



Met Office Board

Summary

24 May 2011

- The Met Office Board were given a brief on the current Volcanic Ash situation, following the Eruption of Grimsvotn, Iceland.
- Rob Varley, Operations and Services Director, gave more detail regarding Met Office activities and capabilities. It was also noted that NATS, CAA, DfT and Met Office press offices were all working together. The Secretary of State for Transport and CE of CAA had done much of the presentation with full briefing from the Met Office, including John Hirst briefing SoS DfT.
- The minutes presented for 26th Apr 2011 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. Highlighted actions were agreed to be closed.
- Nick Jobling, Chief Financial officer, delivered the finance report summary for the year end. NJ confirmed that there had been no audit adjustments and just minor routine adjustments from AP12, previously presented.
- NJ informed the Board that the current actual and forecasts were close to budget for revenue and costs, as expected.
- NJ presented the Anti-Bribery policy paper, noting an earlier version had already been seen by the Board, before the planned enactment of the Bribery Act 2010 on 1st July 2011.
- The Board noted that the policy had been to the Audit Committee. The Board approved the Met Office Policy and supported publication.
- NJ presented the Annual Report and Accounts and informed the Board of the feedback received from the Audit Committee. The financial presentation was considered clean and National Audit Office had signed subject to a small number of minor issues which would be presented in a management letter.
- The Board discussed the Annual Report and Accounts in detail. The Board approved the Annual Report and Accounts for 2010/11.
- The Audit Committee report was handed out and Paul Rew, Chair of the Audit Committee and summarised. There were no implications from the report that needed any further addressing from the Met Office Board.
- The Audit Report was formally approved by the Met Office Board.
- Minor changes were recorded to the Register of Interests.



- NJ presented the latest version of the Corporate Plan prepared for the Met Office Owners Council. NJ also explained the ongoing process of developing delivery plans to underpin the corporate objectives.
- The Board discussed the document was designed for specific audience, with other tailored information being prepared for the staff and for publishing.
- The Board discussed the document in detail and made recommendations.
- The Chief Executive, John Hirst, delivered his report to the Board.
- JH reported to the Board on the recent Asset Review meeting, the general consensus from those at the meeting and the proposed next step.
- JH discussed Public Data Corporation and summarised copies of letters received on the subject. JH explained his understanding that initial negotiations were underway and that the Met Office had composed an initial list of issues that need addressing. The Board noted the list and discussed some of the issues in more detail.
- The pricing and protection requirements for essential spectrum needs of the Met Office, was discussed. Given the potential cost exposure it was agreed to raise Spectrum issues from program to corporate level risk.
- JH informed the Board that work continued with the Environmental Science to Service working group. The Board noted that it was useful work and should continue as quickly as possible.
- JH reported that the Exec were investigating the possibilities resulting from the conclusions of the Transport Select Committee.
- The progress made in Geneva at WMO congress was discussed. JH praised the international team for all the work they had been doing. The top level objectives were going well, including influencing budgets.
- The Board were informed about JH and other Met Office representatives going to the World Bank.
- JH noted that the US Presidential speech, during his visit to the UK included a statement on breakthrough collaboration on Space Weather.
- The climate service workshop in Singapore and the MoU to work with Singapore Met Services Division, was discussed.
- JH also reported his visit to the Earth Observatory Singapore and the opportunity to influence the scientific work they do.
- JH reviewed the TIS investment strategy.



- The Climate Security Round Table, organised and hosted by the Met Office was very successful. JH informed the Board it was the first in a planned series.
- Brian Hoskins discussed the dry spell and expressed a wish to be more informed on monthly to seasonal predictions issued by the Met Office and related briefings given by it.
- JH concluded that there was a lot going on, people were working very hard, but good progress was being made.
- The next meeting was confirmed as 27th June 2011, in London, followed by the Met Office Owners Council in Exeter the following day.
- **Close of Meeting**