

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2008 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Barry Gilligan (Chairperson)
Mr Tom Buchanan
Mr Leslie Cree
Ms Mary McKee
Mr Suneil Sharma
Mr Peter Weir

LESBIAN, GAY, BI-SEXUAL, TRANSGENDER (LGBT) IN ATTENDANCE: (1) 4 Representatives

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr David Jackson, Director of Community Engagement
4 Board Officials

(1) Item number 5

1. APOLOGIES, ETC.

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr David Rose, Mr Gearóid Ó hEára and Mr Alex Maskey, Chairperson. In the absence of Mr Maskey, the meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairperson, Mr Barry Gilligan.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 23 OCTOBER 2008**

It was:

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement meeting held on 23 October 2008 be agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 OCTOBER 2008**

3.1 District Policing Partnership Members' Attendance (Item 3.7 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under agenda item 8.

3.2 Update – PSNI Summer Campaign Against Underage Drinking (Item 5 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a PSNI workshop on “Policing with the Community” had been arranged for Tuesday, 16 December 2008.

ACC McCausland advised that a Board Member and Official have been invited to oversee a review of the PSNI PWC strategy.

The Committee agreed 2 Members are nominated to oversee the review of the strategy and it was:-

AGREED:

That the Members nominated would be Mr David Rose and Mr Suneil Sharma.

3.3 Progress Report from Community Engagement Branch (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that:-

- they had been provided with a consolidated list of all issues raised by the Reference Groups;
- work was progressing with the loyalist and republican single identities communities.

3.4 Request for Funding – Belfast Butterfly Club (Item 8 of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under agenda item 15.

3.5 Review of Board Members’ Support for District Policing Partnerships (Item 11 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that DPPs had been notified of the arrangements for support provided by Board Members. NOTED.

3.6 District Policing Partnership Effectiveness In-Year Monitoring Report (Item 12 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a series of meetings with District Policing Partnership (DPP) Chairs and Managers would be arranged to review the outcome of their in – year performance against the effectiveness framework. NOTED.

3.7 Policing With the Community Award (Item 13.1 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a letter of congratulations had been sent to the officer who had won the “Policing with the Community” award. NOTED.

3.8 Schedule of Presentations (Item 14 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a meeting had been scheduled for 16 December 2008 with the PSNI to discuss Policing with the Community. NOTED.

3.9 Support for NI Alternatives “Street by Street” Initiative (Item 17.1 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that this had been referred to the December 2008 Board meeting. NOTED.

3.10 Arts Council of Northern Ireland (Item 17.2 of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive of the Arts Council met the Committee over lunch and gave a presentation on some of the work completed by the Arts Council , in respect of the 'Re-Imaging Communities Programme' following the presentation. It was:-

AGREED:

That the Committee would write to the Chief Executive of the Arts Council thanking her for the presentation and recognising the valuable work achieved in dealing with the heritage of a violent past.

3.11 Visit by Chief Executive, West Yorkshire Police Authority (Item 17.3 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that officials were trying to arrange a suitable date in December 2008 for a visit by the Chief Executive and Members of the West Yorkshire Police Authority. NOTED.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chair updated the Committee on his attendance at the following meetings:-

4.1 District Policing Partnership Conference – 18 November 2008 – City Hotel - Armagh

The Chairperson updated the Committee on the District Policing Partnership Conference and advised that he, Mr Alex Maskey, Ms Mary McKee, Mr Basil McCrea and Mr David Rose had attended this conference.

Ms McKee stated that it had been a very good conference and that the discussion was excellent. She advised that it was one of the best events the Board had arranged and thanks were conveyed to the officials. NOTED.

4.2 PSNI Knowledge Sharing Day

Ms McKee updated the Committee on the PSNI Knowledge Sharing Day on 26 November 2008 that she had attended.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials would provide feedback to PSNI on this event.

4.3 PSNI Problem Solving (HYDRA MINERVA) Training For District Policing Partnership Members (DPPs)

The Committee was advised that the above event would be held in the Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick on Monday, 15 December 2008 and Tuesday, 16 December 2008.

The Committee had been invited to a meal with PSNI and DPP members on the evening of Monday, 15 December 2008. Any Committee Member wishing to attend this event should contact Board officials. NOTED.

5. LESBIAN, GAY, BI-SEXUAL, TRANSGENDER (LGBT)

Members of the LGBT group attended the Committee meeting in their capacity as one of the Board's Reference Groups. They had various issues and concerns which they wanted to raise with the Board and these included:-

- Reporting of hate crime
- training of PSNI officers at ground level
- Partnerships to combat hate crime
- Board's Thematic Report on Domestic Violence

- Human Rights Report

The Chairperson asked the LGBT representatives to put their concerns in writing to the Committee and that they would be investigated and a response would be sent to LGBT.

The LGBT representatives concluded and thanked the Committee for their time and also to put on record that they had a good working relationship with the Board.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Committee would address the LGBT issues/concerns once they had been received in writing.

6. POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY (PWC) AWARDS 2009

The Committee considered a paper which updated them on the 2009 PWC awards. The Committee was asked for financial support for these awards at £19.5k each year for the next 3 years. In view of the present financial climate, the Committee had concerns about supporting a financial contribution for the next 3 years.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board contribute £18k towards the 2009 PWC awards made up of £15k towards the Awards Ceremony and £3k towards the Community Police Officer of the year award.

Members also discussed the idea of sharing good practice with regard to the awards and it was:-

AGREED:

That officials would ask PSNI to maximise the public relations aspect of these awards by publishing the good news stories associated with these awards.

7. BOARD'S RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

The Committee considered a paper which sought the Committee's views on a consultation paper for a Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board approve a draft response to the consultation on the NIO's Community Safety Strategy.

8. DPP MEMBERS ATTENDANCE – SIX MONTHLY REVIEW

The Committee considered a paper which provided them with details of DPP members' attendances over the 6 month period 1 April to 30 September 2008.

Members discussed these figures in detail and asked if officials could provide a more detailed analysis.

It was:-

AGREED:

- officials would provide further details on the number of absences by Councillors and independent members;

- Officials would write to DPP Managers asking them to provide a breakdown of the number of meetings held and attendances by each member.

9. MAGHERAFELT DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP MEMBER'S ABSENCE

The Committee considered a paper which advised of the absence of a member from Magherafelt District Policing Partnership (DPP) over the period 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2008.

Following a discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That a letter would be sent to the member advising that their absence is to be considered by the Board, and to provide them with an opportunity to give an explanation as to the prolonged absence.

10. OVERVIEW OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

The Committee considered a paper which provided an overview of District Policing Partnership (DPP) activities covering the period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008. The paper highlighted areas of good practice and specific areas of community gaps across Northern Ireland. NOTED.

11. RESEARCH PAPER – DIVERSIFYING FROM WITHIN

The Committee noted a research paper entitled "Diversifying from Within" which had been provided by the University of Ulster.

12. PROGRESS REPORT FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BRANCH

The Committee considered the progress report from the Board's Community Engagement Branch.

The Committee noted the Association of Police Authorities (APA) award which had awarded the Board an Honourable Commendation in the Community Engagement category.

Members congratulated officials of the Community Engagement Branch and the Press Office for their contributions.

13. FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF EXTERNAL PROJECTS

The Committee considered a paper which sought approval for a policy for administering funds provided to external groups and organisations.

It was:-

AGREED:

To recommend that the Board accept the policy, application form and guidelines.

14. WORKSHOP WITH MEMBERS TO DEVELOP THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

The Committee considered a paper requesting a meeting to finalise the Community Engagement Action Plan.

It was:-

AGREED:

To hold the meeting in on Tuesday, 16 December 2008 between 11:00am and 3:00pm, along with the work scheduled on the Policing with the Community Strategy.

15. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE BELFAST BUTTERFLY CLUB

The Committee considered a paper on behalf of the Belfast Butterfly Club who had requested a financial contribution of £1000 towards their conference. This had initially been considered in October 2008 but had requested further information. Upon receipt of this information it was:-

RESOLVED:

To make a financial contribution of £500 towards the Belfast Butterfly Club conference.

Peter Weir recorded his dissent, as the link between the Butterfly Club Event, for which Funding was requested, and Policing had not been clearly established.

16. CJINI REPORT ON ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS (ABSOS)

The Committee considered a paper which advised of the findings of a CJINI report on the use of Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOS). NOTED.

17. INFORMATION PAPERS

There were no information papers.

18. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

There were no matters arising.

19. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20.1 Time of Meetings

It was proposed that officials/Members would further discuss the timings of meetings, with a view to holding meetings at 10:00am and 2:00pm on alternative dates.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 22 January 2009 at 5:00pm.

(Meeting closed at 16:50pm).

Secretariat

November 2008

Chairperson