## Genomics England Limited - Board Meeting

## Minutes of Meeting held on 16 May 2017 at

## QMUL, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6BQ

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| Present: | Sir John Chisholm (Chair) (JC) |
|  | Andrew Baigent (AB) |
|  | Prof Ewan Birney (EB) |
|  | Prof Mark Caulfield (MC) |
|  | Sir Malcolm Grant (MG) |
|  | Jon Symonds (JS) |
|  | Nick Maltby (NM) |
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| In attendance: | Peter Counter (PC) |
|  | Augusto Rendon (AR) |
|  | Graham Colbert (GC) |
|  | Joanne Hackett (JH) |
|  | Sue Hill (SH) |
|  | Mark Bale (MB) |
|  | Vivienne Parry (VP) |
|  | Joanne Mason (JM)(Item 008 only) |
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| Apologies: | Dame Sally Davies (SD) |
|  | Prof Sir John Bell (JB) |
|  | Prof Dame Kay Davies (KD) |
|  | Prof Michael Parker (MP) |

**17-18/001 – Apologies:** See above.

**17-18/002 – Chair’s Introduction:** JC welcomed directors to the meeting and declared the meeting quorate.

**17-18/003 – Declarations of Conflicts of Interest:** JC reminded the Board that all conflicts needed to be declared.

**17-18/004 – Approval of the Minutes of the March Board Meeting and Actions Arising**

The minutes of the March Board Meeting were approved. The Company Secretary was authorised sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The status of Actions Arising was as follows:

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| **ACTION** | **OWNER** | **STATUS** |
| Provide a detailed report to the May Board on how we will clear the reporting backlog and moving to flow. | AR | Included in Board Pack. |

**17-18/005– Executive Chair’s Report (JC):**

* Rare disease recruitment continues to go well while cancer continues to struggle**.** We won’t get to a place where cancer is commissionable in the next year.
* We are therefore putting out feelers for other ways of enhancing recruitment. The principal option is Biobank with whom we are now in early discussions. If these talks do not work then there is the East London Genomes and Health Cohort.
* JC introduced JH to the Board as the new Commercial Director. JH will share her initial plan with the Board at the July meeting.

**17-18/006 – Genomics Futures (JC)**

* JC briefed the Board on the current state of discussions.
* There followed a discussion of the Board Pack. It was noted that the plans represent a co-ordination approach not a command and control approach. The GeL and NHSE teams are meeting fortnightly to progress this. It was confirmed we are still in a transition phase. In the longer term we will reach business as usual. It was noted that while the organograms would seem to be heavy with governance this is to avoid something more rigid being imposed.
* It was further noted that the partnership board will operate under a MOU arrangement. The partnership will regulate 3 basic functions: (1) services that NHSE procures from the rest of the NHS: (2) services that NHSE procures from GeL; (3) an on-going proof of concept/development.
* JC concluded by commenting that we will bring more detail to the next Board in July.

**17-18/007 – IPA Report (NM)**

* NM took the Board through the main recommendations. The IPA review team felt the project was in better shape than at the time of the last review in autumn 2015. The amber red rating should be seen by the Board as a positive given the nature of the project.
* It was noted that although not mentioned in the Report, DH relies on the Boards of GeL and NHSE in terms of progress for the project.
* It was noted that while only 1 of the recommendations fell to GeL to respond to DH would need to work closely with GeL and NHSE to respond to the recommendations and this was acknowledged.
* There followed a discussion of the state of play with cancer. Progressing cancer remains a key priority.

**17-18/008 – [Confidential Item]**

[Redacted]

**17-18/009 – Pipeline Report (PC)**

* PC took the Board through the report.
* The main reasons why we haven’t yet interpreted genomes are the lack of HPO terms, the move to GRCh38, genomes being on old versions of the old OpenCGA catalogue and other unresolved issues. We might not solve all these issues.
* The key question was whether we now focused on the backlog (resolving the outstanding issues) or flow. We can start dealing with flow from September. The Board view was that GeL should move to flow from September but have sufficient resources including compute to deal with flow so that the backlog could be dealt with in 3 rather than 6 months. **Action: GeL to investigate what the resource requirements around catching up on the backlog in different time frames were.**
* It was noted that prioritising flow may give us a problem with those participants that were still waiting for a diagnosis and have been doing so for several years. It was agreed that we needed to find a sensitive way of dealing with them. We would allow GMCs to tell us which cases should be prioritised (eg couples considering having further children).
* **The Board approved the company prioritising flow over backlog subject to there being a clear plan to resolve the backlog and the participants/GMCs being suitably involved.**

**17-18/010 – Confidential item**

* [Redacted]

**17-18/011 – NHS England Report on GMC Activity (MG)**

* RD is going well, cancer less well. Plans are in place both for accelerator sites and fast TAT pilots in cancer.
* The lab reprocurement is progressing.

[EB left the meeting].

**17-18/012 Pipeline Report and Dashboard (GC):**

* We are about to on board the first three GeCIP Domains. It was noted that this may help to progress the commercial strategy. t was confirmed that while we are talking about a few direct engagements with industry we have not yet concluded any.
* [Confidential item – redacted]

**17-18/013 CIO Report (PC):**

* We are looking at using Genie to collect clinical and phenotypic data. We will bring a proposal to the Board on the future of DAMS when ready.
* We may also come back to the Board shortly on a different way of procuring compute.

**17-18/014 - Science, Ethics and GeCIP Report (MC):**

* We now have 1000 researchers signed up to GeCIP including Cambridge, KCL and Oxford.
* The SAC has approved a pilot to get the exomes of RNA samples at no cost to GeL. The SAC will look at cell free circulating DNA.
* Northern Ireland and Scotland are now live.
* MC described the BRCA challenge. It was agreed that sharing with the Global Alliance in this context was desirable. **The Board approved the company participating in the BRCA challenge.**

**17-18/015 - Bioinformatics Report (AR):**

* We have delivered back our first reports on cancer samples
* The first Fast TAT samples have been a real success.

**17-18/016 - Genomic Enterprises (JH):**

* JC, MC and JH are visiting the US w/c 5/6.
* The industry trial will be concluded at the end of June. This will be a hard stop and no further access will be allowed to the data after that date.
* JH will put a detailed commercial strategy to the July Board.
* **Action: Bring detailed commercial strategy to July Board.**

**17-18/017 - Communications Report (VP):** There was a discussion of the communications report.

**17-18/018 – Accommodation (GC)**

* It was noted that a decision to move to a new location would need shareholder consent/ministerial approval and this could not be obtained during the election period.
* It was further noted that it was difficult to decide on the appropriate solution without first resolving GeL’s future role. Hence, all the options under investigation were 4/5 year leases with the minimum of refurbishment. It was appreciated that moving out of university/hospital/government accommodation to a former trading floor/law firm office would need attention from a PR perspective.
* **It was agreed that the executive management team would continue to work on a solution and revert to the Board at the appropriate time.**

**17-18/019 – [Confidential item]**

* [Redacted]

**17-18/020 - Board Committees**: there was no discussion of Board Committees.

**17-18/021 - Any Other Business:** There was no other business.

**17-18/022 - Date, Time and Agenda for Next Meeting**

**IT WAS NOTED that the next Board meeting would be held on 11 July 2017 between 14.00 – 17.00 at Genomics England in Charterhouse Square.**

**Close: The meeting closed at 1715**.

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Signed Dated