



Met Office Board

Summary

26 Apr 2011

- The Chairman, Robert Napier, welcomed John Neilson as the MoD representative to the Met Office Board meeting.
- The minutes presented for 29th Mar 2011 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. Highlighted actions were agreed to be closed.
- The Chief Executive, John Hirst, delivered his report to the Board.
- JH reconfirmed that all the Business Performance Measures have been met including the forecast accuracy measure, but not without some pressure and significant effort in places. This included the management focus which had been deemed necessary on air miles.
- JH informed the Board that a recent article in marketing Magazine had scored the Met Office service desk at 7/10 for customer service with a positive write up. This compares very favourably with other organisations measured and increase on the 6/10 the previous year.
- The Board looked at the Science and Collaboration Measure and requested a copy of the recent assessment of Met Office Science Publications.
- The Board gave their congratulations for an overall successful year.
- The Board noted that the Flood Forecasting Centre relocation had been successfully completed and that all staff (EA and Met Office) appreciated the advantages of being co-located with the Chief Forecaster. The Hazard Centre was also growing positively. JH talked about the work done for Cabinet Office during the recent Japanese events and enhanced collaboration with the Health Protection Agency.
- JH also informed the Board that Clive Marshall, CE of PA (who own Meteogroup) had visited, including a tour of the Ops Centre.
- Recent press coverage of the scientific study into the damaging affects of volcanic ash and the new Met Office Pollen forecast service was noted.
- JH reported he met with Jonny Ball and following a successful meeting had re-extended the invitation for a visit the Met Office in Exeter.



- JH discussed the ICWED (informal meeting of international NMS Executives) hosted by Norway this year. In summary all NMSs are under pressure in some way. Examples include the Norwegians and Swedes buying a supercomputer jointly, the French noting the rapid reduction in premium rate call revenue, the ongoing discussions over data changing rates versus giving it away and the severe funding cuts, faced by Ireland in particular.
- Nick Jobling, Chief Financial officer, delivered the finance report, noting that minor adjustments might still be made before the definitive final year end. NJ noted that the National Audit Office had begun their audit.
- NJ explained that profit might be marginally higher following AP13 and any potential NAO adjustments, but significant change was not expected.
- NJ explained why the year end cash was higher than budget, a significant proportion attributable to timing of payments and satellite program timing slippage. All financial Business Performance Measures were achieved as expected.
- JH noted ongoing work in TIS to rationalise the underlying systems. This would also involve assessing TIS resource and restructuring to ensure resource was correctly focussed.
- NJ presented the requested analysis of CAPEX for the FY11/12 and ran through the detail as presented.
- NJ presented the annual summary Health and Safety report. It was noted, in particular the increase in near miss reporting, the promotion of which was commended.
- Rob Varley, Operations and Services Director along with the Head of the Public Weather Service, presented the paper on Public Weather Service Accuracy and Measures.
- The Board were informed that a recent meeting had occurred with Nick Baldwin, chair of PWSCG, and in summary the PWSCG were happy as the Met Office had delivered this year as expected.
- It was explained the key aims for PWS were a move to assess the forecasts which leave the Met Office rather than the scientific endeavour. They would focus on measurable elements of wind speed and direction, temperature and three hourly rainfall and sunshine. The assessment would also include perception surveys for general public perception and severe weather events, covering reach i.e. was warning received and perception i.e. was it felt to be accurate.



- The detail of the targets for FY10/11 were discussed. It was appreciated that it was difficult to understand, which was why the measures were progressively moving to something more easily conveyed.
- The Board reviewed and agreed all the proposed Business Performance Measures and sub measures and agreed it as the way forward for next year, with a view to further aligning Business Performance Measures with Corporate objectives in future years.
- The Board were informed that a member of the Met Office is now working part time on secondment to Cabinet Office on data policy issues.
- It was reported that the Environmental Science to Service operating/steering group are showing enthusiasm for the concept, tempered with uncertainty around the details of the Public Data Corporation.
- JH informed the Board that further work for the Asset Review was being done, including assisting with the core customer requirements, understanding of the international issues and the unbreakable reliance and connections from data and core science/research into key requirements and deliverable services.
- The Board noted the Supercomputer Phase II update paper as presented.
- Director of Human Resources presented the Human resources quarterly report, covering the effects of pay freeze, the submission of the pay remit, the organisation structuring to face future opportunities and the Strategic Defence Services Review impacts.
- It was noted that JH would be in Geneva for key parts of WMO congress during May. The next meeting was confirmed as 24th May, starting at 1030am in Exeter.
- The Board then visited the newly re-located Flood Forecasting Centre and developing Hazard Centre.
- **Close of Meeting**