

Met Office Board

Summary

25 July 2017

- Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2017 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- The Board welcomed Phil Evans (Chief Operating Officer) as a new Executive member.
- Rob Varley (Chief Executive) presented his report and the Board noted a number of points, including a Public Weather Media Service contract with Sky; strong engagement scores through the public Trust Tracker; high ratings for the Met Office app; strong performance of the Business Group; ministerial appointments following the General Election; STEM engagement; & appointment of Andy Kirkman as Government Services Director.
- The Board discussed a proposed multi-year pay agreement with Prospect union to address equal pay issues, as well as the implementation of a voluntary exit scheme.
- The Board discussed funding of the European Copernicus programme.
- The Board discussed plans for the ECMWF headquarters accommodation.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) presented the finance report and the Board noted a number of points, including good financial performance; cost reductions; & planned increases in European satellite subscriptions.
- The Board noted the 6-monthly sustainability report and commended the Met Office's work in this area.
- The Board discussed US relations and potential future funding issues in the meteorological community.
- Dee Cotgrove (Executive Head of Media and Communications) briefed the Board on the media handling plan during the switchover to the BBC's new weather services provider, and noted that the BBC would continue to broadcast Met Office National Severe Weather Warnings through an official agreement.
- Steve Noyes (Deputy Chief Executive) and Ann Conway-Hughes (Transformation and Efficiency (T&E) Portfolio Director) presented an update on the T&E Portfolio and the Board discussed progress, noting a number of points, including structure, finances, cost/benefit analysis, resourcing and skills, risks, and the outcomes of a PwC assurance report.
- The Board attended a training session on, and discussed its role in, cyber security led by experts from The National Archives and Houses of Parliament.
- The Board discussed a proposed joint venture with BMT, including its structure, benefits, risks and assurance.
- The Board discussed and approved a proposed contract extension with Heathrow Airport.
- The Board discussed and approved a proposed extension to work with the US Air Force Weather Wing.
- John Siddorn (Head of Ocean Forecasting R&D) presented proposals for the Met Office to purchase a 5% share in Mercator-Ocean, the EC Delegated Authority for the Copernicus Marine Service, and the Board approved the proposals, noting that due diligence had been carried out.
- Stephen Belcher (Chief Scientist) presented the latest developments in Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP).
- Charles Ewen (Director of IT and CIO) presented an update on technology and the Board noted a number of points, including data strategy, the Met Office's world-leading supercomputing capability, new delivery technologies, investment in cloud-based API services; and exploration of artificial intelligence approaches.
- The Board noted the report from the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.
- Next meeting to be held on 27 September 2017.