

Met Office Board

Summary

26-27 March 2018

- Minutes of the meetings held on 30 January and 12 March were agreed to be accurate records of the meetings.
- Nick Jobling (Interim Chief Executive) presented his report and the Board noted a number of points, including very strong performance towards Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); work with BEIS on plans relating to exiting the EU; an update on the ECMWF future accommodation and data centre projects; new facilities management contracts; a report on a business continuity incident; the appointment of Ian Cameron as interim Business Group Director; and a positive meeting with the Scottish First Minister and Minister for Transport.
- The Board also noted the results of a recent public survey following severe weather, which showed that an exceptional 100% of those surveyed were aware of the National Severe Weather Warnings (NSWWS) issued for heavy snow, highlighting the accuracy of the forecasts and effectiveness of the warnings service.
- The Board discussed the Met Office Civil Contingencies Aircraft contract.
- The Board discussed new UK climate projections (UKCP18), due to be published in November.
- The Board discussed the recent switch by the BBC to a new weather services provider and noted the BBC would continue to broadcast Met Office National Severe Weather Warnings.
- The Board discussed a recent spell of severe winter weather and noted the accuracy and communication of forecasts and warnings, and business continuity and health & safety arrangements.
- The Board noted that legal claims relating to equal pay had been settled as part of a new pay agreement.
- The Board discussed capital expenditure, including satellite programmes and a new production platform.
- The Board discussed and approved payment of the annual dividend to BEIS of £8.5m.
- Ann Conway-Hughes (Director of the Transformation and Efficiency (T&E) Portfolio) gave an update on progress, including the business cases, costs and benefits, project timelines and milestones, resourcing, risks, and communication of progress with staff.
- Andrew McKean (Executive Head of Finance) presented, and the Board discussed and approved, the budget for FY2018-19.
- Nick Jobling presented an update on the Corporate Plan and the Board discussed and approved the plan.
- Nick Jobling presented the 2018-19 KPIs and the Board discussed and approved the outline KPIs, subject to additional work to develop some measures further.
- The Board discussed and approved Corporate Performance Pay weightings associated with the 2018-19 KPIs.
- Kay Eldergill (HR Director) presented an update on People issues, including an overview of the HR directorate.
- Jean Stevens (Change Leader, People, Skills & Culture) briefed the Board on activities relating to change management, including methodology, building competency and communication of change.
- Nicky Bevan (Head of HR Partners) briefed the Board on the work of HR Business Partners, including organisational development, training, succession planning, skills requirements and talent pipeline.
- Kay Eldergill presented the quarterly People report and the Board discussed the report, including the use of contractors to manage skills gaps, analysis of the annual Employee Attitude Survey, pay and turnover rates and impacts of a new pay agreement.

- Andy Kirkman (Government Services Director) briefed the Board on the business case for renewal of the Hadley Centre Climate Programme (HCCP) contract and the Board noted this was a contract with Defra and BEIS covering the period 2018/19 to 2020/21, with additional capital bid funding from UKRI.
- The Board discussed and approved the renewal of the HCCP contract.
- Andy Kirkman and Dave Britton (Head of International Development) briefed the Board on the Weather and Climate Services for Asia (WACSA) business case and the Board noted this was a proposal for the Met Office to deliver the WACSA programme in partnership with DFID.
- The Board discussed the WACSA programme, including the aims, design, finances, legal compliance, benefits and risks, and measures of success, and the Board approved the development of a proposal to deliver the WACSA programme for DFID.
- Phil Evans (Chief Operating Officer) briefed the Board on EUMETNET and the Met Office's membership of this European Economic Interest Group, including its activities.
- The Board discussed a proposal to extend the Met Office leadership of the E-ABO programme and the Board discussed the benefits and risks, approving the submission of a binding proposal to lead the programme.
- Andy Kirkman briefed the Board on the annual High Performance Computing (HPC) Benefits Report and the Board noted that, of the originally projected £2b of socioeconomic benefits, currently £1.4b were quantified and that further non-quantified evidence was available.
- The Board discussed the benefits report, including identifying and evidencing additional benefits.
- Arwel Griffiths (Business Group Director), Ian Cameron (Group Leader, Transport) and Patrick Sachon (Group Leader, Energy) presented the Business Group annual review and the Board noted that the Business Group had performed strongly during the financial year, exceeding profit forecasts.
- The Board discussed case studies of work undertaken by the Business Group, including new opportunities.
- The Board thanked Nick Jobling for acting as interim Chief Executive and offered its full support.
- Mary Keegan (Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee) briefed the Board on the previous day's ARAC meeting.
- Next meeting, to include the Remuneration Committee, to be held on 7 June 2018.