



Met Office Board

Summary

1 December 2015

- Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2015 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- Rob Varley (Chief Executive) delivered his report to the Board and the Board noted a number of points, including an update on the latest progress with Business Performance Measures (BPMs); progress with key projects and programmes; the 50th anniversary of numerical weather prediction (NWP) in the Met Office; work with the UNHCR to assist with weather and impact advice in support of humanitarian efforts in the eastern Mediterranean; and the appointment of a new ECMWF Director-General.
- Nick Jobling (CFO) gave an update on the delivery of the new High Performance Computing (HPC) facility, and the Board noted that the first of three phases was delivered to cost and 5 weeks ahead of schedule.
- The Board agreed to add a BPM targeting delivery of the HPC second phase by the end of FY2015/16.
- The Board noted some recent, largely popular, changes to accommodation at Met Office headquarters to improve flexible and mobile working and maximise the use of the floor space.
- Nick Jobling gave an update on the latest financial position.
- The Board congratulated Professor Dame Julia Slingo FRS (Chief Scientist) on her Fellowship of the Institute of Physics and nomination to the Scientific Advisory Council for Europe.
- Phil Evans (Government Services Director) gave an update on departmental Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) settlements and Rob Varley briefed the Board on strategic plans, including a response to CSR impacts.
- Steve Noyes (Operations and Services Director) gave an overview of a proposed Transformation and Efficiency (T&E) programme and the Board discussed and noted a number of points, including the use of technology as an enabler to transformation; the benefits of organisational cultural change, challenges posed by external drivers; and costs of implementation.
- The Board discussed the developing National Statement on Weather and Climate Services.
- The Board noted the latest risk register and report.
- Phil Evans gave an overview of the Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme funding, and Professor Stephen Belcher (Director of the Met Office Hadley Centre) presented its work and structure.
- The Board noted the importance of Met Office Hadley Centre climate science/services as essential national capability.
- Dr Jon Taylor (Executive Head of Observations) gave an update on the Weather Radar Renewal Project.
- The Board noted the nominees and approved the winners of the Chief Executive's Awards for Excellence.
- Ian Cameron gave an update on the Met Office's services to Aviation, and the Board noted the critical importance of aviation safety; new partnerships with a number of airports and airlines; and the global impact of the Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre and the World Area Forecast Centre.
- Next meeting to be held on 28 January 2016.