

## **Met Office Board**

### **Summary**

**27 March 2019**

- Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2019 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- The Board noted the sad death of Helen Stevens, Prospect National Negotiator, including her contribution to the Met Office, its people and the Board for many years, and offered its condolences to Helen's family.
- The Board thanked Steph Hurst (non-executive member, BEIS) for her contribution as she moved on to a new role in BEIS.
- The Board noted that Sir John Beddington's term had been renewed for 12 months and David Burridge's term had been extended by 3 months to allow for the ongoing recruitment of new non-executive members.
- The Board attended the Chief Meteorologist's daily weather briefing.
- Gilbert Brunet (Chair of the Met Office Science Advisory Committee – MOSAC) presented highlights of the MOSAC report, including strong numerical weather prediction (NWP) model development, pull through of science into services, and future challenges.
- Stephen Belcher (Chief Scientist) responded to a number of points in the report and the Board discussed the outcomes of the most recent MOSAC meeting, including funding, future developments, next generation modelling and supercomputing, scientific leadership, diversity and new data sciences.
- Penny Endersby presented her report and the Board noted a number of points, including an update on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); recent improvements to NWP scores; preparations for a Spending Review; progress in developing a new Met Office strategy; improvements to governance structures; recent meetings with the BBC; the Met Office's relationship with the Royal Meteorological Society; and a successful technology conference in Exeter in partnership with Cray and AWS.
- The Board discussed training and leadership development.
- The Board discussed an update on the Transformation and Efficiency (T&E) Portfolio, including the planned closure of key parts of the Portfolio.
- The Board discussed government planning for combined hazard events.
- The Board discussed the increasing prominence of climate change, including expert advice, mitigation, and climate sensitivities in new climate models.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) presented the finance report and the Board noted the overall financial position, progress in exceeding planned efficiency targets and headcount.
- Penny Endersby briefed the Board on an Executive development plan.
- The Board discussed progress in standing up and delivering bids in the Strategic Priorities Fund waves 1 & 2.
- The Board discussed Met Office funding streams and opportunities.
- Steph Hurst briefed the Board on her move to a new role in BEIS and other changes in senior BEIS officials, and planning for the forthcoming Spending Review.
- The Board discussed a review to be undertaken by Prof Sir Adrian Smith into the design of UK funding schemes for international collaboration, innovation and curiosity-driven blue-skies research.
- The Board discussed planning for the Spending Review, including Public Weather Service funding and satellite programmes.

- Nick Jobling briefed the Board on issues relating to an EU FP7 audit and the Board discussed the process.
- Dan Childs (Corporate Risk Manager) briefed the Board on the corporate risk register and the Board noted that the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) had reviewed the risks at the recent ARAC meeting.
- The Board discussed the current corporate risks.
- Chris Carr (Portfolio Manager, BEIS EU Exit team) joined the meeting and the Board discussed the Met Office's EU exit planning, noting very positive engagement with BEIS on impacts and mitigation actions.
- The Board discussed EU exit planning, including a recent discussion with minister Richard Harrington relating to personal data, other funding risks, and noted that BEIS considered the Met Office to be well prepared.
- Nick Jobling presented, and the Board discussed and approved, the budget for FY2019/20.
- Andy Cooper (Head of Plans and Performance) presented proposed KPIs for FY2019/20.
- The Board discussed and approved the KPIs and associated Corporate Performance Pay weightings.
- Nicky Bevan (Acting HR Director) briefed the Board on an Equal Pay report and the Board noted a much-reduced equal pay gap.
- Nicky Bevan briefed the Board on progress on an Athena SWAN action plan.
- Nicky Bevan briefed the Board on the Quarterly People report and the Board noted a number of points, including a focus on equality, diversity and inclusion, flexible working arrangements, absence data and raising awareness of mental health issues.
- Nicky Bevan briefed the Board on progress with a new People Strategy.
- Phil Evans (Chief Operating Officer) briefed the Board on the Ministry of Defence Service Definition Annex (SDA) 2019-22 business case and the Board noted a number of points, including the importance of the MoD as a customer and partner, and the services provided to support UK defence and intelligence.
- The Board approved the MoD SDA case.
- Sir John Beddington briefed the Board on a recent Security Issues Committee.
- Next meeting to be held on 6 June 2019.