



Met Office Board

Summary

25 Jan 2012

- The minutes presented for 23rd Nov 2011 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- The actions were reviewed and noted, with those highlighted agreed to be closed.
- Rob Varley, Director of Operations and Services joined the meeting by phone from the Falklands
- RV summarised the Weather Radar Network Renewal paper, which was an update to approval granted by the Board about a year ago.
- RV explained that the options considered had ranged from an “off the shelf” to doing much of it in-house. He explained the important message was that the Met Office now had a world class radar which was being rolled out across the network. This included a platform to continue the research and development on signal processing to maximise the benefit the new system could deliver to direct observational use and core model input.
- It was noted by the Board, fully endorsed by Brian Hoskins, that the data from these radar, to feed into high resolution models, was a high priority requirement (as noted by MOSAC) and would be expected to deliver long term benefits.
- The Board approved the progression of the project at the revised costs.
- RV summarised the background information as presented in the Service Continuity paper and informed the Board of the areas of ongoing work
- The Board noted that Category A service resilience had been strengthened and could be sustained without the Exeter site for an unlimited time.
- The Board discussed the very low risk of an outage, and the potential impacts on lower category services. The business continuity plans were discussed and the Board reassured that a service could be delivered in some format, but would not be as resilient as for Category A services, where customers contracts reflected the need for high level business continuity.
- The Chief Executive, John Hirst, delivered his report to the Board.



- RV reviewed the forecast accuracy Business Performance Measures, and JH discussed plans for an improved suite of forecast accuracy measures.
- JH was pleased to be able to show the Board an apology recently printed in the Telegraph following some coverage which had been referred to the Press Complaints Commission.
- JH discussed the impact based warnings and how this was working well in consultation, particularly with the Scottish Civil Contingencies staff, in marginal events.
- JH informed the Board that the Met Office's success in the Computer Weekly Social Media awards was a very big success against stiff competition.
- JH informed the Board about a visit from Netherlands Met Service, KNMI
- JH also discussed his visit to American Met Society conference, where he had talked about collaboration including Space Weather.
- The Board discussed in detail the developments with the Public Data Group and Data Strategy Board.
- Nick Jobbling, Chief Financial Officer, delivered the Finance Report and the Board noted there were only minor changes from the previous month and noted the position expected at the year end.
- NJ explained the latest situation with the Supercomputer procurement.
- The Board noted the routine quarterly Health and Safety Report.
- The Risk Review paper was presented and the Board discussed the new and updated risks in detail.
- BH delivered his summary report of MOSACs annual November meeting to the Board.
- The Board noted the report and expressed thanks for the very helpful work and feedback MOSAC provides. JH re-iterated that it was genuinely appreciated by all involved and should be fed back to MOSAC members.
- The Board requested some more detail about the progress and preparation work for the Olympics.
- The next meeting was confirmed as London (Feb 28th)
- **Close of Meeting**