

Met Office Board Summary 30 November 2016

- Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2016 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- Rob Varley (Chief Executive) delivered his report and the Board noted a number of points, including broadly strong progress against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); forecast accuracy improvements linked to recent model changes; developments in the Met Office Business Group including a number of awards, balanced with challenging conditions in some markets, including winter road services; recent changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme; results of the annual Employee Attitude Survey; signed multi-year contracts with MoD and the Public Weather Service (PWS).
- The Board gave its congratulations on delivering the new High Performance Computing (HPC) facility on budget and ahead of schedule.
- Steve Noyes (Chief Operating Officer) gave an update on ECMWF future accommodation.
- The Board discussed and noted upgrades to the Met Office broadcast studio and a number of new contracts for the Public Weather Media Service, including ITV, S4C, UTV, Channel 5, BFBS and STV.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) summarised the finance report and the Board discussed a number of points, including projected financial performance, Business Group performance, and spending profile of the Transformation and Efficiency (T&E) programme.
- The Board noted proposals for an Environmental Risk Institute, including support from the private sector.
- The Board noted a summary report from the previous day's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, including progress against the T&E programme plan; a new Executive sub-committee governance structure; a report on safety critical services; reports on service provision and benefits realisation of the HPC; and a review of risk and risk appetite.
- The Board discussed and approved the Corporate Plan to be laid before the Minister for approval.
- Steve Noyes and Ann Conway-Hughes (Director of the T&E Programme) gave an update on the programme, including progress so far; governance; development of the business case; workstream timelines and milestones; measuring benefits; the future organisational operating model; and assurance measures.
- The Board discussed staff pay and progress in implementing a Voluntary Exit Scheme.
- Rob Varley presented the year's staff Awards for Excellence nominees and the Board endorsed the winners.
- Julia Slingo (retiring Chief Scientist) presented reflections and key achievements during her tenure and the Board noted a number of points, including developments in numerical weather prediction; benefits of working in partnership; a strong publication record in peer reviewed journals; next-generation climate projections; developments in understanding future risks presented by a changing climate; new understanding of the origins of extreme weather; a move from weather towards environmental prediction; developments in Science Career Professional Development; and advances in Space Weather and Volcanic Ash prediction.
- Andy Brown (Director of Science) presented an update on Met Office Weather and Foundation Science.
- Arwel Griffiths (Business Group Director) presented an update on a proposed joint venture with BMT and the Board approved the outline business case and continuation towards a full business case.
- The Board noted a presentation on winter seasonal forecasting from Met Office experts in Science and Operations.
- Next meeting to be held on 24 January 2017.