



Met Office Board

Summary

29 Mar 2011

- The Chairman, Robert Napier, welcomed Emma Davies as the MoD representative for this Met Office Board meeting.
- The minutes presented for 28th Feb 2011 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. Highlighted actions were reviewed and closed.
- The Chief Executive, John Hirst, delivered his report to the Board.
- JH informed the Board that in summary all the Business Performance Measures (BPMs) were expected to be green by year end.
- Rob Varley (Director of Operations and Services) informed the Board that the Public Weather Service Customer Group (PWSCG) were pleased with the Met Office performance this year and that a paper regarding the individual elements of the PWS BPM would be presented next month.
- The Board noted that the air travel was expected now to be reduced by 11% compared with the previous year.
- Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) informed the Board that not only had the supercomputer CO² emissions been reduced per teraflop significantly further than the target, it was also expected that the emissions would in fact also be reduced compared to previous year, in real terms. The Board offered congratulations for the technological advances which had achieved this.
- RN summed up that it had been a good year for the Met Office. One in which the Met Office had delivered above and beyond what was agreed. The customers were satisfied and technology had also delivered. He noted the reduction in CO² emissions, increase in web traffic and reach and the success in tender processes for key contracts including the BBC.
- JH informed the Board of the current situation with regard to the ongoing Met Office Asset Review and proposed Public Data Corporation (PDC).
- The Board discussed the current funding position and process on agreements for funding of major programmes for future years.
- JH explained the Met Office involvement following the Japanese earthquake, and the service being provided by RIMNET (Radioactive Incident Monitoring Network), while recognising the Japanese Met Authority as the lead Regional Specialised Met Centre.



- JH informed the Board that the Winter Resilience review had concluded and was generally positive with respect to the Met Office.
- JH and RV informed the Board of the work the Met Office were doing to support defence for operations in Libya.
- The “Weather Test” project lead by Roger Harrabin at the BBC was discussed. The requirement to agree a protocol, acceptable to all, was proving challenging and had been erroneously reported in the news recently. The main view was that the Met Office welcomes the review, but is just aware of the difficulties in grading forecasts.
- NJ, delivered the finance report, informing the Board that it was expected to achieve the financial BPMs as per the report.
- NJ delivered the summary budget, as laid out in the paper, and described some of the details including where some reductions were off-set by increasing revenues elsewhere.
- ED questioned any rises in overhead costs. NJ explained that the operating costs included more than back office functions, such as some investment for growth, and in fact back office costs were decreasing.
- The Board requested a short breakdown of the projected CAPEX
- The Board approved the Budget as presented.
- NJ presented the FY1112 BPM paper. It was noted that the BPMs were now aligned as closely as possible to the corporate objectives. The Board agreed to the BPMs as presented, subject to satisfactory agreement for the forecast accuracy BPM.
- The Board noted the Freeing Up Data and Content paper.
- The Board noted the Audit Committee Update Report.
- An informative presentation was given on the progress being made in the Finance and Insurance Industry.
- A presentational update was given on the changes in Health Business. The Board offer their congratulations and support for this work.
- The next meeting was confirmed as 26th April, starting 11am, in Exeter.
- **Close of Meeting**