

Met Office Board

Summary

27 November 2019

- The Board welcomed Alan Thorpe as a new non-executive Director.
- The Board welcomed Jane Lancaster as the new Prospect Representative.
- The Board noted Duncan Potts had been appointed Chair of the Public Weather Service Customer Group, succeeding Dr. Wyn Williams.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2019 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.
- Penny Endersby (Chief Executive) presented her report and the Board noted a number of points, including the positive feedback from the successful Strategy Launch; the planning of workloads and resource requirements for the Strategic Actions; the imminent installation of the latest upgrade (PS43) to the forecast model and its anticipated improvements; the deployment of the first batch of Operational Meteorology Technicians; and the progress of the Supercomputer outline business case through the approval process.
- The Board discussed a number of other items, including the recent decision over 5G and microwave radio bands at the WRC 2019; the future plans and ambitions of the ECMWF; the relationship with other Unified Model partners following visits to South Korea and Australia; and the latest court ruling and developments on the EU FP7 issue.
- Penny Endersby updated the Board on the work on Met Office values, which underpinned the new Strategy. The intention was to launch these in January following one further iteration.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) presented the Finance Report, including the latest financial position and headcount movements. The profile of satellite costs in future years was noted, as were ECMWF costs given changes in their data policies.
- The anticipated treatment of pension costs was noted and related technical changes to two KPIs approved by the Board.
- James Partington (NED, BEIS representative) briefed the Board on activities at BEIS, while noting the restrictions arising in the run up to the General Election.
- Tammy Lillie (Interim HR Director) presented the quarterly People report. She also outlined the projected benefits from the new people management system project.
- Tammy Lillie presented the new People Strategy. The Board endorsed the People Strategy for launch to Met Office staff the following week.
- Dave Britton (Head of Marketing and Communications (M&C)) presented an initial draft of the M&C's Engagement Strategy. The Board provided feedback from the perspective of the Public, Government, Industry and Science.
- Nick Jobling presented options for the KPI structure for 2020/21. A final structure and specific metrics would be presented for the end of the financial year.
- Nick Jobling, John Harrison (AD, Business Group) and Simon McLellan (Head of Data) presented a paper on Trading Approaches, following on from the previous two meetings. Case studies for Data and Data Services were discussed.
- Dan Childs (Corporate Risk Manager) presented the Corporate Risk Report which had been reviewed at the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) the previous day.
- Dan Childs presented proposals for a new Risk Appetite and Risk Framework, aligned with HMT's Orange Book and BEIS's risk framework. The Board endorsed the new Risk Appetite.

- Hunada Nouss (Chair, ARAC) updated the meeting on the ARAC meeting the previous day.
- Rob Woodward (Chair) updated the meeting on the Security Issues Committee on 7 October.
- Next meeting to be held on 28 January 2020.