

Met Office Board

Summary

3 February 2022

Meeting held remotely using MS Teams

- Rob Woodward (Chair) welcomed attendees and confirmed the meeting was quorate.
- Apologies from Anusha Shah (Non-Executive Director) and Jane Lancaster (Prospect representative) were noted. Clare Wasteney, who had attended Board meetings under the BEIS open boards scheme, was also unable to attend; this scheme had now ended and Rob Woodward thanked her for her contribution.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2021 were approved as a true record of the meeting.
- Rob Woodward noted the Non-Executive Directors had discussed the Board Effectiveness Review and he would now agree a final list of actions with Penny Endersby (Chief Executive).
- Penny Endersby presented her Chief Executive's report. She noted the global supply chain and semiconductor bottlenecks and related delivery delays of the supercomputer programme. Contingency arrangements to prolong support for the existing supercomputer infrastructure were being addressed. The legal case had been discussed the previous evening.
- She also updated the Board on resourcing issues which had been flagged as a red risk and would be reported to BEIS. She reported the Met Office's headline results from the cross Civil Service people survey, which consolidated the previous two years' progress despite a tough period during the pandemic. She also provided updates on a number of strategic actions including the Next Generation Modelling Systems programme, noted the effectiveness of recent storm warnings (though the storms had been less damaging than storm Arwen), and reported initial positive feedback from the annual MOSAC (Met Office Scientific Advisory Committee) and SRG (Science Review Group) meetings.
- James Partington (NED, BEIS representative) briefed the Board on the focus of activities at BEIS, including spending review allocations which were due to be decided in the next few weeks. He noted the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecast's (ECMWF) decision to locate their new HQ in Reading and thanked the Met Office for their contribution to this.
- Simon Brown (Services Director) and Simon Vosper (Director of Science) provided the quarterly forecast accuracy review. The key performance indicators (KPIs) were on track and positive feedback had been received on the severe weather warnings. The biggest challenges were around communication of short lead-time events; a task force was looking at this.
- Dr. Kirstine Dale (Principal Fellow of Data Sciences, Co-Director JCEEI) and Prof. Gavin Shaddick (University of Exeter, Co-Director, JCEEI) gave a presentation to the Board on the Joint Centre for Excellence in Environmental Intelligence (JCEEI). The explained the work the joint venture was doing in the fields of data science and machine learning, outlining the type of opportunities this might present in the future.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) presented the Finance Report. No major issues were flagged. He explained the impact of holiday pay and associated accruals, as a result of changed holiday patterns over the pandemic.
- Hunada Nouss (Chair, ARAC) noted that ARAC had reviewed the time recording system and processes the Met Office used.
- Hunada Nouss reported on the November ARAC meeting. There had been a deep dive into the Supercomputer Exploitation Programme. A cyber security report had been tabled. In addition, ARAC had held a separate workshop in January looking at cost allocation and pricing
- Michael Maling (Corporate Risk Manager) presented the annual review of the Met Office's Risk Appetite which the Board endorsed. The Board then reviewed and discussed the Corporate Risk Register. Given the

challenges retaining and recruiting staff with key skills, for example in the digital, data and technology area, the Board requested the Capacity Risk was formally escalated to BEIS.

- The Board considered and approved a number of business cases including:
 - WCSSP [Newton Fund – Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnerships].
 - ARRCC2 [Asia Regional Resilience to a Changing Climate Phase 2]
 - WISER3 [Weather and Climate Information Services Programme Extension]
 - Civil Aviation Authority NR23
 - MOD SDA [Ministry of Defence Services Definition Annex], and
 - Radiosonde Network Renewal

- Tammy Lillie (People Director) presented the People Report. She noted the increase in leavers and the work to understand the reasons for this. Good progress had been made on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I). She also covered the work the Directorate was doing on talent management, using the 9-box grid framework, and on educational outreach, supporting the Met Office's social value objectives.

- The next meeting would be held over 29th and 30th March to allow the MOSAC Chair to join from Australia.