

Met Office Board

Summary

29 January 2019

- The Board noted apologies from Sir John Beddington and Catherine Quinn.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2018 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.
- The Board noted its thanks to Nick Jobling (Chief Financial Officer) for his work as Acting Chief Executive, including its appreciation for leading the Met Office through a challenging time.
- The Board welcomed Penny Endersby as the new Met Office Chief Executive.
- The Board welcomed Mike Ord (Highways England Head of National Traffic Operations) to the meeting and gave its thanks for hosting the Board meeting at the National Traffic Operations Centre (NTOC).
- Mike Ord presented the work of the NTOC and the Board discussed Met Office services to Highways England, noting the close partnership and value Highways England placed on those services.
- Penny Endersby presented her report and the Board noted a number of points, including an update on Key Performance Indicators, most of which were forecast to be achieved by year-end; an update on the Transformation and Efficiency (T&E) Portfolio; a positive visit by the Chief Executive of the CAA; and an MBE for Met Office Operational Meteorologist Josh Bratchley.
- The Board discussed challenges in fully delivering the Public Weather Service (PWS) and Defence contractual agreements.
- Penny Endersby briefed the Board on the outcome of an EU audit on reporting of FP7 projects from 2015 and the Board noted that, despite completion of the deliverables, the audit was not satisfied with the evidence provided relating to time recording. The Board also noted possible liabilities, which were yet to be determined.
- The Board approved an amendment to the financial KPIs relating to the EU FP7 audit.
- Penny Endersby gave her first impressions since taking up post, including internal governance and structures, and the Board noted work underway to further improve governance and effectiveness of the Executive team.
- Penny Endersby briefed the Board on a trial service to Ryanair, including discussions with Met Éireann.
- The Board discussed the ECMWF future accommodation and progress with its new data centre.
- Nick Jobling presented the finance report and the Board noted the overall financial position, strong profit levels, and some risks to delivery timetables of new Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) bids.
- The Board discussed likely increases in government pension costs.
- Steph Hurst (non-executive member, BEIS) briefed the Board on new appointments in BEIS, including Science Minister, Chris Skidmore, and Director, Harriet Wallace; and planning for EU exit and a Spending Review.
- Andy Kirkman (Government Services Director) briefed the Board on Met Office EU exit planning and the Board discussed resourcing requirements and risks to funding, including international subscriptions.
- Mark Hunt (Supercomputer Programme Manager) briefed the Board on progress with the investment case for a new supercomputer and the Board discussed the case, including options, costs, value for money, procurement approach, benefits, risks and timeline.
- Wyn Williams (Chair of the PWS Customer Group) briefed the Board on the work of the PWSCG and the Board discussed future challenges, socioeconomic benefits of the PWS and stakeholder engagement.

- Ian Cameron (Business Group Director) presented the Civil Aviation Authority business case and related commitments to deliver all aviation services required under ICAO arrangements.
- The Board discussed the CAA business case, including risks and finances, and approved the case subject to additional BEIS approvals.
- Nicky Bevan (Head of HR Partners) presented analysis of the Employee Attitude Survey (EAS) results and the Board noted a number of points, including good overall levels of engagement; top-level scores in each area; and drivers of engagement.
- The Board discussed the EAS results, including variations across groups, specific analysis relating to bullying and harassment, and timelines for further analysis and action plans.
- Kirstine Dale (Head of Climate Programmes & Services for Government) briefed the Board on bids into the SPF and the Board discussed SPF work, including auditing, reporting, resourcing and defrayment of funds.
- Andy Kirkman briefed the Board on planning for the forthcoming Spending Review and the Board discussed the plans and approach, noting ongoing uncertainties in the timetable.
- Next meeting to be held on 27 March 2019.