

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2008 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)

Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)

(1) Ms Martina Anderson

(1) Mr Tom Buchanan

(2) Mr Leslie Cree

(3) Mrs Dolores Kelly

(4) Mr Alex Maskey

Mr Basil McCrea

(5) Mr Daithí McKay

(3) Ms Mary McKee

(5) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr

Mr Brian Rea

(3) Mr Trevor Ringland

Mr David Rose

(6) Mr Suneil Sharma

Mr Jimmy Spratt

(6) Mr Peter Weir

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(7) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)

(7) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)

(7) Mr Alistair Finlay (ACC Urban Region)

(7) Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Rural Region)

(7) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Crime Operations)

(7) Mr David Jones (ACC Crime Support)

(7) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Criminal
Justice)

(7) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)

(7) Mr David Best (Director of Finance and
Support Services)

(7) Mr Joe Stewart (Director of Human
Resources)

(7) Ms Liz Young (Head of Media & Public
Relations)

(7) One PSNI Personnel

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

- (8) Dr Debbie Donnelly (A/Chief Executive)
- (8) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
- (8) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
- (8) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- (8) Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- (8) 3 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 – 5 & 13
- (2) Item numbers 3.1 – 5 & 13
- (3) Item number 3.1 to close
- (4) Except item number 6
- (5) Item number 3.2 to close
- (6) Item 3.1 to close except item number 13
- (7) Item 13 only
- (8) Except item number 6.1.2 and 14

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mrs Rosaleen Moore and Mr Gearóid Ó hEára.
NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

2.1 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 6 November 2008

The Board considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 6 November 2008 be approved.

2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 6 November 2008

The Board considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting in public held on 6 November 2008 be approved.

2.3 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 20 November 2008

The Board considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting in public held on 20 November 2008 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

3.1 Meeting Held On 6 November 2008

3.1.1 TASER (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Policy referred to a letter issued to all Members on 11 November 2008 advising that the applicant in the judicial review of the Chief Constable's decision to introduce TASER sought to join the Board as a respondent. Following the receipt of legal advice, and resolutions made by the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee at its meeting on 20 November 2008, an affidavit was being prepared in the

name of the Chairman on behalf of the Board, for submission to the court by 12 December 2008.

Members discussed the process for the preparation of the affidavit and the desirability to have sight of the affidavit before it went to court.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a copy of the draft affidavit prepared in the name of the Chairman on behalf of the Board should be forwarded to a representative from each political party soon as possible.

3.1.2 Appointment Of Chief Executive (Item 4.9 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 6.1.2.

3.1.3 Role Of The Policing Board (Item 4.10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised Members that following the November 2008 Board meeting, he had written to the Minister of State in relation to the current and possible future role and responsibilities of the Board. Further discussion of the private and confidential paper issued separately to all Members on 4 November 2008, had been deferred in the light of more pressing priorities regarding the PSNI budget, but the paper would be considered further at a future Board meeting. NOTED.

3.2 Meeting Held On 20 November 2008

3.2.1 PSNI Budget – Meeting With Minister Of State (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman reminded Members, that at the special Board meeting held on 20 November 2008, it had been resolved that a meeting should be arranged with the Minister of State to discuss the pressures on the PSNI budget. A delegation of Board

Members had subsequently met with the Minister of State and the Chief Constable on 25 November 2008 and 2 December 2008. Arising from these meetings, the Chairman outlined the settlements that had been reached concerning pensions, hearing loss claims and legacy issues. The consensus view was, that while these further meetings had resolved the short term funding issues, the arrangements put in place had exacerbated funding pressures already predicted for the 2009/10 PSNI budget and for budgets in future years.

Members discussed the tripartite relationship and negotiations that had taken place exclusively between NIO and PSNI regarding the budget. A number of Members indicated their concern regarding the omission of the Board from such discussions.

Members discussed a number of funding pressures that were predicted for the PSNI budget in future years, particularly legacy issues. With the prospect of the future devolution of policing and justice, Members discussed the need for the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to be made aware of the Board's views on police funding. A motion was proposed, seconded and unanimously:

RESOLVED:

That the Board does not accept that the budgeting crisis has been solved in the medium or longer term. Whilst the Board will not obstruct the current budgetary process, the First and Deputy First Ministers are being asked to meet with the Board on the funding issue as a matter of urgency in order to inform of the strength of feeling on this issue.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board should further consider the impact of legacy issues on the PSNI at a future meeting.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman highlighted the following engagements which he had undertaken on behalf of the Board:-

- funerals of Constable Gorman and Constable (P/T) Irvine – Drumaness and Kilkeel – 26 November 2008;
- funeral of Constable (P/T) Greene - Kilkeel – 27 November 2008;
- the Vice-Chairman attended the funeral of Constable Magee - Dromore - 26 November 2008;
- Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce President's Banquet – Belfast – 26 November 2008;
- BBC Dinner – Belfast – 27 November 2008;
- meeting with CJINI – CJINI Corporate Plan 2009/2012 – 2 December 2008.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that officials should obtain a copy of the CJINI proposed inspection programme;
- that the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee should consider inviting representatives from CJINI to a future meeting to discuss the proposed programme.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

There were no matters arising.

NOTED.

4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman highlighted the following correspondence that had been received/issued:-

- letter from Inspector Noel Rogan dated 21 November 2008 regarding award in recognition of community policing;
- letter from ACC Operational Support dated 26 November 2008 regarding Northern Ireland Safety Camera Scheme.

NOTED.

4.4 News Releases

The Chairman highlighted the following news releases:-

- Policing Board Chairman Offers Condolences To Police Officers' Families – Northern Ireland Policing Board – 23 November 2008;
- Major Advertising Campaign Launched To Protect Your Home – PSNI – 1 December 2008;
- Police Pilot Anti-Rape Publicity Campaign – PSNI, DHSSPS and NIO Community Safety Unit – 1 December 2008

NOTED.

4.5 Christmas Reception

The Chairman reminded Members that the Board would host its annual Christmas Reception in the Ramada Hotel, Shaw's Bridge, Belfast at 4pm. All Members of the Board had been invited to attend. NOTED.

4.6 Appointment Of Human Rights Advisor To The Policing Board

Following an interview process, Ms Alyson Kilpatrick BL has been appointed as the Board's Human Rights Advisor with effect from 1 December 2008 for a period of one year. A competitive process for the provision of human rights advice will progress in 2009. NOTED.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Consultative Draft Corporate Plan 2009/2012 – Equality Commission – November 2008

The Acting Chief Executive informed Members that the Board had received a copy of the Equality Commission Consultative Draft Corporate Plan 2009/2012 and it was available on request. NOTED.

5.2 Conferences/Seminars

The Acting Chief Executive informed Members of an invitation received to a conference in London on 20 January 2009 relating to "Effective Communication and Command during Major Incidents." Any Member wishing to attend was asked to contact Secretariat. NOTED.

5.3 PSNI Quality Of Service Steering Group

A request had been received for a Board Member to sit on the PSNI Quality of Service Steering Group. Members discussed the role of Members in holding the Chief Constable to account and how taking membership of the group could affect this role. It was:-

AGREED:

That an official should represent the Board on the PSNI Quality of Service Steering Group.

5.4 Desertcreat College Programme Board Meeting

The Acting Chief Executive updated Members about a meeting of the Desertcreat College Programme Board held on 2 December 2008. NOTED.

6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

6.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Held On 20 November 2008

The Chairman of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

6.1.1 PSNI Estate Strategy – Special Board Meeting (Item 4.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman referred Members to a recommendation from the Committee that a special Board meeting should be arranged to consider the draft PSNI Estate Strategy.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That a special Board meeting be arranged for 11am on Thursday, 15 January 2009 to consider the draft PSNI Estate Strategy 2008.

6.1.2 Appointment Of Chief Executive (Item 4.7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman updated Members on the Chief Executive appointment panel's consideration of the proposed remuneration package and terms and conditions of employment for the new appointee. NOTED.

6.1.3 Trans-National Policing Programme – Boston/Arizona – January 2009 (Item 5.3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Acting Chief Executive informed Members that the Chairman would represent the Board at the Trans-National Policing Programme in January 2009. NOTED.

6.1.4 Change Of Time Of Committee Meeting

The Chairman sought and received the approval of Members of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee to bring forward the starting time of the 11 December 2008 meeting from 10am to 9am.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 20 November 2008.

6.2 Public Session Of Board Meetings

The Chief Executive reminded Members that in spring 2008 the Board had considered its approach to questions to the Chief Constable in the private session of Board meetings and at the Board meeting in public. It had been agreed that a pilot arrangement would be put in place and reviewed at a later date. The revised approach had been piloted for 9 Board meetings and had been reviewed by the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee at its November 2008 meeting. The Committee had recommended that the Board delegate greater authority to the Chairman and Vice

Chairman to exercise further discretion over the choice and wording of questions at the Board meeting in public, to give priority to strategic and policy issues.

The Acting Chief Executive referred Members to a paper which set out details of the revised approach which had been operating in pilot form since April 2008.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

The Board adopt the revised approach to the public session of Board meetings as set out in the paper.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

7.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community Engagement Committee Meeting Held On 27 November 2008

The Vice Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

7.1.1 Policing With The Community Awards 2009 (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Vice Chairperson highlighted the Committee's recommendation that the Board contribute £18k towards the Policing with the Community Awards 2009, comprising £15k towards the awards ceremony and £3k towards the Community Police Officer of the Year Award. During discussion, a Member requested a breakdown of costs associated with the contribution.

7.1.2 Magherafelt District Policing Partnership Members' Absence (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

7.1.3 Workshop With Members To Develop The Community Engagement Action Plan

It was:-

AGREED:

That the venue for the meeting on Tuesday, 16 December 2008 to finalise the Community Engagement Action Plan should be moved from the Dunadry Inn to Waterside Tower, Belfast.

7.1.4 District Policing Partnership Conference – 18 November 2008, Armagh (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Vice Chairperson reported that the inaugural District Policing Partnership (DPP) conference had been a successful event and paid tribute to the staff who organised the conference. A report on the outcomes will be prepared in a forthcoming conference report.

7.1.5 Progress Report From Community Engagement Branch (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee held on 20 November 2008.

7.2 Support For Northern Ireland Alternatives “Street by Street” Initiative

The Board considered a paper which contained a proposal put forward by Northern Ireland Alternatives to develop a community safety initiative entitled “Street by Street”. The proposal had been forwarded to the Board by the NIO to establish if the Board wished to support the initiative. Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- that Northern Ireland Alternatives should be invited to make a presentation to the Community Engagement Committee regarding the initiative; and
- that further information should be obtained from the NIO regarding the objectives of the initiative.

7.3 Response To Consultation On Community Safety Strategy

The Board considered a paper which sought approval of a draft response to the NIO in relation to the draft Community Safety Strategy. The strategy, entitled “Together, Stronger, Safer”, is a 5 year plan for the development of community safety in Northern Ireland. The strategy was launched for public consultation on 27 October 2008 and responses are to be received by the NIO by 19 January 2009.

The draft strategy was considered by the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee at its meeting in October 2008 and by the Community Engagement Committee at its meeting in November 2008. The draft response was based on the issues considered by both Committees.

It was:-

AGREED:

That Members should further consider the draft response and any additional comments be conveyed to officials for sign off by the Chairman.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 13 November 2008

There were no matters arising.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 13 November 2008.

The Board was reminded that Mr Ian Paisley Jnr would step down as Chairperson of the Committee at the end of December 2008 and Mr Jimmy Spratt would take over as the new Chairperson. Mr Paisley Jnr would replace Mr Spratt as a Floating Member on the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee from January 2009.

NOTED.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

9.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Held On 12 November 2008

The Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

9.1.1 Lundy Article – “Can the past be policed?” (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.2 Improving The Effectiveness Of Committee Business (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.3 Future Provision Of Human Rights Advice (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee held on 12 November 2008.

10. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

10.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Meeting Held On 21 November 2008

There were no matters arising that had not been previously referred to in the meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 21 November 2008.

11. INFORMATION PAPERS

There were no matters arising.

12. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

13. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

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

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman expressed condolences to the Chief Constable and his team on the death of 4 police officers as a result of a road traffic accident on 23 November 2008. The meeting held a one minute silence as a mark of respect to Constables Gorman, Greene, Irvine and Magee.

The Board received further information in relation to:-

- the award of contracts by PSNI to Jameson Building Services and John Sinton Limited and concerns raised with the Chief Constable by Mr Paul McIlwaine;
- the measures that PSNI are currently taking to engage with communities in socio-economically deprived areas, particularly young people in these areas;
- threats by the Continuity IRA to community organisations in North Belfast;
- the anticipated impact on the profile of higher ranks in PSNI, in terms of community background during the next 3 years;
- the implementation of the Patten severance scheme on higher ranking officers;
- the provision of statistics on domestic abuse, racist crimes and homophobic crimes in respect of the current year;
- human trafficking and the repatriation of the victims of human trafficking.

The Board then moved into public session and following the Board meeting in public, the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Board Staffing Issues

Members reflected concerns on staffing vacancies.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting with the Chief Constable was arranged for 5 February 2009 at Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 3:40pm).

Secretariat

December 2008

Chairman