



Met Office Board

Summary

23 Nov 2011

- The minutes presented for 26th Oct 2011 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- The actions were reviewed and noted, with those highlighted agreed to be closed.
- John Hirst, Chief Executive, delivered his report to the Board.
- Rob Varley, Director of Operations and Services reviewed the Business Performance Measures (BPMs). It was noted that the sustainability BPM was significantly dependent on the timing of the supercomputer upgrade and would become increasingly difficult to achieve with delay.
- RV reviewed the Forecast Accuracy BPM, noting that given the volatility of the Probability of Precipitation index, it was planned to consider different measures for future years. JH reminded the Board that the forecast outcomes remain above last year.
- The Board reviewed the monthly forecast verifications based on information RV handed out, prepared by the Met Office NCIC team. The Board welcomed the comparison information, noting that while there were one or two disappointing occasions the majority of the output indicated the forecasts to be skilful.
- It was agreed that the Verification Team should give the Board a presentation on their work.
- JH discussed the fact that the Head of the Press Office had written to editors of some newspapers, on legal advice, to show concern regarding misleading or evocative headlines and to offer help for future. JH also explained that the coverage was far from all bad.
- Head of Web and Delivery Channels talked the Board through and demonstrated a range of web and social media developments:
 - -The new Beta website
 - -Weather Observation Windows (WOW)
 - -Twitter
 - -Met Office Data Point and the parallel Cabinet Office requirements to data.gov
 - -Mobile Apps for range of mobile devices



- The Board noted the progress and discussed the success of the developments in detail. It was also noted that the feed of data to data.gov would be stored in perpetuity. The Board discussed the potential impacts of this, along with the benefits of the Met Office Data point and registration for supported services in detail.
- The Board discussed the wider work on Public Data Group related matters. In particular the conversations focussed on the need to ensure the role of the PWSCG and the Met Office core role in protecting life and property were fully understood and maintained.
- JH reviewed the work on the Science and Technology Select Committee, including thanking Brian Hoskins for his supportive evidence. It was confirmed the written report would be released in due course.
- RV talked about the recent move to have advisors on site at Heathrow Airport, which was already demonstrating how efficiency could be increased when dealing with severe weather disruption.
- JH also reviewed a successful visit from Sweden NMS and to Finland.
- The Board heard about the recent work of the Natural Hazard Partnership on the Civil Contingencies Hazard Risk Register. The partners had brought their expertise together to critique and develop the environmental risks for the Cabinet Office risk register.
- Nick Jobling, Chief Financial Officer, delivered the Finance Report, which the Board noted.
- Diana Chaloner, Director of human Resources, delivered the HR report which was noted.
- The expectation of a “day of industrial action” was discussed and RV outlined the plans to ensure safety critical / Category A services were delivered. The Board gave support for this.
- The Employee Attitude Survey was discussed in detail, including key points such as the 80% response rate, concerns raised in responses to pay and benefits questions and the positive scores for being proud to work at the Met Office.
- NJ explained the latest situation with the Supercomputer procurement.
- RV delivered the Sustainability Update Report, which the Board noted.
- The Board gave updates to Secretary for Register of Interests.
- **Close of Meeting**