



Met Office Board

Summary

27 Mar 2012

- The minutes presented for 28th Feb 2012 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- Issues arising from the minutes were discussed and it was noted that the advert and job specification for the new Chairman was expected to be in the Sunday Times and online shortly.
- The actions were reviewed, with those highlighted agreed to be closed.
- The Chief Executive, John Hirst, delivered his report to the Board.
- The Chief Scientist, Julia Slingo, informed the Board about the ongoing work regarding drought. The issues, relationships with collaborators involved and the communication requirements were discussed in detail.
- JS told the Board about Planet under Pressure conference and the success in showcasing the Met Office climate service.
- JH discussed the progress covered in his report including sharing best practice for digital communications; work with the REACH programme; Met Office joining ISIC (International Space Innovation Centre); the changing Met Office engagement with the Science Park and the recent Space Weather event.
- Operations and Services Director, Rob Varley, reviewed the Forecast Accuracy Business Performance Measures noting that it was now likely to have achieved 93% of the Global NWP target. The Probability of Precipitation limitations had already been fully analysed and he noted this would be replaced by more appropriate measures next year. JH confirmed lines, which would be consistent with the Annual Report and Accounts presentation, were being prepared.
- The other BPMs including sub-elements of delivering to customers, forecast requirements for customers and the web site refresh were all expected to be achieved.
- Other areas covered in detail by JH were the science and technology select committee government response; the progress with Environmental Science to Service Partnership and JS presentation to CSAC, who were very supportive; Civil Aviation Association contract negotiation; recent FOI requests and business development for supply chain management.



- Issues related to pay and retention were talked through.
- JH reviewed recent visit from Francis Maude MP.
- JH gave a summary of the PDG and DSB governance and ongoing work.
- Nick Jobling, Chief Financial Officer, delivered the AP11 Finance Report and the Board noted the position was stable and broadly on track with expected operating profit of £9.0m, in line with budget.
- Other key points of note in the finance report were: the ROCE (BPM1) of 4.5% on track to achieve or exceed budget; the business profitability of £8.1M exceeding the stretch target and the sensitivity of the year end cash figures to the timing of large contracted payments.
- The Board noted that the Spring Adjustments had been finalised, concluding and formalising the transfer from MoD to BIS.
- The proposed budget was discussed in detail, confirmed to be consistent with the Corporate Plan, and noted.
- The Board were given an informational presentation on Forecast Verification covering the challenges and requirements for verification.
- NJ summarised the proposed Business Performance Measures for FY1213. Following full discussion it was summarised that the list of Business Performance Measures was approved with the use of a 'sliding scale' option for recognising achievement; the approach to measuring forecast accuracy using a range of measures, including public and non-public measures taken from customer agreements, was agreed; and that the Board would formally approve in April once the exact targets were fixed.
- The Board discussed the Governance Review and the feedback received for each sub-committee and the Met Office Board, approving the recommendations for the respective committees to pursue as appropriate.
- Paul Rew, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented the Met Office Audit Committee summary report, which was noted.
- Peter Shortt, ShEx, informed the Board that he would be moving from BIS to take up a post in MoD, but would remain on the Met Office Board until a suitable successor was appointed.
- The next meeting was confirmed as Exeter (Apr 24th)
- **Close of Meeting**