

Met Office Board

Summary

1st April 2025

Held in the Chancellor's Room at 1 Horse Guards, London

- Simon Thompson welcomed the attendees to the meeting and declared the meeting as quorate.
- Minutes of the meeting held on the 31st January 2025 were approved as a true record of the meeting.
- Penny Endersby (Chief Executive) presented her report to the Board, noting:
 - Further progress in the User Acceptance Testing (UAT) of the Supercomputer
 - The Great Place To Work survey had produced very positive results with improvement in all areas
 - Executive activities including a trip to the Falklands and a positive visit by Minister McCarthy and the MP for East Devon
 - A recent collaboration with the Royal Meteorological Society resulted in the creation of a toolkit for scientists.
- Adam Jackson (DSIT representative) presented an update highlighting that the Spending Review and Civil Service reform were prominent topics on the agenda.
- Nick Jobling, (Chief Financial Officer), introduced the finance report. He provided an update on operating profit expectations, noting the impact of the timing of satellite launches and the number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) achieved.
- Nick Jobling and Andrew McKean (Associate Director, Finance) presented the budget for the next financial year. It had been formulated as a result of a challenging but constructive process, giving confidence that it should be deliverable. Increased revenue and costs were primarily associated with the new satellites and funding for more overseas development programmes. The Board approved the budget as tabled for the 2025/2026 financial year.
- Penny Endersby and Andy Cooper (Head of Plans and Performance) introduced the proposed structure of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the forthcoming 2025/26 financial year, noting that the KPI themes linked to the new strategic priorities. Focus had been on the key priorities resulting in fewer KPI's. Nick Jobling explained that the KPIs linked to the Corporate Performance Pay (CPP). A further review of the KPIs would be undertaken with a final set being presented to the Board in June for approval.
- Tabitha Aldrich-Smith (Associate Director of Communications and Engagement) and Emma Connett (Strategy Lead) were invited to present the update on the Met Office Strategy refresh and launch. They noted that further work had been done on the version presented to the Board, focusing on innovation and growth. The Board agreed with the approach and direction of the strategy. The Board was presented with information relating to potential dates and schedule for the upcoming launch of the new strategy.
- Business cases – The Board approved the business cases for the Public Weather Service Customer Service Agreement and Exeter HQ Subletting.
- Charles Ewen (Chief Data and Information Officer) presented the Supercomputer update, noting Generation 2 requirements have been formally sent to Microsoft, prior to their response in the Autumn. The Government Major Projects Portfolio (GMPP) Gate 0 Review looking at strategic focus of Generation 2 would be undertaken in the coming months. The previous GMPP review was held in June 2024.
- Stephen Belcher (Chief of Science and Technology) and Rowan Sutton (Associate Director, Climate Science) presented the Science Review Group (SRG) annual update. The purpose of the SRG is to assess the quality of climate science and its transition into service. The SRG meeting held in January included some outstanding presentations and papers. There was enthusiasm around the work on high resolution regional and global modelling.
- Gilbert Brunet (Met Office Scientific Advisory Committee (MOSAC) Chair) joined the meeting on-line from Canada. Gilbert Brunet reported that the issues discussed by MOSAC included deployment of the new

Supercomputer, the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning and Data Assimilation. The Board thanked Gilbert Brunel for his time as MOSAC Chair as he prepared to step down.

- The Board discussed the MOSAC and SRG reports. They noted when the new Chair of MOSAC would be commencing the role. There was further discussion on how the proposed recommendations would be achieved. The Board approved the response to the MOSAC report.
- Will Lang (Principal Fellow, Operational Meteorological Services) presented the Winter seasonal update report, highlighting the main weather events as being Storms Bert and Darragh. Due to the clear red weather warnings in Northern Ireland 99% of the public were aware of the storm.
- Alexander Clayson (Chief Information Security Officer) presented the Cyber Security update. He noted that there had been a reorganisation within the department and gave an update on the primary objectives of cyber security at the Met Office.
- Lynn Mawdsley (Non-Executive Director and Audit & Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) Chair) provided a verbal report on the ARAC meeting the previous day. The meeting focused on the end of year requirements. Updates to the Corporate risk framework and the recent refresh of the Corporate risk register were covered. New risks included geopolitics, affordability and trust in the Met Office.
- Jordan Giddings (Non-Executive Director and Security Issues Committee (SIC) Chair) provided a verbal report on the recent SIC meeting.
- Catherine Bremner (Non-Executive Director and Remuneration Committee (RemCom) Chair) provided a verbal report on the recent RemCom meeting.