



Met Office Board

Summary

27 June 2011

- The minutes presented for 24th May 2011 and for a Met Office Board teleconference on 8th June were agreed to be an accurate record of the meetings. Highlighted actions were agreed to be closed.
- The potential for a Machinery of Government Change, moving the Met Office from MoD to BIS was discussed and John Neilson gave an update on progress. JN reported rapid progress over the last 2 weeks regarding the negotiations and terms of transfer. JN referred to figures, previously circulated, which had been agreed in principle between MoD, BIS and the Met Office.
- JN informed the Board that the timescales could be relatively quick for the transfer of responsibility and reporting lines, conditional on agreement from Prime Minister. This would be followed by the drafting and laying in parliament of a “Machinery of Government Transfer of functions order.”
- Domestic and governance arrangements were discussed.
- The Board asked about any progress with the ESS in association with the PDC. John Hirst reported that some progress was being made independently and that he had a meeting shortly with David Willitts.
- JH reported good progress being made with the Joint Research Council in Europe and the World Bank. The Open Platform concept was also being well received, including an event at the World Bank in Washington in July.
- Robert Napier enquired about progress with the Asset Review and the desire to conclude the process. JN reported concentration had been on the MoG issues recently.
- Nick Jobling confirmed that the financial situation should not be detrimental to the Met Office and while the Met Office waits to see exactly where it will fit in, it was business as usual. The Board, supported by all parties involved, thanked NJ for his work on these issues.
- JH gave an introduction to the Corporate Strategy Review, briefly outlining the history of the Met Office’s conversion to a Trading Fund and the progress along the journey to becoming a successful, scientific, commercial business.



- Arwel Griffiths (Director of Business Development) gave a presentation on the historic position and commercial opportunities.
- JH talked about partnerships, both existing and future opportunities. The Board discussed the Environmental Science to Service developing partnership and model in further detail.
- David Young (Chief Information Officer) gave a presentation on Technology opportunities.
- The Board discussed the issues and future strategy in detail.
- The Board reviewed and approved the corporate risk register, noting it was a live document and regularly updated. Some areas for future consideration or inclusion were discussed.
- In summary the Board offered their congratulations for the progress made over recent years in 'opening up' the Met Office and developing opportunities for the future.
- Rob Seaman gave a restricted presentation on the Met Office involvement in Afghanistan. The Board discussed the work and the strategic partnerships with FCO and DfID,
- The Chief Executive, John Hirst, delivered his report to the Board.
- JH related the various Communications work going on, noting that more had been positive, including the recent Financial Times Magazine, than negative.
- JH reported the important work done by the international team, including the recent WMO Congress and Executive Council, allowing the UK to deliver the best value for money and giving the work of the Met Office led Continuous Improvement Team as an example of this.
- JH also informed the Board that the Met Office was continuing to work with DfT regarding the need for increased observational network (LIDAR) and other development needs for Volcanic Ash.
- JH reviewed his forthcoming visit to the World Bank in Washington.
- The Board discussed the recent visit by Christina Scott, Director of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat and members of her team. This was a successful visit and JH explained the support CCS offered for Natural Hazard Partnership.
- Chief Financial Office, Nick Jobling, delivered the finance report for AP02.



- NJ summarised that all financial Business Performance Measures are on track.
- The Board discussed the impact of energy pricing regimes. NJ noted that the greatest sensitivity to energy pricing would be during the period of parallel running of the supercomputer, but that further energy saving measures were being worked on.
- Rob Varley delivered the Corporate Sustainability Report, summarising the measures of performance and success; the increased reporting via the web; the achievement of Gold in the Business in the Community Corporate Responsibility index and the target to increase STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Maths) ambassadors, supporting schools visit commitment.
- RV noted that the Met Office had been put forward for a CIPS 'Best Contribution to Corporate Responsibility' award.
- The next meeting was confirmed as 26th July 2011, in Exeter.
- **Close of Meeting**