

Met Office Board

Summary

1 June 2022

Hybrid meeting held in person at the Met Office, Exeter and remotely using MS Teams

- Rob Woodward (Chair) welcomed attendees and confirmed the meeting was quorate.
- Apologies were noted from Jane Lancaster (Prospect representative) and Tammy Lillie (People Director). James Partington (NED, BEIS Representative) had sent his apologies and Paul Riches was attending on his behalf.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 29 and 30 March 2022 were approved as a true record of the meeting.
- As flagged at the previous meeting, a number of Board approvals had been circulated ex-Committee. Rob Woodward confirmed these were for:
 - The final budget for the financial year 2022/23,
 - The Future of Operational Meteorology (FoOM) Tools & Systems business case,
 - The Next Generation Modelling Systems business case, and
 - Business cases, once they had confirmed funding, for the Public Weather Service, Space Weather, the Flood Forecasting Centre, the Hadley Centre and the Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnerships programme.
- Penny Endersby (Chief Executive) presented her report. She noted:
 - The strategy presentations that had been made to staff and been well received.
 - The successful live implementation of Parallel Suite 45 upgrading the core Unified Model.
 - The progress on completing the supercomputer implementation rectification plans which were providing much greater levels of certainty.
 - The commencement of the transfer of the MASS storage data which was the largest in the world to ever be made over the internet.
 - Her and Stephen Belcher's (Chief of Science and Technology) productive visit to the US.
 - The thanks that NATO had specifically passed on to the Met Office for their support.
- She noted there had been a number of communications and questionnaires from Cabinet Office and central government. These included a hybrid working questionnaire and as had received considerable press attention, the Civil Service Headcount Commission which had been sent out right across government.
- Paul Riches (BEIS representative) briefed the Board on the focus of activities at BEIS. He noted the reappointments of Alan Thorpe (Non-Executive Director) and Duncan Potts (Chair, Public Weather Service Customer Group). BEIS was focused on the cost-of-living crisis and the situation with energy supply and pricing. The Met Office been providing information to support energy planning.
- Simon Brown (Services Director), Simon Vosper (Director of Science) and Paul Davies (Chief Meteorologist) presented the quarterly weather summary. Forecast accuracy metrics remained on track. The increasing demand for and challenges around seasonal forecasts were discussed. The ensembles introduced in Parallel Suite 45 were performing well, though there was an issue relating to tropical cyclones. An assessment of the week of storms in February was discussed; despite the plaudits for the excellent warnings, there were lessons to learn in order to continue making improvements.
- Simon Brown presented the annual Health and Safety report. While the Met Office had appropriate focus and expertise at key sites and for specialist functions, the strategy going forward was to create a more joined up approach across the organisation.
- The Board received a briefing, under legal privilege, on the current legal case from Hogan Lovells.
- Jon Petch (Chair, ED&I Committee) and Neil Murdoch (ED&I Lead) presented the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I) Report. The Board discussed how the ED&I work was being embedded in the day-to-day activities of the Met Office.

- Felicity Liggins (Education Outreach Manager) presented the outreach programme, explaining the objectives of the programme and the target audience. The Board were invited to meet the team and see some of the outreach programme materials over lunch.
- Hunada Nours (Chair, ARAC) presented the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee's (ARAC) annual report which provided a formal overview and assessment of the work of ARAC over the year. She noted the Board Effectiveness Review had observed an ARAC meeting and was comfortable with the size and workings of the Committee. The Board accepted the report. Hunada Nours provided an update on the ARAC meeting the previous day.
- Paul Chavasse (AD, Office of the Chief Executive Officer) tabled the Corporate Risk Report which had been reviewed at the ARAC meeting. The Board discussed the supercomputer risks and benefits realisation plan.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer), Andrew McKean (AD, Finance) and Steven Green (Financial Accountant) introduced the current draft of the Annual Report & Accounts (AR&A). These had been discussed with the NAO and KPMG. The two key outstanding issues were the revaluation of the Met Office's Exeter HQ and the treatment of litigation developments post year end. The Board gave authority to Hunada Nours as Chair of ARAC to make a final recommendation for the Chief Executive, as Accounting Officer, to sign the AR&A and present them to the Auditor and Comptroller General for authorisation and laying.
- Nick Jobling presented the Finance Report which provided a final iteration of the year end management accounts which were now fully consistent with the AR&A.
- Nick Jobling and Andy Cooper (Head of Plans & Performance) presented the final version of the Corporate Plan. The Board approved the plan and requested Nick Jobling to submit it to BEIS, making clear the caveats the Board had noted.
- Following on from the March meeting, Nick Jobling presented the final version of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the next financial year. The Board approved the KPIs.
- Penny Endersby and Paul Chavasse introduced the Net Zero report. The Board discussed the challenges of collecting data and measuring the impact of Scope 3 supply chain emissions and agreed the approach outlined in the paper.
- Charlie Ewen (Chief Information Officer) presented a paper on relationships with cloud computing providers. This explained the development of the cloud computing landscape and the issues and challenges around interconnectivity and use of multiple providers. The Board agreed this was the best articulation of cloud strategy they had seen.
- The Met Office's final response to the Science Review Group (SRG), the Summary of the Impact and Benefit Strategy and a paper on the Government's Knowledge Assets Strategy, were tabled for information.
- Catherine Quinn (Chair, Remuneration Committee) provided an update from the previous day's meeting which had assessed the performance of the Executive Directors, approved the Corporate Performance Pay and taken an initial look at objectives for the coming year which would be finalised at the next meeting.
- Rob Woodward reminded the Board of the Strategy Day on 14 June. The following Board meeting was scheduled for 28 July 2022.