory

The Board approved project delivery to begin from January 2022 and allocation of up to £2m capital baseline over 22/23 and 23/24 budgets to ensure the project delivers an Outline Business Case (OBC) to NMB in June 2023 and all necessary UKRI, BEIS and HMT approvals by March 2024.

Major Projects Report (not AIMP)

The Board noted the report and encouraged the proposed portfolio prioritisation review, they asked for the findings to return to November 2021 meeting.

NERC High Performance Computing: Governance, Budget, Future Developments and Usage

The Board approved the proposed governance restructure for NERC's HPC and wider Digital Research Infrastructure and noted the HPC budget, future developments, and current usage issues.

Allocation of NERC baseline capital funding to JASMIN

The Board approved the NERC capital allocation to JASMIN, £1.5 million.

Standing items

NMB also noted 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 24 November 2021.