## Genomics England Limited - Board Meeting

## Minutes of Meeting held on 11 July 2017 at

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

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

**17-18/023 – Apologies:** See above.

**17-18/024 – Chair’s Introduction:** JC welcomed directors to the meeting and declared the meeting quorate.

**17-18/025 – Declarations of Conflicts of Interest:** JC reminded the Board that all conflicts needed to be declared.

**17-18/026 – Approval of the Minutes of the May Board Meeting and Actions Arising**

The minutes of the May 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** |
| GEL to consider what extra compute is needed to clear up the reporting backlog and report to the July Board | PC | See CIO Paper. |
| Bring detailed commercial strategy to July Board | JH | See agenda. |

**17-18/027– Executive Chair’s Report (JC):**

* JC commented that all the matters raised in his report were dealt with later in the agenda.

**17-18/028- CMO Annual Report 2017 – Generation Genome**

* SD gave an overview of her report and thanked those who had contributed. The report had landed better than expected and had led on most of the news bulletins on 4 July. SD summarised the key issues as follows: (1) allowing the legitimate use of data; (2) rehearsing why a participant would want to be involved – principally to get the latest diagnosis; and (3) stressing that the “cottage industry” had now served its purpose and it was time to move on. SD noted that she had reordered the report to give added prominence to the 100KGP.
* It was noted that the Secretary of State had indicated his support of the National Genomic Board and it was likely that Lord O’Shaughnessy would lead this.
* SD commented that she had spoken at an event at the Wellcome Collection on the launch evening and the reception had been overwhelmingly positive.
* There followed a discussion of the report.
* The Board agreed that it was now imperative to build on this given the head of steam created.

**17-18/029 – Genomics Futures (SH/NM)**

* SH commented that the paper summarises where we are with the NHSE/GeL discussions of the future. SH also advised the Board that in addition to the lab reprocurement, NHSE will also be reprocuring the GMCs as the GMC contracts were drafted with the 100KGP in view only.
* NM noted that the challenge as far as the governance is concerned is both to stand up the workstreams and bring the outputs together in a way that can usefully feed into the various tenders contemplated in the second half of 2017.
* It was noted that the discussions also needed to link in the academic community.

**17-18/030-Commercial Strategy (JH)**

* JH informed the Board that the Gene Consortium trial had now finished. The trial had been broadly successful and had helped GeL/the members understand the value of the data/working with GeL.
* JH was exploring a number of questions in formulating a commercial strategy including how do we be a neutral convenor; what is the value of the dataset; who does the analytics – what should we do ourselves and what should we let others do; how do we engage with GMCs; and what services can we sell to third parties? We have two live projects with pharma partners to explore this.
* There followed a discussion as to how the commercial strategy might be developed.
* **Action: JH to bring a detailed strategy to the September Board meeting.**

**17-18/031 – [Confidential item]**

* [Redacted]

**17-18/032 – Pipeline Priorities (PC)**

* PC took the Board through the slide pack on making genomes available to GMCs.
* PC noted that there are 4 points at which genomes might be made available: (A) following receipt from illumina; (B) completion of initial checks; (C) following tiering; and (D) after release to CIPs for interpretation**.** There was an argument for B, C and D. PC’s preference was to release at stage C and Phase 1 of this should be complete by the end of September. It was noted that data should be released to GMCs first as the group recruiting the patients and providing the data before it was released to researchers.
* There followed a discussion of pipeline priorities.
* **Subject to capturing JB and EB’s views, the Board approved the direction set out in the slide pack with genomic data being made available at Point C.**

**17-18/033 – NHS England Report on GMC Activity (MG)**

* GMCs have collected 37739 rare disease samples and 5567 cancer samples.
* It is expected that GMCs will reach 60k rare disease samples by 9/2018.
* Cancer is still not making the hoped for progress. However, all 13 GMCs have live cancer pathways with 37 LDPs active.
* It was noted that NHSE is providing the 3 accelerator sites (South London, North Thames and West Midlands) with extra resources and they are making progress with a significant uplift in figures expected. Biopsy pathways are now open and making a difference. It was suggested that a detailed look at the accelerator sites be undertaken at the September Board.
* **Action: NHSE to present on progress of cancer at the September Board.**

**17-18/034 Pipeline Report and Dashboard (GC):**

* GC noted that we have an issue with the use of contractors as the new emphasis on IR35 has put many contractors off working for the public sector and has pushed rates up.
* The Audit Committee has approved the extension of employees on fixed term contracts who expired between December 2017 and March 2018.
* The risk table has been updated and failing to deliver the commercial strategy has become the number one risk.

**17-18/035 CIO Report (PC):**

* PC ran through the two Global Alliance proposals. This was part of trying to evolve common standards through the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health, which EB chairs. It was commented that it was better if the world coalesced around the standards we are developing rather than we have to adopt new standards set by others in the future. This was agreed. The cost impact of the proposals was queried. **Action: cost and resource impact of delivering the GA4GH proposals to be assessed.**

**17-18/036 - Science, Ethics and GeCIP Report (MC):**

* [Confidential item – redacted]

**17-18/037 - Bioinformatics Report (AR):**

* The next tranche of just over 1000 families has been dispatched to the CIPs.

**17-18/038 - Genomic Enterprises (JH):**

* See item 17/18-030.
* It was noted that a Business and Investment Committee has been set up.

**17-18/039 - Communications Report (GC): t**here was no discussion of the Communications Report.

**17-18/040 – 16/17 Accounts (GC)**

* GC noted that the accounts had been approved by the Audit Committee subject to unpacking what was “administrative expenses”. This had been replaced by the term “operating expenses” as this covered matters such as sequencing better. **Action: note setting out what comes within operating expenses to be added to the accounts and signed off with DH.**
* **The Board approved the accounts subject to adding the explanatory note.**

**17-18/041 – Accommodation (GC)**

* GC explained the proposal to take a lease of 12 Carthusian Street. The Board noted that QMUL could not come up with further space in the immediate future and that we would be again giving up the laboratory.
* **The Board approved GeL progressing the assignment of 12 Carthusian Street on the basis outlined.**

**17-18/042 – Board Membership (JC)**

* JC is reviewing Board membership. He would like a third DH director.
* There is an advert out for a CEO.

**17-18/043 - Board Committees**: there was no discussion of Board Committees.

**17-18/044 - Any Other Business:** There was no other business.

**17-18/045 - Date, Time and Agenda for Next Meeting**

**IT WAS NOTED that the next Board meeting would be held on 12 September 2017 between 14.00 – 17.00 at Genomics England in Charterhouse Square.**

**Close: The meeting closed at 1705**.

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Signed Dated