

Met Office Board

Summary

27 May 2021

Meeting held in Exeter and remotely using Microsoft Teams

- Apologies were noted from James Partington and Jane Lancaster.
- Rob Woodward (Chair) welcomed Jo Shanmugalingam (Director General, BEIS) and Harriet Wallace (Director, BEIS) to the Met Office in Exeter and to the meeting. Rob Woodward welcomed Anusha Shah (NED) to her first Board meeting.
- It was confirmed the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2021 had been approved as a true record of the meeting. The minutes of the additional meeting on 29 April 2021 were approved.
- Penny Endersby (Chief Executive) presented her report and the Board noted a number of points, including signature of the supercomputer agreement and positive press comment; confirmation of the spending review settlement; discussions on European meteorology strategy and progress at the World Meteorological Organisation with Resolution 42; the recent virtual Climate Conference and support for the forthcoming G7 summit in Cornwall.
- The Board discussed transitional working arrangements as lockdown was eased and planning for 'future normal' working.
- The Board discussed the recent spring weather and the differences between perceived and real forecast accuracy. They discussed how to assess and report on the accuracy and perceptions of seasonal forecasts going forward. The Board also discussed improvements in 'nowcasting'.
- Rob Woodward welcomed Emma Howard Boyd (Chair, Environment Agency) and Stefan Laeger (Deputy Director for Strategy, Service, and Investment, Environment Agency) as guests to the meeting. The Board discussed areas of common interest for the Met Office and the Environment Agency, including the work being done to understand and address climate change, particularly in the run up to COP26, and the future objectives of the Flood Forecasting Centre collaboration.
- Jo Shanmugalingam and Harriet Wallace briefed the Board on activities at BEIS, particularly the Government's objectives of levelling up, working towards Net Zero and promoting global Britain. The Board discussed changes to Official Development Assistance (ODA) and also the European research landscape.
- Hunada Nouss (Chair, ARAC) presented the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) annual report for 2020/21. The Board accepted the report. She also provided an update on the ARAC meeting the previous day.
- The Board reviewed the Annual Report and Accounts for 2020/21. The National Audit Office (NAO) were working on the final issues. The Board agreed that Hunada Nouss should make a final recommendation to the Chief Executive on signing the accounts once the NAO's work was complete.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) presented the Finance Report which was consistent with the draft Annual Report and Accounts. He also provided an initial overview of the first monthly period of the new financial year.
- The Corporate Risk Report was presented. Following the announcement of the new supercomputer contract new risks over implementation delivery and benefits realisation would be assessed. A health and safety risk have been added to the register.
- Simon Brown (Services Director) presented the annual Health and Safety (H&S) report. He discussed the external report on H&S governance and the plans the Executive Committee had discussed to take this forward.
- Elizabeth Harris (Programmes Director) and her senior leadership team outlined the structure of the new Programmes Directorate, her plans to develop it and expected benefits from this.

- Catherine Quinn (Chair, Remuneration Committee) updated the meeting on the Remuneration Committee meeting the previous day.
- The Board agreed that Nick Jobling could circulate the proposed extension of the Ministry of Defence contract to the Board ex-committee.
- The next Board meeting was scheduled for Thursday 29 July 2021.