

Met Office Board

Summary

30 January 2018

- Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2017 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- The Board discussed the recent Cabinet Reshuffle and noted that Sam Gyimah MP was the new Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation and had taken over responsibility for the Met Office.
- Rob Varley (Chief Executive) presented his report and the Board noted a number of points, including work on updating the Corporate Plan; good performance against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); strong performance by the Business Group; the launch of the government's Industrial Strategy; ongoing support to the government's work towards exiting the EU; work on business continuity and to strengthen resilience and security arrangements; work towards ensuring continuity of the Met Office Civil Contingencies Aircraft service; two Met Office staff named in the New Year's Honours; and more than 4m downloads of the Met Office app.
- The Board discussed transition arrangements of the BBC weather services to a new supplier.
- The Board was briefed on, and discussed, a business continuity incident involving a small electrical fire.
- The Board discussed work underway to ensure compliance with new General Data Protection Regulations.
- The Board discussed the ECMWF, including budget, supercomputer investment and Met Office funding.
- Stephen Belcher (Chief Scientist) briefed the Board on work in developing a new climate model, which would be used as the basis for the next set of UK climate projections (UKCP18) and towards the next IPCC report.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Finance Officer) presented the finance report and the Board noted a number of points, including a rise in profit owing to a reduction in costs through efficiencies.
- Rob Varley presented the 6-monthly sustainability report and the Board noted the Met Office's strong record.
- The Board discussed proposals to extend the current supercomputer contract to maximise the value of the asset, including benefits and risks.
- The Board discussed the Employee Attitude Survey results.
- Nick Jobling briefed the Board on Facilities Management contracts and the Board approved the business case.
- The Board discussed commercial and procurement assurance activities and arrangements.
- Ann Conway-Hughes (Director of the Transformation and Efficiency (T&E) Portfolio) briefed the Board on progress and delivery of both the Technology and People & Processes programmes.
- The Board noted good progress against T&E timelines and deliverables, and discussed plans, finances, complexity and risks.
- Huw Davies (Chair of the independent Met Office Science Advisory Committee) presented the MOSAC Chairman's report and the Board noted a generally positive report and discussed some of the future challenges for Met Office Science.
- The Board discussed and approved the next supercomputer Statement of Opportunity.
- Andy Kirkman (Government Services Director), Derrick Ryall (Head of the Public Weather Service) and Nick Bruce-Jones (Head of Defence) presented an update on the Met Office's work for government, the MoD and the public, including the National Severe Weather Warning Service.
- Next meeting to be held on 27 March 2018.