

Met Office Board

Summary

27 September 2017

- Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 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 strong performance against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); embedded meteorological support on a trial basis within the UN's crisis operations centre in New York; positive feedback following work for the World Food Programme; strong performance of the Business Group; near-completion of work towards renewing and upgrading the UK's weather radar network; plans to submit a partnership bid for a weather and climate risk hub; and work to review the Corporate Plan.
- The Board noted ongoing activities towards a new Facilities Management contract for the Met Office HQ.
- The Board discussed a proposed new contract to extend the provision of weather services to the BBC for 3-6 months and noted that the Met Office had agreed, in principle, to continue to deliver services.
- The Board discussed the ECMWF future accommodation project.
- The Board noted that the Met Office Informatics Lab had moved to its new Collaboration Building.
- The Board noted that the proposed joint venture with BMT would not proceed.
- The Board discussed Horizon2020 contracts and noted the government's commitment to underwrite funding.
- The Board discussed implementation of transformative capability providing simplified infrastructure liberating scientists to develop numerical weather prediction models without impacting downstream production systems.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) presented the finance report and the Board noted a number of points, including an update on a proposed new equality proofed pay model and voluntary exit scheme.
- Phil Evans (Chief Operating Officer) presented an update on the work of the Security and Resilience Board Executive sub-group and the Board noted a number of points, including good progress towards mitigation measures for corporate risk; resilience activities; work to ensure compliance with new European General Data Protection Regulations; and rollout of Microsoft Office 365.
- Nick Jobling and Ann Conway Hughes (Transformation and Efficiency (T&E) Portfolio Director) presented an update on the T&E Portfolio.
- The Board discussed progress with the T&E Portfolio and noted a number of points, including finances; progress towards delivering the savings required and impacts relating to potential service reductions; governance, benefits and risks of the portfolio; and key achievements to date.
- Met Office experts presented an item on Met Office work in support of the hurricane response efforts in the USA and Caribbean following a record-breaking succession of intense hurricanes in the region.
- The Board noted a number of points related to the response, including coordination of expertise across the Met Office; advances in modelling of such storms; and meteorological support to agencies involved.
- Dee Cotgrove (Executive Head of Media and Communications) presented an update on the Met Office communications strategy.
- The Board noted a number of points around the communications strategy, including strong results from the Met Office public Trust Tracker; activities across communications channels and measures of success; internal communications objectives; elements of the most recent Employee Attitude Survey; communication of the Corporate Plan; public communications campaigns; and communications supporting capability and accuracy.
- Next meeting to be held on 28 November 2017.