



Met Office Board

Summary

28 Feb 2012

- The minutes presented for 25th Jan 2012 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- Issues arising from the minutes were discussed including the timing of the final financial and accounting officer transfers related to the Machinery of Government move to BIS. All issues are now resolved and it was noted that this was expected to happen shortly.
- The actions were reviewed and noted, with those highlighted agreed to be closed.
- The Chief Executive, John Hirst, delivered his report to the Board.
- Nick Jobling, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the sustainability Business Performance Measure (BPM), explaining that while detailed figures were not available at the time of writing the report, it was now looking increasingly likely that the sustainability targets would be met.
- Rob Varley, Director of Operations and Services, reviewed the forecast accuracy Business Performance Measures. The Board noted the issues surrounding the Global NWP index including that the global NWP index is still expected to achieve 93% of the challenging improvement target which was set.
- JH discussed some recent Communications team work, including involvement in the Number 10 led "GREAT" campaign and working with WMO to assist WMO and other developing countries to improve their comms strategy as part of the overall ethos of supporting continuous improvement.
- Julia Slingso, Chief Scientist, elaborated on the delivery of the simulations for IPCC Assessment for Assessment Report 5 (AR5). This involved delivery of a vast quantity of data - the Met Office have been the first in the world to complete their simulations. Both JS and Brian Hoskins noted that this successful delivery now allowed the scientists to concentrate on the analysis and expected roles as lead authors and co-ordinating lead authors.
- JS also informed the Board about her recent trip to Texas and the developing partnership including Met Office, NCAS and the University of Texas, which would look at water resource as a priority.



- JS informed the Board that the Met Office Academic Partnership was going from strength to strength and delivering benefits to all involved.
- JH drew the Board's attention to the annex containing the recommendations of the recently published Science and Technology Select Committee report. JH noted that all the original objectives had been achieved thanks to the hard work of the whole team.
- JH updated the Board on work with the Public Data Group and the Data Strategy Board. This included a summary of the PDG Board meetings, identifying some areas of collaboration and best practice sharing.
- JH informed the Board that the Environmental Science to Service Partnership remained one of the most promising workstreams and that PwC were assisting in the business case as part of the pilot currently running.
- JH shared the supportive letter from Tim Kelsey, received following his recent visit and noted that the conversation had involved the concept of helping create and develop markets.
- The Board noted the ongoing programme of Forecaster Visits and JH offered the opportunity for Non-Exec directors to participate in similar visits if they wished.
- The Board heard that the recent visit of AVM Jon Rigby had been successful and he expressed great appreciation for the Met Office's collaborative working.
- The Board also heard that the visit from Sir Bob Kerslake and JH's subsequent meeting had been very positive.
- NJ delivered the AP10 Finance Report and the Board noted the position was generally stable. Other key points discussed were the ROCE (BPM1) of 4.5% (0.1% above target) and the Board noted under-spend on Web and Media, which was attributable to timing of technical projects and delivering at lower than projected costs.
- NJ distributed tables showing the summary of Forecast Accuracy measures and shape of the BPMs proposed, noting this would be brought back formally in March.
- Diana Chaloner, Human Resources Director, joined the meeting and delivered the Human Resources report.
- The Board discussed the Voluntary Redundancy Scheme and noted the detail would be brought back to the Board in due course.



- The Board discussed the Employee Attitude Survey results in detail, including the high engagement index, despite the issues around pay and pensions.
- DC updated the Board on the Strategic Defence and Security Review.
- DC notified the Board of progress in the Leadership and Management Review and also the developing process of talent management.
- RV, as lead director for the Olympics, introduced Cathy Durston Chair of the Olympic co-ordination group.
- CD delivered an information presentation on all the work across the office associated with the Olympics.
- CD also delivered an informative summary of the Customer Attitude Survey process and results. A few detailed points were discussed including the perception of accuracy and the contributing factors to lower scores in places for pricing issues.
- The Board offered congratulations for the demonstrable improvements – especially on the commercial side.
- JS reviewed the main points of the MOSAC response and BH agreed he would feedback to MOSAC members.
- John Neilson informed the Board that this was likely to be the last meeting he would attend. JH and PR, on behalf of the Board, thanked John sincerely for his input, especially the work done and common sense he had brought to bear during the transfer from MoD to BIS.
- The next meeting was confirmed as London (Mar 27th)
- **Close of Meeting**