

Report to the PWSCG of the 11th Meeting of the PWS Assurance Group 5th September 2018

T&E

PAG recognised that the Met Office is currently ahead of plan in delivering the required efficiencies but remains concerned about TEPP. It is concerned that the impacts of TEPP on customers are not understood and that there do not currently seem to be any plans to consult with customers. There is an increasing risk of service disruption, but customers do not have any information on which to base mitigation plans.

PAG would like the Met Office to produce a report outlining the impacts (positive and negative) of the restructuring work on PWS services and outlining the options available. Ideally this would be discussed at the October PWSCG meeting (17 October, papers due 10 October), but the PAG recognises that this may not fit with project timescales. The Met Office should provide the report in enough time for the PWSCG's feedback to be incorporated into decision making.

Summer 2018 Forecast Performance

PAG was encouraged by the improvements seen in thunderstorm warning this summer. It recognised the very hot temperatures observed this summer were challenging for all models, but felt that the discrepancy seen between the actual temperatures and those available on the app risked undermining public confidence in Met Office forecasts. The results of PS41 are encouraging and it is hoped this change will improve min/max temperature errors.

SR19

The PWS faces significant challenges at the next spending due to large increases in its cost base primarily from depreciation of new satellites and associated commitments made on behalf of the UK for their operation. Flat funding at FY19/20 levels would result in a 46% cut in the national capability (including HPC) and services themes by FY24/25.

The Customer Group would like to be involved in the discussions between BEIS and the Met Office on SR19 and asked Nick Jobling for a mechanism through which the Customer Group could talk to the Met Office on this topic. Nick confirmed that he would like the CG to be involved and that the Met Office Board would be paying close attention to SR19. All agreed that IMOSG would have an important part to play as SR19 unfolds.

Observation T&E

The PAG is satisfied with the Obs Programme's plan to reduce its costs by £2m and the plans for introducing SurfaceNet. They were impressed at the innovation taking place in Obs R&D and support the fail fast approach to testing these capabilities.

In Depth Reviews

The PAG noted the in-depth reviews which had been undertaken by the Secretariat and asked that the Library and Archive be commended for managing to deliver more whilst having reduced staffing levels.

The discussion on data generated two related actions:

The PAG would like to more fully understand the implications of the Amazon Web Services terms and conditions on the safety of life services the Met Office provides for CAA, Civil Contingencies and MoD. The Met Office are asked to provide a paper by mid-October.

The Met Office should work with its customers to understand the implications of the nature of the solution it adopts for its next HPC on its customer's ability to use and trust Met Office forecasts.