

Met Office Board

Summary

28 November 2017

- Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2017 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- Rob Varley (Chief Executive) presented his report and the Board noted a number of points, including delivery of a new equality-proofed pay agreement; progress towards a sustainable funding model for the Met Office Hadley Centre; very strong performance of the Met Office Business Group; agreement to form an Environmental Futures and Big Data hub in collaboration with the University of Exeter; the start of the winter season's services; positive visits by Lesley Ann Nash (Director, Public Bodies Reform, Cabinet Office) and Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow (Lead for Government Labs and Local Growth Review); and new contracts with Heathrow Airport and the Falkland Islands Government.
- The Board noted very strong performance against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and agreed updates on some KPIs.
- The Board noted that a 6-month contract had been agreed to continue providing weather services to the BBC.
- The Board noted an update on the ECMWF future accommodation project.
- The Board noted that Rob Varley had been elected First Vice President of the World Meteorological Organization.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) presented the finance report and the Board noted that costs remained below budget, and that the accounts had been updated following implementation of a new pay system.
- The Board discussed balance of skills and resourcing following the completion of a voluntary exit scheme.
- The Board noted a report from the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, including a number of points around maintaining ISO certification, data protection issues including compliance with new General Data Protection Regulations, and the annual audit plan.
- Rob Varley presented the annual Awards for Excellence nominees and the Board endorsed the winners.
- Nick Jobling briefed the Board on the new equality-proofed multi-year pay agreement and the Board noted a number of points including the financials; detail of the pay model; legal and approvals processes; agreement through a ballot of Prospect union members; and implementation date of November 2017.
- The Board discussed gender balance in the Met Office.
- Nick Jobling and Ann Conway-Hughes (Transformation and Efficiency (T&E) Portfolio Director) presented an update on the T&E Portfolio and the Board discussed and noted a number of points, including detailed finances and affordability aspects; socioeconomic benefits and value for money; risks; progress against projects and deliverables; and milestones and timelines.
- Arwel Griffiths (Business Group Director) and Phil Evans (Chief Operating Officer) presented an update on customer and stakeholder relationship management and the Board noted a number of points, including key customers; account management processes; engagement activities; customer experience work; new customer relationship and service management tools; product lifecycles; contractual lessons; and bid management.
- Phil Evans presented a summary of the Met Office's EUMETNET membership, activities and benefits and the Board approved (ex-committee) the renewal of Met Office membership of the EUMETNET EIG.
- Stephen Belcher (Chief Scientist) presented an update on Met Office Science and the Board noted a number of points, including the structure of the directorate; scientific advances; and world-leading Met Office expertise.
- Next meeting to be held on 30 January 2018.