

Met Office Board

Summary

23 July 2019

- The Board noted apologies from Stephen Belcher.
- The Board thanked David Burridge for his service and commitment over six years, as this was his final Board meeting. The appointment of a new non-executive member was subject to a decision by the Secretary of State.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2019 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.
- Catherine Quinn (NED and Chair of the Remuneration Committee) reported on the earlier meeting of the Remuneration Committee which considered the development of the new strategy. The Board approved the changes the committee recommended.
- Penny Endersby (Chief Executive) presented her report and the Board noted a number of points, including recent and ongoing recruitment; a report on the recent World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Congress; a new heatwave definition and the potential to break UK temperature records in the following days, as well as the work to address challenges in forecasting maximum temperatures: and submission of nominations for the Civil Service Awards.
- Phil Evans (Chief Operating Officer) briefed the Board on the recent ECMWF Council meeting, progress on ECMWF's data centre in Bologna and plans for a new ECMWF headquarters building.
- The Board discussed a number of other items, including feedback from the MoD customer; surge capacity in support of services; the financial provisions for EU FP7 issues; the business opportunities pipeline; and senior government and civil service visitors to the Met Office HQ.
- Phil Evans presented the annual Health and Safety report. Stress-related absences and mental health issues were discussed.
- Penny Endersby presented the Environmental report.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) presented the Finance Report, including the latest financial position, efficiencies from the Transformation and Efficiency programme and planning for the new Strategic Actions.
- James Partington (NED, BEIS representative) briefed the Board on upcoming government changes, the appointment of a new BEIS DG for Industrial Strategy, Science and Innovation and planning for the forthcoming Spending Review.
- Nicky Bevan (Acting HR Director) updated the Board on the newly established People Committee, the development of the People Strategy and work on talent and succession planning.
- Penny Endersby briefed the Board on the developing corporate strategy and Strategic Actions. A strategy launch event was planned for 17 October.
- The Board discussed the Met Office's strengths and ambitions, its global influence, awareness of its capabilities, the values staff identify with, and the resources (both internal and external contractors) needed to deliver the Strategic Actions.
- The Board approved the Strategy-on-a-Page and Strategic Actions.
- Nick Jobling, Kyle Lischak (Head of Legal) and John Harrison (Business Group, Lead operating Officer) introduced an item on Trading Approaches. The Board noted the Met Office's role as a Trading Fund, its Framework Document, the difference between economic and non-economic activities and the various regulations governing the Met Office's trading approaches.

- Simon Vosper (Director, Meteorological Science) and Justin Langridge (Head, Observation Based Research) outlined the business case to renew the Facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements (FAAM) in partnership with NERC. The Board approved access to the FAAM platform for 5 years..
- Simon Vosper and Nigel Wood (Principal Fellow, Next Generation Modelling Systems (NGMS)) briefed the Board on Met Office plans for exascale computing and NGMS, noting the rapidly changing supercomputer landscape and the impact on numerical weather prediction model software.
- Nigel Wood briefed the Board on the Exascale Computing Algorithms & Infrastructures for the Benefit of UK Research (ExCALIBUR) programme in partnership with EPSRC.
- Jon Browning (senior representative for the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)) briefed the Board on cyber security, Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation and the work of the NCSC.
- Annette Sercombe (Met Office CISO) briefed the Board on Met Office cyber security arrangements and business continuity plans.
- Penny Endersby noted a business case for the Met Office to become a member of the South West Institute of Technology would be presented ex-committee.
- The Board approved the minutes of the last ARAC meeting.
- Next meeting to be held on 25 September 2019.