

Met Office Board

Summary

25 September 2019

- A recommendation had been made to the Secretary of State for a new non-executive to replace David Burridge, whose term ended in August 2019.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2019 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.
- Penny Endersby (Chief Executive) presented her report and the Board noted a number of points, including the appointment of Tammy Lillie as Interim HR Director; the appointment of several Associate Director roles; the performance of the hard services and soft services providers; the success of the Met Office App in correctly forecasting record July temperatures; and the Met Office awards for Excellence on 6 December.
- The Board discussed the governance arrangements for the new Strategy and the forthcoming Strategy Launch. Issues over appropriate performance measures were discussed.
- Phil Evans (Chief Operating Officer) briefed the Board on the recent developments at ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts).
- The Board discussed a number of other items, including key stakeholders and important media players; the potential value of the Met Office's work to the business community; the hosting of CoP26 in Glasgow at the end of 2020; the recent well attended Newton Fund Partnership meeting; and the critical work done by the Met Office during the Whalley Bridge incident.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) presented the Finance Report, including the latest financial position and headcount projections. The Board discussed issues recruiting for specific skills.
- Nick Jobling presented the business opportunities pipeline report.
- David Pirie (Executive Director, Scottish Environment Protection Agency) and Fiona Wilson (Scottish Government, Head of Resilience) joined the meeting and outlined the importance of the Met Office's services to their activities. The Board discussed benefits realised from recent developments and how the organisations could work more closely together in future.
- James Partington (NED, BEIS representative) briefed the Board on ministerial appointments and EU Exit planning.
- Andy Kirkman (Director, Government Services) and Alex Bailey (Head of Government Engagement) presented a paper on the preparations and submission made for the current government Spending Review, noting the positive level of benefit realisation provided by the Met Office.
- The Board approved a Business Case for extension of support for the existing supercomputer through to September 2022.
- Mark Hunt (Supercomputer Programme Manager) presented the Business Case for the next generation of supercomputer, noting the next stages for BEIS and Treasury approval. The Board approved the Business Case to progress to the next review stage.
- Tammy Lillie presented the quarterly People report. The Board discussed the incoming people management system.
- The Board noted the next Employee Attitude Survey would be launched on 2 October.
- Nick Jobling presented a paper on Trading Approaches, following on from the previous meeting. Case studies for the Hadley Centre Climate Programme (HCCP) and the Roads sector were presented and discussed.
- The Board confirmed the ex-committee decision to join the South West Institute of Technology.

- The Board approved the recommendation for Penny Endersby to join the Turing Institute advisory panel.
- The Board thanked Baden Hall (Secretary to the Board) for his service and commitment over 4 years.
- Next meeting to be held on 27 November 2019.