

NERC Management Board (NMB) Meeting

Summary of discussions

24th November 2021

Held at British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge

Members present:

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

Board Observer: Lisa Evans

Other attendees:

C Snelling (item 2), A Bidwell (item 3), E Body (item 8) S Caswell (item 9).

Secretary: Eleanor Oates.

Executive Chair Update

Alison Robinson opened the meeting and welcomed members. She updated members on the Spending Review allocation, OpeX, NERC DEI action plan, COP26, National Capability Review and UKRI Efficiency plan, and highlighted the potential impact to NERC.

Proposed NERC Advisory Council

The Board reviewed the proposal for a NERC Advisory Council and commented on the draft Terms of Reference prior to this being presented to Council.

NERC implementation of the UKRI Environmental Sustainability Strategy

The Board noted progress required to create and deliver the NERC carbon pathway to achieve Net Zero operational emissions (CO₂e) by 2040.

NMB Annual Self- Assessment

The Board reviewed the outcome of their first self-assessment. They noted the key highlights and areas for improvement raised.

Prioritisation of NERC Infrastructure

The Board endorsed the prioritisation criteria proposed to sequence the development and delivery of infrastructure. They also noted that new project delivery capability and capacity would be needed to deliver the whole portfolio, and some items would need a stronger endorsement of their science case, via Science Committee – before joining the development pipeline.

Report from the Cruise Programme Executive Board

The Board noted the report, this included reporting on how CPEB had functioned in 2020/21 to address challenging circumstances arising from COVID-19 and operational impacts, and CPEB plans for improving seagoing science research support.

Approach to Delivery Plan reporting 2021-22

The Board endorsed the approach to Delivery Plan reporting for 2021/2.

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 26 January 2022.