

Met Office Board

Summary

25 July 2018

- Minutes of the meetings held on 7 June and 11 July 2018 were agreed to be accurate records of the meetings.
- The Board noted its thanks to Mary Keegan for her contribution to the Board and ARAC during her 3 year term and also noted its thanks to John Beddington for his leadership of the Board.
- Nick Jobling (Acting Chief Executive) presented his report and the Board noted a number of points, including good performance against most Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); upward pressure on profit and revenue; balancing competing pressures of transformation and efficiency (T&E) activities with business as usual delivery; progress towards implementation of new facilities management contracts; a successful learning at work week campaign; continued progress with Newton Fund programme delivery; successful completion of a project with Met Service Singapore; and work to further improve processes relating to invoicing.
- The Board discussed engagement with, and evidence provided to, Parliamentary Select Committees.
- The Board noted a review of the Met Office's Risk Appetite.
- Sally Wolkowski (Head of the Met Office College) presented an update on the College strategy and activities, including its history, composition and main functions; outreach and educational activities including STEM and schools programmes; organisational training; quality assurance; innovations; and international partnerships.
- The Board discussed the operations of the College, including finances, strategy and business plan.
- Catherine Ward (independent HR consultant for Q5) presented a report into a review of Met Office HR and the Board noted a number of points, including its status, governance, capability, and actions to improve culture.
- The Board discussed the review of HR, including the approach, behaviours, leadership and staff perceptions, and noted that it was considered a good point in time to move Met Office HR to a more mature strategic state.
- Ann Conway-Hughes (T&E Portfolio Director) presented an update on the T&E Portfolio and the Board noted a number of points, including overall progress, milestones and achievements.
- The Board discussed T&E finances, benefits and risks, and the monitoring of delivery of the Portfolio.
- Andy Kirkman (Government Services Director) briefed the Board on the business case for an extension to the contract for parts of the current Cray supercomputer and the Board approved the proposed contract extension.
- The Board noted activities relating to benefits realisation of the current supercomputer, and procurement activities for the next one, including development of a Strategic Outline Case, engagement with industry, government, academia and suppliers.
- Andy Kirkman briefed the Board on RIMNET including the scope of a new agreement with government.
- The Board discussed the Met Office dispersion model, including planned changes to delivery of the RIMNET service, and approved the recommendation for a new long-term MoU agreement with BEIS.
- Stephen Belcher (Chief Scientist) briefed the Board on two successful joint bids into the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF), relating to commissioning work into climate resilience and an operational air quality service.
- Charles Ewen (CIO and Director of IT) briefed the Board on Met Office technology strategy, including alignment with the Met Office's purpose and government priorities, engagement with government, academia and industry, transformative activities, supercomputing, innovation, cloud technology and future models for Met Office HPC.
- Next meeting to be held on 1 October 2018.