



Met Office Board

Summary

27 Sept 2011

- The minutes presented for 26th July 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.
- NJ informed the Board that at half way through the year the Met Office was on track. It was expected to deliver the Efficiency Business Performance Measure (BPM) and the Building Profitability BPM by the year end, along with a reasonable chance of improving enough to reach the Stretch Business Profit BPM.
- NJ informed the Board that Commercial Revenue was being forecast marginally below budget, but with opportunities being pursued to bridge the revenue gap. The Board discussed the proportion of revenue the Met Office was generating from outside the UK.
- John Hirst, Chief Executive, delivered his report to the Board.
- The BPMs were discussed, focussing on the elements showing Amber.
- JH discussed the success of a probability online game, the launch of the Beta website, the work with Dept for Transport and DECC regarding High Performance Computing and his recent visit to Scotland to meet the Perm Sec and Scottish Civil Contingencies Director.
- Chief Scientist, Julia Slingo, noted the research on Solar Variability and the imminent publication of the paper, produced in collaboration with Reading and Oxford University.
- JH talked about a good visit from Andrew Haldane, Bank Of England, including his appreciation of the modelling ability and sophistication of the Met Office.
- Steady progress of the Open Platform proof of concept project was noted.
- JH summarised his tri-lateral meeting with MeteoFrance and DWD.
- The progress on the Science and Technology Select Committee Enquiry was discussed. The Board noted the Met Office submission.



- The move to BIS was discussed and JH expressed his opinion that the transfer had so far been positive and the Met Office had been made to feel welcome. A range of meetings and visits had taken place. JH noted that the visit from David Willetts MP had gone well and he had been supportive.
- NJ summarised his engagement with the finance directors across BIS. The BIS shared service centre was discussed and there was a general conclusion that the case for Met Office inclusion was not obvious. NJ noted that BIS had a target to reduce Admin Budget and work might be required to ensure it was more widely understood that as the Met Office Admin Budget is not integrated into the dept, and as a Trading Fund, there are alternative levers to drive efficiency.
- The Board discussed the Open Data and related Data Policy for Public Data Corporation (PDC) consultations, closing by end of October.
- Peter Shortt updated the Board on the work ShEx were doing around the PDC, noting the tensions of the differing agendas.
- The Board discussed the advantages the ESSP could deliver and the ongoing need for high level endorsement and traction.
- JS presented to the Board the latest version of the '3 Month Outlook' refreshed product. The Board were supportive of the approach and endorsed the work in progress.
- Rob Varley, Operations and Services Director, presented the paper regarding changes to Met Office land and buildings in Lerwick. RV reviewed the geographical importance of the Lerwick Observatory site. NJ reviewed the financial implications and decisions presented in the paper. The Board agreed the recommendations as presented.
- RV introduced the Polar Satellite Second Generation Programme and its vital importance for operational continuity. The Board were given an informative presentation on the EUMETSAT Polar system and the requirements to begin planning, by engaging with the Preparatory Programme, for a new generation of European Polar Orbiting Satellites. The Board had detailed discussions on the process, timing and requirements, before approving the recommendations as presented.
- JH informed the Board that a ballot for staff action on the 30th November was a possibility. RV and JH confirmed to the Board that contingency planning was underway.
- It was confirmed that the next Met Office Board meeting would be in London and would include the Awards of Excellence selection panel.
- **Close of Meeting**