

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE 38<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2004 AT 10:00 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Professor Desmond Rea (Chairman)

Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman)

Mr Alex Attwood

(1) Viscount Brookeborough

(2) Mr Joe Byrne

(2) Mr Fred Cobain

(2) Mr Brian Dougherty

Mr Sam Foster

Mr Barry Gilligan

(3) Mr Willie Hay

(4) Mr Tom Kelly

(1) Lord Kilclooney

Mrs Pauline McCabe

Mr Alan McFarland

Mrs Rosaleen Moore

(1) Mr Suneil Sharma

Mr Sammy Wilson

#### **POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:**

(5) Mr Hugh Orde, (Chief Constable)

(5) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)

(5) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)

(5) Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Rural Region)

(5) C/Superintendent Phil Wright (Crime Operations Department)

(5) Ms Sinead McSweeney (Head of Media)

(5) C/Superintendent, Command Secretariat

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)

Mr Peter Holt (Director of Communications)

Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Affairs)

Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)

Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)

Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)

Three Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 – 5**
- (2) Part of Item number 3.1 to close**
- (3) Item number 3.10 to close**
- (4) Item numbers 1 – 5 and 12 to close**
- (5) Item number 13 only**

## **1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr McGrady and Mr Paisley.

## **2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD**

### **Minutes Of The 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Policing Board Held On 4 November 2004**

The minutes were agreed.

### **Minutes Of The Board Meeting In Public Held On 4 November 2004**

The minutes were agreed, subject to two minor amendments.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE POLICING BOARD MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2004**

### **3.1 District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

#### **3.1.1 Dungannon And South Tyrone DPP**

The Board noted that the Board's Appointment Panel had appointed 8 independent members to serve on Dungannon and South Tyrone DPP. Six of the Members had accepted the positions, 1 had declined to accept the post and 1 had not yet responded. A letter had been sent to a candidate who had been placed on a Reserve List offering an appointment to the Panel. A reply was awaited.

### **3.1.2 Threat Against Members Of DPPs**

The Board noted details of further threats against Members of DPPs and an offer of assistance which had been made to a DPP Member by the Board

### **3.1.3 Appointment Of Independent Members Of DPPs**

The Board noted that the Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland would be sending a letter to the Chairman of the Board concerning the introduction of amendments to the current legislation, in order to provide temporary continuation of the existing DPPs until the new Bodies are established.

### **3.2 Proposed Closure of Andersonstown Police Station (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

This matter was dealt with under item number 12.

### **3.3 Northern Ireland Affairs Committee – Inquiry Into The Functions Of The Policing Board (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted that Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive were scheduled to give evidence on 8 December 2004 to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Functions of the Board.

### **3.4 Human Rights Advisors – Presentation On Parades (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)**

A Member drew the attention of the Board to comments made to the media by a Board Member, following the Board's consideration of the Human Rights Advisors report on the Policing of the Ardoyne Parade on 12 July 2004. The Member expressed the view that the comments were racist in nature and requested that the Member reconsider and withdraw certain comments that he had made about the Advisors.

Following discussion, the Member concerned did not accept that the comments were racist in nature and indicated that he would communicate directly with both Human Rights Advisors about the matter. Members agreed that the Chairman should write to the Human Rights Advisors on behalf of the Board to express regret regarding the remarks which had been made by the Member and to express appreciation for their work.

### **3.5 Policing Plan (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted that the Corporate Policy Committee at its November meeting had:-

- considered, a draft Policing Plan for 2005 / 2006;
- noted that the draft plan had moved away from four overarching aims to the “domains” approach adopted in policing plans for England and Wales; and
- suggested a number of amendments to the plan and Officials had undertaken to give further consideration to the proposals and where appropriate to include these in a revised draft plan which would be circulated to PSNI and brought back to the December Corporate Policy Committee meeting.

### **3.6 Reception (Item 3.8 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted that a reception would be held at 5:30 pm for DPP members, Custody Visitors, Independent Community Observers, Local Press and others.

Members welcomed a statement which had been made by Archbishop Brady following his attendance at a Board Reception in Armagh on 4 November 2004.

### **3.7 2<sup>nd</sup> Report Of The Justice Oversight Commissioner (Item 3.9 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted details of a letter which the Chairman had received from the Minister of State concerning a number of issues which the Board had raised with the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) in relation to references to policing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Report of the Justice Oversight Commissioner.

Members agreed that the Working Group that was being established to prepare a paper on the role of the Board within the policing architecture should also consider policing issues referred to in the Justice Oversight Commissioner's report.

### **3.8 Demonstration Of CCTV Equipment (Item 4.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

A Member referred to a demonstration of CCTV equipment which he had attended in Millennium House, Belfast on 16 November 2004 and suggested that it would be useful for a demonstration of the equipment to be given for other Members of the Board.

### **3.9 Surveillance Commissioner – Inspection (Item 4.5 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted that there had been no significant developments since the last meeting regarding the Board's involvement in oversight of PSNI implementation of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act.

### **3.10 Attendance Of Observer At December 2004 Board Meeting (Item 6.2.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board had a general discussion regarding the attendance of observers at private sessions of Board meetings.

A Member suggested that the matter should be passed to the Corporate Policy Committee for consideration.

The Chairman put the proposal to the meeting and following a show of hands the proposal was carried by 8 votes to 7, after the Chairman had used his casting vote.

### **3.11 Business and Decision-Making Processes** (Item 6.2.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that the November Corporate Policy Committee meeting had considered a revised paper on Business and Decision-Making Processes. Following the inclusion of amendments agreed at the meeting, subsequent consultation with the Crown Solicitor's Office and review under the Board's Equality Scheme, a revised paper would be brought to a future Board meeting for approval.

The Board noted and agreed that Wednesday 3 August 2005 would be reserved as a provisional date for a meeting of the Board which would proceed under paragraph 1 (c) of the Standing Orders, if the meeting was deemed to be justified.

### **3.12 Association Of Police Authorities (APA) Policy Groups And Networks** (Item 6.2.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that:-

- a paper would be provided to the Corporate Policy Committee for consideration regarding Members involvement with the APA Plenary and Policy Groups, and its involvement with the networks of the APA taking account of the time commitment involved in such participation; and
- the APA had agreed to hold its Annual Conference in Northern Ireland in November 2005.

## **4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Engagements**

The Board noted that the Chairman had undertaken the following engagements on behalf of the Board:-

- Police Federation Reception – House of Commons – 16 November 2004; and
- re-opening of Ballycastle PSNI Station, following refurbishment - 30 November 2004.

### **4.2 Publications**

The Chairman advised the Board that no publications had been placed in the library since the last Corporate Policy Committee meeting.

### **4.3 Correspondence**

The Board noted that the Chairman had received a letter from the NIO regarding the designation of Grosvenor Road Custody Suite as a place where lay visitors could visit under section 73(10) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000.

### **4.4 Newry And Mourne District Policing Plan 2004 – 2005**

The Board noted that the Chairman had received a copy of Newry and Mourne District Policing Plan for the period 2004 – 2005.

#### **4.5 Dealing With The Past**

The Board noted the content of a news release which had been issued by the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee (NIAC) regarding an Inquiry into possible ways of dealing with Northern Ireland's past. The Committee had invited individuals or organisations with an interest in this matter to submit written evidence by 3 December 2004.

The Board discussed the submission of a paper prepared previously by the Chairman entitled 'Seeking to hold the past in a healthy balance with the future'. Members indicated that they were content for the Chairman and / or the Vice-Chairman to submit the paper to NIAC in a personal capacity.

Whilst Members agreed that the general debate on the issue of dealing with Northern Ireland's past should be driven by others outside the policing environment, Members also agreed that there was a need for further debate within the Board.

#### **4.6 Report From The Office Of The Police Ombudsman**

The Board noted that a report had been received from the Office of the Police Ombudsman regarding computer enquiries emanating from the 2003 Annual Whiterock Parade and would be passed to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee for consideration.

### **5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 International Human Rights Day**

The Board noted that an International Human Rights Day would be held in Belfast City Hall on 10 December 2004.

## **5.2 Conference On Developing Ways Of Tackling Anti Social Behaviour**

The Board noted that a Conference on Developing Ways of Tackling Anti Social Behaviour would be held in London on 26 January 2005.

## **5.3 SR 2004 – Allocations For Policing**

The Board noted the content of a letter which had been received from the NIO concerning Spending Review (SR) 2004 allocations for policing. The Board noted that the settlement presented a shortfall in funding for PSNI of £5.3m during the 2005 / 2006 financial year with a larger deficit during the 2006 / 2007 financial year of over £30m. The Board noted that the matter would be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its next meeting.

The Board agreed that a news release should be issued expressing concern on the proposed funding for police purposes.

## **5.4 Internet Safety Conference**

The Board noted that a Conference on Internet Safety would be organised by PSNI in January 2005.

## **5.5 Partnerships To Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour Conference**

The Board noted that a Conference on Partnerships to Tackle Anti Social Behaviour would be held in London on 13 January 2005.

# **6. CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

## **6.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Corporate Policy Committee Held On 21 October 2004**

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21 October 2004.

## **6.2 Draft Minutes Of The 38<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Corporate Policy Committee Held On 18 November 2004**

### **6.2.1 HMIC Baseline Assessment Report – April 2004** (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that Mr Ken Williams, HMIC had agreed to attend the December Corporate Policy Committee to deliver a presentation on his Baseline Assessment Report on PSNI. The Chief Constable would also attend the presentation and respond to the assessment. All Board Members would be invited to attend this part of the meeting.

### **6.2.2 Medal And Duty Payment For Part-Time Reserve Officers** (Item 4.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that the Committee had noted proposals from a Board Member seeking Board consideration of:-

- a medal to recognise the efforts of Part-Time Reserve Officers; and
- a duty payment to Part-Time Reserve Officers.

The Board noted that the Committee had agreed to defer consideration of this item until the next meeting.

### **6.2.3 Changes In NIO Structures** (Item 4.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted a number of changes in personnel at Senior Civil Service level in the NIO, which would take place by the end of November 2004.

### **6.2.4 Union Representation – PSNI Civilian Staff** (Item 5.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that:-

- the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA) had verbally requested the opportunity to attend future Board meetings in public on the same basis as the Police Federation and Superintendents Association; and
- the Committee had agreed in principle to facilitate attendance of the Trade Union(s) representing civilian staff, subject to the Chief Executive obtaining confirmation that NIPSA were in a position to represent all the civilian staff trade unions.

#### **6.2.5 Provision Of Stab Resistant Vests For PSNI Officers (Item 13.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted that the Committee had noted details of a letter from the Chief Constable, notifying the Board of his intention to equip (over a period of time) PSNI officers with stab resistant vests.

### **7. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

#### **Ratified Minutes Of The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Community Involvement Committee Held On 13 October 2004**

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 13 October 2004.

#### **7.2 Draft Minutes Of The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Community Involvement Committee Held On 10 November 2004**

##### **7.2.1 Update On The Review Of DPPs (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)**

In response to a question from a Member the Chairman of the Committee outlined details of a review of DPPs that was being carried out.

The Board agreed that all Board Members should be invited to attend the Community Involvement Committee meeting for consideration of the report on the review of DPPs.

#### **7.2.2 Board Policy On Removing A DPP Member From Office (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)**

In response to a question from a Member, the Chairman of the Committee outlined proposals in respect of the Board's policy regarding the removal of a DPP Member from office and explained that further information on the matter would be considered at the December meeting of the Committee.

### **8. HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING**

#### **8.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Held On 8 October 2004**

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 8 October 2004.

#### **8.2 Ratified Minutes Of The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Held On 29 October 2004**

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 29 October 2004.

#### **8.3 Draft Minutes Of The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Held On 18 November 2004**

##### **8.3.1 Presentation – Northern Ireland Policing Board's Human Rights Advisors – Annual Report (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted that a special meeting of the Committee would be held on

14 December 2004 to consider the Human Rights Advisor's Draft Annual Report. All Members of the Board would be invited to attend this meeting. The report would then be issued to interested parties for consultation and brought back to a meeting of the Committee in February 2005 for consideration by the Board at its March 2005 meeting.

### **8.3.2 Presentation – Hand Held Incapacitant Spray (Item 3 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted that the Committee had received a presentation from the PSNI on Hand Held Incapacitant Spray.

The Board agreed that the PSNI should be asked for their views on the use of pepper spray.

### **8.3.3 Judicial Review Of Notifiable Membership Process (Item 18.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted that Assistant Chief Constable Gillespie would like the opportunity to address the Committee regarding the Judicial Review of Notifiable Membership Process. The Chairman of the Committee would be consulted regarding a suitable date.

## **9. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **9.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 29 October 2004**

#### **9.1.1 Compensation Claims Settled At Industrial Tribunal (Item 3.17 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairperson of the Committee drew attention to concerns that the Committee had regarding the recently awarded contract for vehicle recovery operators. The Committee had noted that the issue is to be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its next meeting.

### **9.1.2 Longitudinal Study Of New Recruits (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairperson of the Committee advised Members that a presentation would be given by the PSNI at the January 2005 Committee meeting on the findings of the longitudinal study of new recruits and all Members of the Board would be invited to attend.

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 29 October 2004.

### **9.2 Ratified Minutes Of The 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Quorum) Of The Human Resources Committee Meeting Held On 29 October 2004**

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting (Quorum) held on 29 October 2004.

### **9.3 PSNI HUMAN RESOURCES STRATEGY 2005 – 2008**

The Board noted that the Committee had received a presentation on 26 November 2004 from PSNI concerning a revised PSNI Human Resources Strategy.

The Board noted that the Committee had recommended that the strategy be endorsed subject to the receipt of further information regarding three issues.

Following discussion, the Board agreed that further time was needed to consider the strategy in more detail. Members agreed that a Board meeting should be arranged for 16 December 2004 to give further consideration to the draft strategy document.

## **10 AUDIT AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **10.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Audit And Best Value Committee Held On 30 September 2004**

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 30 September 2004.

### **10.2 Draft Minutes Of The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Audit And Best Value Committee Held On 25 November 2004**

The Board noted that the draft minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 25 November 2004 would be presented to Members for the next meeting of the Board.

The Chairman of the Committee briefly updated Members about the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and the Board noted that the area to be covered in the Best Value Review for 2005 / 2006 would be "The Police Patrol Function".

## **11 PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **11.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Press And Public Relations Committee Held On 16 June 2004**

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 16 June 2004.

### **11.2 Draft Minutes Of The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Press And Public Relations Committee Held On 15 November 2004**

#### **11.2.1 Review Of Policing Board Meetings In Public (Item 14.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board agreed that consideration should be given to holding a Board meeting in public in the north west area of Northern Ireland and in view of this the Press

and Public Relations Committee should consider revising the locations for the meetings in 2005.

## **12 PROPOSED CLOSURE AND DISPOSAL OF ANDERSONSTOWN POLICE STATION**

The Board considered a framework document which had been considered at the November meeting of the Corporate Policy Committee regarding the proposed closure and disposal of Andersonstown PSNI Station.

The Board noted that the Corporate Policy Committee had recommended that the Board should accept the PSNI proposal to close and dispose of Andersonstown PSNI Station.

The Board considered the Committee's recommendation and in a show of hands the recommendation was carried by 7 votes to 6. One Member abstained.

The Board noted that the Corporate Policy Committee had agreed at its November meeting that PSNI should be requested to consult with the Dungannon and South Tyrone DPP concerning the proposed closure of Moy, Caledon and Ballygawley stations and advise the Committee of the result of these discussions.

## **13 QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

The Board agreed a number of questions to be put to the Chief Constable.

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable and other PSNI personnel to the meeting.

In response to questions from Members, the Board was given information about:-

- the police investigation into the murder of Mr Martin O'Hagan;
- the background to a decision made by the Director of Public Prosecutions to discontinue with a recent court case; and
- progress in strengthening the team to investigate historic murder cases.

The Board and PSNI representatives discussed the use of the appeal system concerning cases where property owners had to be convicted in connection with protecting their property.

In response to a question from the Human Resources Committee, the Chief Constable stated that he would write to the Board with further information concerning the length of time that candidates for civilian positions in PSNI had been retained in merit pools.

The Board moved to its meeting in public and following the completion of this session, the PSNI personnel left the meeting.

## **14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **14.1 Building Communities, Beating Crime**

The Board noted that a report had been received from the Home Office entitled "Building Communities, Beating Crime - A Better Police Service for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" and that a paper regarding the report would be provided to the Corporate Policy Committee for consideration.

## **15 PRESS ISSUES**

It was agreed that news releases should be issued in respect of:-

- the closure and disposal of Andersonstown Station; and
- SR 2004 allocation for policing.

## **16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 3 February 2004 at Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 2:40 pm).

**Secretariat**

**December 2004**

---

**CHAIRMAN**