

## **Met Office Board**

### **Summary**

**13 November 2020**

#### **Meeting held remotely using MS Teams**

- Apologies from Clare Wastenev (BEIS Open Board Scheme observer) were noted.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2020 had been approved as a true record of the meeting.
- Rob Woodward (Chair) noted the previous evening's presentation from Stefan von Grünigen on the World Bank GFDRR: Power of Partnerships Report and it was agreed partnerships should be discussed further at future Board meetings.
- Penny Endersby (Chief Executive) presented her report and the Board noted a number of points, including the all-staff briefing on the anniversary of the strategy launch; the formation of the extended leadership team as part of the reorganisation; the recent outage from the failed switch in IT Hall 1; the recent cyber attacks which had been well controlled; the timetable for the Supercomputer procurement process; the discussions with the Government Property Agency over the freehold of the Exeter building; a recent ministerial visit to the Met Office; and recent World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) meetings, where there were some governance concerns.
- The Board discussed the significant effort to position the UK's bid to host Copernicus work and the requirements of the EU's digital Europe programme. The implications for the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF) were discussed.
- The Board discussed the potential challenges and impact on staff morale from a return to lockdown.
- James Partington (NED, BEIS representative) briefed the Board on activities at BEIS. Kim Shillinglaw had been appointed as the independent member of the Public Weather Service Customer Group (PWSCG).
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) presented the Finance Report, noting the cash position and timing of loans. He explained some of the implications of the reorganisation on financial reporting and budgeting over the year end.
- Nick Jobling presented a 'worst-case' scenario for the next financial year before outlining the potential implications of longer-term funding reductions. The Board discussed the implications of these scenarios and potential actions the Met Office could take to mitigate them.
- Stephen Marshall (Interim Operations Director) presented a report of lessons learnt from the Met Office's response to lockdown during the pandemic and noted the feedback was being incorporated into future planning. The Board congratulated the Executive on its successful response to the pandemic.
- Alan Burrows, Deputy Director, Readiness and Response, at the Environment Agency (EA) joined the meeting. The Board discussed the services the Met Office provided to the EA, including the success of the joint Flood Forecasting Centre, and the opportunities to work together to further common interests.
- Charlie Ewen (CIO and Technology Director) introduced a session on Data Strategy. He noted it was increasingly important to view the Met Office's work through a 'data lens'. The Board discussed the approach to open data and some of the strategic decisions that flowed from this.
- The Board discussed the leadership approach that should be taken to the Met Office's Net Zero strategy that was being formulated. Given the organisation's science-based focus and government expectations the Board advised the approach should be ambitious, but realistic.
- An updated list of actions from the Board Effectiveness Review was tabled.

- Hunada Nouss (Chair, ARAC) reported on the ARAC meeting on 6 October 2020 which had focussed on deep dives into the risks around two strategic actions.
- Next meeting to be held on 27 January 2021.