

Met Office Board

Summary

27 November 2018

- Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2018 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- Nick Jobling (Acting Chief Executive) presented his report and the Board noted a number of points, including an update on Key Performance Indicators, most of which were forecast to be green at year-end; progress on an update to the Met Office's automated forecast data feed; a preliminary visit by the recently appointed Met Office Chief Executive Penny Endersby; the appointment of Stephen Belcher (Chief Scientist) to the steering committee for the Government Chief Scientific Advisor network; a number of Met Office senior staff changes; a recent internal fraud awareness campaign; and good performance in the Business Group.
- The Board discussed the status of the Transformation & Efficiency (T&E) Portfolio and wider resourcing challenges.
- The Board discussed delivery of the Public Weather Service (PWS) and Defence contract agreements.
- The Board discussed delivery of Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) bids, including potential resourcing impacts on other programmes.
- The Board discussed monitoring and improving the effectiveness of training for managers.
- Nick Jobling briefed the Board on the development of a Met Office data strategy framework.
- Phil Evans (Chief Operating Officer) briefed the Board on progress with the new ECMWF data centre and headquarters office accommodation.
- The Board discussed EU exit planning.
- The Board discussed the outcomes of a recent senior-level trip to China relating to a joint MoU with the China Meteorological Administration and Newton Fund activities.
- The Board discussed plans for future exascale computing.
- Nick Jobling briefed the Board on proposed Met Office involvement in the South West Institute of Technology.
- John Taylor (Interim Chief Financial Officer) presented the finance report and the Board noted the full-year revenue and profit forecasts, which were both above baseline, cash levels and headcount.
- The Board discussed the PWS verification metrics.
- Steph Hurst (non-executive member, BEIS) briefed the Board on her current role, EU exit planning activities, the Industrial Strategy, and planning for the forthcoming Spending Review.
- The Board discussed a developing Met Office international partnerships strategy.
- Stephen Belcher briefed the Board on the successful launch of the UK's new climate projections (UKCP18).
- Nick Jobling gave an update on people issues, including a developing People Strategy and preliminary results from the annual Employee Attitude Survey.
- Nicky Bevan (Interim HR Director) briefed the Board on the Quarterly People report and the Board discussed people issues, including turnover, sickness absence, mental health and well-being, training and development.
- Hunada Nouss (Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee – ARAC) briefed the Board on the previous day's ARAC meeting, including an update on actions, review of corporate risks and Internal Audit plans.

- Dan Childs (Corporate Risk Manager) presented an update on the corporate risks and the Board discussed the latest risk register.
- Nick Jobling and John Taylor briefed the Board on work to streamline management committees, including recommendations from a consultant report, implementation of a new committee structure, improved transparency and clarity of responsibilities and accountabilities, and validation and communication of changes.
- The Board discussed the approvals process related to accountability and delegated authorities.
- Stephen Belcher briefed the Board on Strategic Priorities Fund bids, including resourcing successful bids and submissions for future funding.
- Nick Jobling briefed the Board on progress in developing a business case for the next supercomputer.
- Sarah Jackson (Head of the PWS Customer Group Secretariat) briefed the Board on the work of the PWSCG.
- Nick Jobling presented an update on the T&E Portfolio and the Board noted progress.
- The Board discussed the T&E update, including the structure, progress, plans, delivery milestones and risks.
- Nick Jobling briefed the Board on the annual Awards for Excellence and the Board discussed and endorsed the awards scheme and winners.
- Paul Gundersen (Chief Meteorologist and Head of the Operational Meteorology (OpMet) profession) briefed the Board on the OpMet profession, including roles, ways of working, forecast process and challenges.
- Phil Evans briefed the Board on Met Office Operations, including strategy, forecasting, observations, customer engagement, IT operations, the Met Office College, product development and international relations.
- The Board discussed forecasting, including measuring forecast and warning accuracy, and wider challenges.
- Next meeting to be held on 29 January 2019.