

## **Met Office Board**

### **Summary**

**30 March 2023**

**Held in person at Met Office Headquarters, Exeter**

- Rob Woodward (Chair) welcomed attendees and confirmed the meeting was quorate. Apologies from Christine Ourmières-Widener (NED) were noted.
- Rob Woodward welcomed Adam Jackson, DSIT Director of International Research and Innovation, to the Board. He had been nominated as DSIT's representative, replacing David Sandford who was moving to DESNZ.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2023 were approved as a true record of the meeting.
- Gilbert Brunet (Chair, MOSAC (Met Office Science Advisory Committee)) and Prof. Rowan Sutton Chair, SRG (Science Review Group)) joined the meeting virtually to provide reports from the meetings held at the end of January. They noted areas where the Met Office had made good progress and potential areas for future focus.
- Stephen Belcher (Chief of Science and Technology) responded on behalf of the Met Office, highlighting the points flagged on the accelerating impact of AI, the strategic focus on ensembles and 'k-scale' modelling. The Board also discussed climate research and climate services. The Board approved the response to MOSAC.
- Penny Endersby (Chief Executive) presented her report. The supercomputer programme had been occupying the Executive Board's attention, given the delays emanating from the supplier. She welcomed the Machinery of Government changes, pulling digital and technology as well as science into the remit of the Met Office's new owning department DSIT (Department for Science, Innovation and Technology) and providing a beneficial focus on a smaller number of Arm's Length Bodies. Sir Paul Nurse's landscape review on PSREs (Public Sector Research Establishments) was noted. Parliament had now formally confirmed the Met Office as a Category 2 Responder, recognising its role supporting civil contingency in times of severe weather across the UK.
- Penny Endersby outlined the current position with industrial action and the union position as regards the pay remit. The Board asked to be kept informed of developments.
- Charlie Ewen (Chief Data and Information Officer) and Mark Hunt (Associate Director, Future Technology) provided an update on the supercomputer implementation plans, noting the challenges from the supplier delays and the implications for the later phases of the contract and future exploitation.
- Penny Endersby and Mark Hunt provided an overview of the Supercomputer Exploitation Programme. The work on the longer-term, more ambitious options for Post Processing & Analysis had been halted while alternative commercial off-the-shelf options were investigated. For the ongoing projects delivering the base level exploitation benefits, a shorter business case would support funding through to the end of December.
- Richard Bevan (Chief Technology Officer) presented a paper on the Product Migration and Legacy System Retirement (PMLSR) programme, explaining how this was setting about co-ordinating, investigating and formulating plans to simplify the Met Office's legacy technology. The Board approved the programme's spending for the coming financial year.
- Paul Davies (Principal Fellow) presented the evidence to demonstrate the thought leadership the Met Office had delivered during the year as part of Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 3.4. The Board approved the KPI.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) and Andrew McKean (Associate Director, Finance) presented the finance report. The profit gap from September had been closed and Nick Jobling did not now expect significant further issues to arise with the accounts due to close at the financial year end.
- Nick Jobling and Andrew McKean presented the budget for the next financial year (FY 2023/24), confirming the consideration that had been given to the outstanding pay remit, inflation, supercomputer implementation

costs and the investment in transformational exploitation. The Board approved the budget for FY 2023/24.

- The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the following financial year. They had been aligned with the Met Office's strategic objectives and been subject to earlier review with Executive Directors' Non-Executive 'buddies'. The Board confirmed they were happy with three of the KPIs and requested that the final KPI was circulated for approval ex-committee once follow up actions had been completed.
- The Board reviewed and approved the following three business cases:
  - Continued funding for the next phase of EUMETNET programmes
  - The International Science Partnerships Fund
  - Tendering of the contract for provision of 'soft' facilities services at Met Office HQ, Exeter.
- A paper of the winter seasonal weather review had been tabled for information.
- Adam Jackson explained the impact of the Machinery of Government changes would impact the new Department and the implications for the science and technology agenda, his team and the Met Office.
- A paper on Knowledge Assets had been tabled under Any Other Business. Jordan Giddings (NED, SIC Chair) provided a verbal update on the recent Security Issues Committee meeting. Hunada Nouss (NED, ARAC Chair) provided a verbal update on the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee meeting the day before. The actions being taken forward from the independent review of the supercomputer procurement were noted.
- The next meeting had been rescheduled for 31 May 2023.