

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2008 AT 9:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)

Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)

(1) Mrs Dolores Kelly

(2) Mr Basil McCrea

(1) Mr Daithí McKay

(3) Mr Alex Maskey

Mr Brian Rea

(4) Mr Trevor Ringland

(2) Mr Jimmy Spratt

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr Debbie Donnelly (A/Chief Executive)

(2) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)

(6) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)

Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)

Five Board Officials

(1) **Item number 9 to close**

(2) **Item 5 to close**

(3) **Part of item number 5 to close**

(4) **Item numbers 1 to 8, part of 10 & 11**

(5) **Item number 11**

(6) **Item numbers 1 – 7**

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Ms Mary McKee, Mrs Rosaleen Moore and Mr Ian Paisley Jnr. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2008

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting held on 20 November 2008 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2008

3.1 Chief Constable's Performance Development Review (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised the Committee that the Chief Constable's Performance and Development Review had been completed. NOTED.

3.2 PSNI – Chief Officers (Item 5.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised Members that information on the position in relation to Chief Officers eligible for severance would be available for the next meeting. NOTED.

3.3 Monitoring Outstanding Patten Recommendations (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised the Committee that work was ongoing in relation to the Board's monitoring of outstanding Patten recommendations. NOTED

3.4 The Police And Fire And Rescue Services – Striking The Balance Between Operations And Health And Safety Duties (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted the content of a letter from the A/Chief Executive to the Health and Safety Executive regarding a draft statement – the Police and Fire and Rescue Services: Striking the Balance Between Operations and Health and Safety Duties.

NOTED

4. 4.1 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1.1 Engagements

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

- Launch of the Anti Burglary Campaign – Belfast – 1 December 2008;
- Chief Constable's Christmas Reception – Garnerville – 1 December 2008;
- RUC GC Widows' Association 'At Home' – Holywood – 6 December 2008;
- Police Service of Northern Ireland Charity Ball – Cultra – 6 December 2008;
- Reception for representatives of Policing, Northern Ireland Prison Service and the Military – Hillsborough – 8 December 2008. (the Vice-Chairman also attended this event).

NOTED.

4.1.2 Publications

The Chairman informed Members that the following publication had been received:-

- Criminal Justice In A Shared Future: Making Progress – Criminal Justice System Northern Ireland – November 2008.
- Northern Ireland Impact Report 2007 – British Red Cross – December 2008.

NOTED.

4.1.3 Correspondence

The Chairman informed Members that he had received the following correspondence:-

- letter and report from Police Ombudsman dated 24 November 2008 regarding aggravated assault on two people in Elmwood Avenue, Belfast on 23 October 2008;
- letter from Health and Safety Executive dated 27 November 2008 regarding the Board 's Report on Policing of the Ardoyne parades on 12 July 2005 together with letter from Jane Gordon to Director of Policy dated 8 December 2008;

The Chairman advised that a response would be sent to the Health and Safety Executive's letter.

- letter and report from Police Ombudsman dated 4 December 2008 regarding circumstances surrounding the death of David Ross at Bradbury Court, Belfast on 24 May 2006.
- letter from President of Methodist Church dated 5 December 2008 regarding increased acceptability of the PSNI.

NOTED.

4.1.4 News Releases

The Chairman informed Members that the following news release had been received:-

- Don't Be Fooled Into Funding Crime – Goggins – Northern Ireland Office – 4 December 2008.

NOTED.

4.1.5 Policing Board Standing Orders

The Chairman drew Members' attention to the content of sections 25(a) and 25(b) relating to confidentiality and 27(a) relating to the relationship between Members and Officials in the Code of Conduct for Policing Board Members which was included in the Board's Standing Orders. NOTED.

4.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

4.2.1 Association of Police Authorities (APA) Seminar and Faith Event

The Acting Chief Executive informed the Committee about an APA Seminar and Faith Event which would be held in London on 22 January 2009. Any Member interested in attending was asked to contact the Secretariat. NOTED.

4.2.2 Children's Law Centre Annual Lecture 2009

The Acting Chief Executive informed the Committee about an invitation which the Board had received to attend the Children's Law Centre Annual Lecture 2009 which would be held in Belfast on 27 January 2009. Any Member interested in attending was asked to contact the Secretariat. NOTED.

5. COMPLETE 1ST DRAFT OF THE 2009/12 POLICING PLAN

The Committee considered a paper regarding the complete 1st draft of the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2009/12 which included a 3rd draft of Part 2 of the Plan.

The Chairman informed the Committee about recent correspondence received from the Chief Constable regarding the planning process for the 2009/12 Policing Plan.

A response was being drafted to the Chief Constable regarding the performance indicators around sickness levels and processing of prosecution cases.

The Committee discussed issues in the Policing Plan which required further negotiation with PSNI.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that Officials should convey Members views to PSNI in relation to a measurable target being set in the plan around Neighbourhood Policing;
- that other identified issues in the draft plan should be raised with the PSNI.

6. FINDINGS FROM THE 2007/08 PSNI/NIPB QUALITY OF SERVICE SURVEY

The Committee considered a paper regarding the findings from the 2007/08 PSNI/Northern Ireland Policing Board Quality of Service Survey.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the report on the 2007/08 Quality of Service Survey should be published on the Board and PSNI websites.

7. 2009/10 PSNI/NIPB QUALITY OF SERVICE SURVEY

The Committee considered a paper regarding a proposed change in the methodology for the 2009/10 PSNI/Northern Ireland Policing Board Quality of Service Survey.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That a further paper should be brought to the Committee regarding methods and costs of obtaining data from victims of crime for the 2009 /10 Quality of Service Survey.

8. REVIEW OF NORTHERN IRELAND TRANSITIONAL ALLOWANCE – INSPECTORS/CHIEF INSPECTORS TEMPORARY NON PENSIONABLE SUPPLEMENT

The Committee considered a paper regarding the Board's position in relation to the Northern Ireland Transitional Allowance, and the Inspectors and Chief Inspectors Temporary Non-Pensionable Supplement.

Members considered a draft response to Mr John Hunter which outlined the issues that should be raised with the NIO regarding the allowances.

During discussion a Member suggested that an amendment should be made to the response in relation to comparable pay scales for Police Officers.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

- that the Member would provide Officials with an amendment for inclusion in the letter to Mr Hunter regarding payment of the allowances;

- that a copy of the revised draft letter would be issued to Members before being issued to NIO.

9. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

The Committee considered a paper in relation to the Board's response to the Northern Ireland Office on the draft Community Safety Strategy.

During discussion a Member undertook to submit additional points to Officials for inclusion in the Board's response.

Following discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the response from the Board to the draft Community Safety Strategy subject to the Members' points being included.

Arising from the discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- that the Community Engagement Committee should further consider the Consultation Document on the Community Safety Strategy.
- that a copy of the Children's' Commissioner's response to the Consultation Document should be obtained.

10. BOARD'S COMMUNICATION STRATEGY: PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered an activity report on progress against the objectives set out in the Board's Communication and Marketing Strategy, during the period 1 April – 31 September 2008. NOTED.

During discussion the Committee noted that training on dealing with the media was available for Members.

In the ensuing discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- that no additional work was required at present in respect of developing a marketing/outreach strategy aimed at the US and European audiences;
- that Officials should consider the Board's response times to issues in the media regarding policing issues;
- that the Board should consider focussing on one key area for consideration at Board meetings and issue details of the issue to the media in advance of the meeting;
- that Officials should arrange for photographs of the Community Engagement Meeting which had been held in Belfast on 18 September 2008 to be published on the Board's website.

11. BRIEFING FROM THE PSNI REGARDING THE PSNI COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The Chairman welcomed the Head of Media and Public Relations for PSNI to the meeting.

Ms Young gave a report to the Committee on progress with the implementation of the PSNI Communications Strategy covering the period 1 April – 30 September 2008. She outlined the key objectives of the Media and Public Relations Department, the 4 areas of work covered and the key messages which the Department delivered. A copy of the slides used during the presentation is attached at Appendix "A".

During discussion, Members sought and received further information regarding:-

- the work which had been carried out by the PSNI Media and Public Relations Department following the death of 4 Police Officers as a result of a road traffic accident on 23 November 2008;
- press coverage on the Policing with the Community Awards. Ms Young undertook to provide Members with a report on the coverage;
- a recent press statement which had been issued to the media regarding job losses at the Historical Enquiries Team;
- communication between the PSNI Media and Public Relations Department and Members; it was considered that protocols should be developed between the Board and the PSNI in relation to communication;
- features in newspapers;
- interaction with the media.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Media and Public Relations for her contribution and she left the meeting.

12. INFORMATION PAPERS

There were no information papers.

13. MATTERS TO BE RAISED WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

There were no matters arising.

14. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

It was:

AGREED:-

That the Board should issue a news release regarding the findings of the 2007/08 PSNI/Northern Ireland Policing Board Quality of Service Survey.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Public Services Training College, Desertcreat

The Vice Chairman updated Members on an announcement which had been made on 9 December 2008 regarding the awarding of a contract to Perkins and Will for the development of the Public Services Training College, Desertcreat. NOTED.

The Committee expressed concern that no recognition had been given during the announcement to the work which had been carried out by the Board in relation to the College and agreed that a letter should be sent to the NIO regarding the matter.

15.2 Draft Affidavit On Taser

The Committee noted that the Chairman's draft affidavit on Taser had been issued to the leaders of each of the political parties represented on the Board. The deadline for receipt of the document by Counsel was 12 December 2008. NOTED.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 15 January 2009 at 2:00pm in Waterside Tower, Belfast. The Chairman reminded Members that a special Policing Board meeting would be held on this date at 11.00am to consider the PSNI Estate Strategy.

(Meeting closed 11.45am).

Secretariat
December 2008

Chairman