

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2008 AT 1:30PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- (1) Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
- (1) Mr Tom Buchanan
- Mr Leslie Cree
- Mrs Dolores Kelly
- (1) Mr Alex Maskey
- Mr Basil McCrea
- (2) Mr Daithí McKay
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- (3) Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
- Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- Mr Brian Rea
- Mr Trevor Ringland
- Mr David Rose
- Mr Suneil Sharma
- Mr Jimmy Spratt
- Mr Peter Weir

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (4) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (4) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (4) Mr David Best (Director of Finance and Support Services)
- (4) Mr Michael Cox (D/Director of Human Resources)
- (4) 2 PSNI Personnel

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Dr Debbie Donnelly (A/Chief Executive)
- Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
- Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- 3 Board Officials

- (1) Except Item 1
- (2) Part Item 2 to close
- (3) Item 1 and Part Item 2
- (4) Part Item 2 only

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Ms Martina Anderson and Ms Mary McKee.
NOTED.

2. PSNI BUDGET 2008/09 – 2010/11

The Chairman thanked Members for attending the Board meeting, arranged at short notice, to consider the financial pressures facing the PSNI in the current financial year. He referred Members to a discussion paper prepared by PSNI on the budget pressures and PSNI proposals to address these pressures. The Chairman reminded Members that PSNI would shortly be making their in-year financial monitoring return to the NIO and the meeting had been arranged with a view to reaching a decision on the PSNI plan to reach a balanced budget for the 2008/09 financial year.

The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board's Resources and Improvement Committee briefed Members on a meeting that had been held earlier in the week with PSNI representatives and Board officials, to discuss the financial pressures. The Committee Chairperson referred Members to the discussion paper prepared by PSNI headed "Options to address emerging funding pressures". The Chairperson highlighted the key issues that the Board should consider.

Members considered the paper in more detail and identified a number of issues to be raised with the PSNI representatives. Further details of this discussion are given at Appendix 'A'.

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable and other PSNI representatives to the meeting.

The Chief Constable and the Director of Finance and Support Services outlined:

- the overall background and the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007 funding gap;
- the identification of new pressures;

- the options for in-year cuts in 2008/09;
- the impact of such cuts;
- options for cuts in future years (2009/10, 2010/11).

Members sought and received further information about the approach taken by PSNI in producing the proposals, the implications of a number of the proposals on frontline policing services and on the future capability on the PSNI to deliver an effective and efficient service; and the financial pressures outside the direct control of the Chief Constable.

During discussion, the PSNI representatives undertook to provide a breakdown of “Incidental” costs.

Following this discussion, the Chairman thanked the PSNI representatives for their contribution and advised them that the outcome of the Board’s decision would be conveyed as soon as possible.

The Board considered the proposals made by the PSNI representatives. The consensus view was that:-

- the Board recognised the statutory requirement on the Chief Constable to produce a balanced budget;
- the Board recognised the efficiencies already achieved by the PSNI as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007;
- the Board recognised that the new pressures could not have been foreseen or accurately predicted at the CSR planning period;
- the key pressures on the budget were largely outside the direct control of the PSNI;
- the PSNI proposals for budget cuts would have a detrimental effect on the short term and long term efficiency and effectiveness of the service.

Following further discussion, the following motion was proposed, seconded and unanimously passed:

It was:

Record No: 100073

RESOLVED:

The Board has received a report from the PSNI on the pressures on the police budget, and discussed this at a meeting with the Chief Constable. The Board cannot accept the impacts of the additional proposed cuts, and seeks an urgent meeting with the Minister as these pressures are outside the control of the Chief Constable.

Officials were asked to make the necessary arrangements for a representative delegation of Board Members to meet with the Minister of State.

It was:

AGREED:

That a news release should be issued in relation to the Board's decision.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

(Meeting closed 3:30pm)

Secretariat

November 2008

Chairperson