

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2009 AT 1:15PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)  
Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)

(1) Mrs Dolores Kelly

(2) Mr Basil McCrea

Mrs Mary McKee

Mr Alex Maskey

(3) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr

Mr Brian Rea

Mr Trevor Ringland

Mr Jimmy Spratt

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

(4) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Crime Operations)

(5) Mr Rodney McGucken (Head of HR, Crime Operations)

#### **HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTOR OF CONSTABULARY:**

(4) Mr Ken Williams (HMIC)

(6) Chief Superintendent Dave Jones

(6) 1 Representative

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

Dr Debbie Donnelly (A/Chief Executive)

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

(8) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)

(9) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)

Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)

3 Board Officials

(1) Item numbers 1 – 6 & 14 to close

(2) Item number 5.2 to close

(3) Except item numbers 12, 13 & 16 to 20

(4) Item numbers 14 & 15 only

(5) Item number 15 only

(6) Item number 14 only

(7) Item number 3.2 to close

(8) Item numbers 1 – 6, 12 – 14 & 16 to close

(9) Except item number 15

## **1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies for non-attendance was received from Mrs Rosaleen Moore. NOTED.

The Chairman referred to the New Year's Honours List and on behalf of the Board, congratulated Mrs Moore on her receipt of an OBE and Mr Ringland on the receipt of an MBE.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 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 11 December 2008 should be agreed.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2008**

### **3.1 PSNI – Chief Officers (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee considered a confidential paper, tabled at the meeting, which provided information in respect of the eligibility of Chief Officers for severance, under the Voluntary Early Retirement and Severance Scheme. NOTED.

### **3.2 Board's Communication Strategy: Performance Report** (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman referred Members to discussion at the previous meeting concerning the Board's response times to issues in the media regarding policing. He advised that response times are, where possible, provided to meet media timelines. He suggested that the question the Committee might wish to consider is 'how the Board more robustly wishes to present itself in the media on more operational issues'. The Chairman advised that the guidance of Members would be needed on the specific issues that the Board wished to focus upon in the media prior to Board meetings and that officials were considering the matter. NOTED.

### **3.3 PSNI Communications Strategy** (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman referred Members to a paper, tabled at the meeting, which contained media coverage of the 2008 Policing with the Community Awards. NOTED.

Officials were in the process of developing protocols between the Board and the PSNI in relation to the sharing of information concerning critical incidents and other PSNI events. Further discussions had been planned and officials will report back to the Committee with regard to any substantive agreements that are reached. NOTED.

### **3.4 Monitoring Outstanding Patten Recommendations** (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

A Member enquired when a progress report in relation to the Board's monitoring of outstanding Patten recommendations could be provided to Members. Officials advised that it was anticipated this would be provided to the Committee at the March 2009 meeting. NOTED.

## **4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Engagements**

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

- Christmas Reception – British-Irish Intergovernmental Secretariat – 11 December 2008;
- Winter Graduations – 2008 – University of Ulster, Magee and Jordanstown – 15 and 16 December 2008;
- Christmas Reception – Belfast Harbour Commissioners – 16 December 2008;
- Christmas Buffet Luncheon – Police College, Garnerville – 18 December 2008;
- Reception – USA Consul General – Belfast – 7 January 2009;
- Visit to Newry and Mourne District – 13 January 2009.

NOTED.

### **4.2 Publications**

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

- Autumn Performance Report 2008 –Northern Ireland Office – December 2008;
- A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland Advice to the Secretary of State – Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission – December 2008;
- Annual Report & Accounts – Equality Commission for Northern Ireland – December 2008.

NOTED.

### **4.3 Correspondence**

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

- letter and report from Police Ombudsman dated 11 December 2008 regarding attempted suicide of a detained person at Antrim Police Station on 27 April 2005;
- letter from Chief Constable dated 19 December 2008 regarding Police Pension Regulations;
- letter from Minister of State dated 21 December 2008 regarding establishment of Domestic Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences across Northern Ireland;
- letter from Chief Constable dated 31 December 2008 regarding deaths of 4 police officers as a result of road traffic accident on 23 November 2008;
- letter from Commission for Victims and Survivors regarding Regional Information Meetings for Victims and Survivors;
- letter from Police Federation dated 7 January 2009 regarding the proposal to extend the 1997 Northern Ireland Arms Decommissioning Act for a further year;
- letter from NIO dated 9 January 2009 regarding a review of Healthcare Provision in PSNI custody suites;
- letter from PSNI dated 13 January 2009 regarding a review of the Historical Enquires Team funding.

In response to an enquiry from a Member, officials undertook to ascertain if an advance copy of the Eames/Bradley report could be made available to the Board.

NOTED.

### **4.4 News Releases**

The Chairman highlighted the following news releases:-

- Police Officers Suspended Amid 'Joyriding' Probe – PSNI – 12 December 2008;
- Northern Ireland To Play Full Role In European Agreement On Human Trafficking – NIO – 17 December 2008;
- Introduction of new Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Sectors – PSNI - 30 December 2008.

NOTED.

#### **4.5 Appointment Of Chief Executive**

The Chairman updated Members concerning the arrangements for the appointment of Mr Adrian Donaldson as Chief Executive to the Board. NOTED.

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

#### **5.1 Conferences/Seminars/Visits**

The A/Chief Executive informed Members about the following conferences/seminars:-

- Local Government Association Conference – Raising Public Confidence and Satisfaction on Crime – London – 23 January 2009;
- Hate Crime – Dealing with all forms of Hate Crime 10 years after the Stephen Lawrence Report – London – 27 February 2009;
- Taking Forward Excellent Local Governance in Northern Ireland – Belfast – 12 March 2009;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on Northern Ireland Governance – Belfast – 20 March 2009.

Any Member interested in attending these events was asked to contact the Secretariat. NOTED.

The A/Chief Executive sought the views of the Committee on whether the Board should send a delegation to Washington for the St Patrick's Day period.

Following discussion, it was:-

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the Board should send a delegation of Members, including a representative from each of the political parties, to Washington for the St Patrick's Day period.

The A/Chief Executive informed the Committee that Police Authorities in Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire had expressed interest in meeting with Members.

It was:-

**RECOMMENDED:**

That representatives from Great Manchester Police Authority and West Yorkshire Police Authority should be invited to attend a future Policing Board meeting.

## **5.2 Request To Support A Conference On The Issue Of Rape**

The Committee considered a paper seeking Board support and financial assistance for a conference on the issue of rape. The Committee considered proposals for a conference and an information day on the reality of rape and the response by police, health professionals and the voluntary sector. The total cost of the event is estimated at approximately £20,000 and the Board had been asked to consider part funding of up to £10,000. It is planned that the conference will be held in late March 2009.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board should support the event and should approve part funding of up to £10,000.

### **5.3 ACPO Professional Ethics Group**

The A/Chief Executive informed the Committee that a request had been received from ACC Rural, seeking the Board's support for her application to apply for membership of the ACPO Professional Ethics Group.

It was:-

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Board should support the application from ACC Rural to apply for membership of the ACPO Professional Ethics Group.

### **6. FINAL DRAFT POLICING PLAN 2009/12**

The Committee considered the final draft of the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2009/12.

Following discussion, it was:-

#### **AGREED:**

- that officials should amend the draft to include a 4<sup>th</sup> objective relating to the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness of PSNI;
- that the draft should include a target in relation to abstraction rates;
- that a specific date for the refresh and re-launch of the Policing with the Community Strategy and should be included in the appropriate target.

Subject to these amendments, it was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the Chairman should be given delegated authority to sign off the Policing Plan, to meet appropriate printing deadlines.

**7. OMNIBUS SURVEY QUESTIONS – APRIL 2009**

The Committee considered a list of proposed questions to be included in the April 2009 Omnibus Survey.

During discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

That officials would draft a question in relation to respondents' knowledge of the identity of local police officers.

Subject to this amendment, it was:-

**RESOLVED:**

- to approve the list of proposed questions for inclusion in the April 2009 Omnibus Survey; and
- to give delegated authority to the Chairman to sign off the amended question list.

**8. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP REVIEW SURVEYS 2009**

The Committee considered a number of questionnaires to be included in the proposed District Policing Partnership (DPP) Review Surveys due to be conducted in January/February 2009. The object of the survey is to assist the Board to evaluate the Board's support to DPPs and to identify ways in which the service could be improved.

It was:-

Record No: 102669

**AGREED:**

That the Community Engagement Committee should consider the content of the survey and make a recommendation to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

**9. BOARD MEMBERS' SURVEY 2009**

The Committee considered a list of proposed questions to be included in a Board Members' Survey due to be conducted in January/February 2009. The survey is part of the Board's Statistical and Research Strategy 2008/12, approved by the Committee in April 2008. The survey results will assist Board officials to evaluate working relationship between Members and officials and will seek ways in which the service can be improved.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To approve the list of proposed questions for inclusion in the Board Members' Survey 2009.

**10. POLICING PLEDGE**

The Committee considered a paper containing information regarding the "Policing Pledge" being adopted by police services in England and Wales, following the July 2008 Home Office consultative document entitled "From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together".

Members noted that the incoming Northern Ireland Policing Plan contains some overlap with the Policing Pledge, particularly in relation to targets on Call Handling and the proportion of time spent by Neighbourhood Teams on visible duty. Members also noted

that HMIC planned to conduct a review of progress on the implementation of the Policing Pledge between January and March 2009.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

To reconsider the issue of the introduction of a Policing Plan in Northern Ireland later in 2009, in the light of HMIC's review of progress on its implementation.

Following further discussion of the Home Office consultation document, it was:

**AGREED:**

To invite the Acting HMCIC to a future meeting with the Committee, to discuss the HMIC inspection role in relation to police authorities.

**11. CORE PROJECT UPDATE – INTERIM REPORT ON POST IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW OF DISTRICT COMMAND STRUCTURE**

The Committee considered an interim report received from PSNI on the Post Implementation Review of the decisions in relation to the District Command Unit restructuring and functions and on progress of the Review of Headquarters.

The interim review set out the background, methodology and summary of emerging findings. Further research and data gathered during the process is currently being analysed and a full report is due to be available in March 2009. NOTED.

Following discussion, it was:-

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the Board should consider co-terminosity between police districts and the new district councils.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

To invite the Chief Constable to provide a briefing on the Post Implementation Review and the Headquarters Review to the March 2009 Committee meeting.

**12. DOMESTIC BURGLARY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

The Committee considered a paper which updated Members on the Domestic Burglary Awareness Campaign and sought Committee approval to providing further funding.

Members were reminded that, in October 2008, the Board had given approval to part fund a Christmas Anti Burglary advertising campaign with PSNI, to encourage householders to take responsibility for reducing and preventing domestic burglary. Subsequent to this decision, a proposal was made that funding available within the NIO should be brought together with resources available from PSNI and the Board to deliver a more sustainable campaign, to be extended beyond Christmas and into the New Year.

The Board had originally considered a request for funding of up to £45,000, this had been reduced to £35,000 as the initial plan covered a shorter period and did not include television advertising.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board should provide a further £10,000.

### **13. FUNDING REQUEST TO SUPPORT COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN ON THE ISSUE OF UNDERAGE DRINKING**

The Committee considered a paper in relation to part funding a Communication Campaign on the issue of underage drinking, with particular focus on parental responsibility and proxy purchasing.

Members noted that police had been working with the Department of Health, NIO, Department of Education, alcohol industry and other key stakeholders in tackling the issue of underage drinking and the partners had agreed that an Awareness Campaign focusing on the issues of parental responsibility and proxy purchasing is both necessary and timely. It is anticipated that the campaign will cost in the region of £180,000. The Department of Health and the NIO are each proposing to contribute £50,000 to the campaign.

It was:-

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

That the Board give approval to part funding of £35,000 to support the communication campaign.

### **14. BRIEFING FROM HMI REGARDING SERIOUS, MAJOR AND ORGANISED CRIME**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Ken Williams, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and his colleague, Chief Superintendent Jones to the meeting. The HMIC gave Members a confidential briefing on his Inspection of Serious, Major and Organised Crime. The Committee received a confidential paper which provided details of the key strengths and areas for improvement identified during the Inspection in Northern Ireland during December 2007 and January 2008. A confidential note of the discussion is attached at Appendix 'A'.

## 15. BRIEFING – SHORTFALL IN DETECTIVES

Prior to the briefing, Members had been provided with an update on the current shortfall of Detectives within Crime Operations Department and details from PSNI of a request to recruit Trainee Intelligence Officers.

The Chairman welcomed ACC Crime Operations to the meeting and he briefed Members on the impact of severance and other reasons for the shortfall and the actions taken to date to alleviate the shortfall. A copy of the slides used in the presentation is attached at Appendix 'C'. He advised that, as of 5 January 2009, the shortfall was 112.5 officers of which 90 were at Constable rank.

The ACC reminded Members, that currently officers could only undertake a career within Intelligence if they are in a role within Crime Operations Department, thus taking away from scarce resources within Investigative roles, and that uniform officers were not currently permitted to apply direct to the post of Intelligence Officer. He informed the Committee of the benefits of the Trainee Intelligence Officer role that was proposed by PSNI and the Programme Pathway that the Trainee Intelligence Officers would undertake.

Members discussed:-

- the action taken by PSNI to address the shortfall in Detectives, that had been predictable and evident for the past number of years and the actions taken to reduce the shortfall;
- the background to the restriction of uniform officers applying directly to the post of Intelligence Officer and the requirement for Intelligence Officers to be appointed from within Crime Operations Department;
- the deployment of agency staff within Crime Operations Department;
- the impact of severance and “red circling” on the shortfall.

It was:-

## **AGREED:**

That the Human Resources Committee should consider a number of issues raised during the meeting in more detail with the PSNI Director of Human Resources.

It was:-

## **RECOMMENDED:**

- that the Board should approve the introduction of Trainee Intelligence Officers to the Crime Operations Department, as a means of addressing, in part, the shortfall in Detectives in PSNI; and
- that HMIC should be asked to monitor the new process.

Mr Spratt recorded his opposition to the recommendation to introduce Trainee Intelligence Officers.

The Chairman thanked the representatives from HMIC and the PSNI for their contribution and they left the meeting.

## **16. INFORMATION PAPERS**

### **16.1 Letter From Police Federation Regarding Health And Safety Executive Report On Police Operation On 12 July 2005 And Board Ardoyne Reports**

The Chairman referred Members to a letter received from the Police Federation for Northern Ireland dated 18 December 2008 regarding reports by the Health and Safety Executive of Northern Ireland (HSENI) and the Board's Human Rights Advisors.

NOTED.

A Member sought publication of the HSENI report. The Chairman advised that publication of this report was not within the remit of the Board and was a matter for HSENI.

## **16.2 Letter From Chief Constable Regarding Patten Recommendation 65**

NOTED.

## **17. MATTERS TO BE RAISED WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING**

A Member indicated his intention to put a question to the Chief Constable concerning the promotional work carried out to encourage PSNI trainees to join the Police Benevolent Fund. NOTED.

## **18. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

To issue a news release in relation to the update given to the Board on the current shortfall in Detectives and the Committee's recommendation to the Board.

## **19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no matters arising.

## **20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 19 February 2009 at 2:00pm in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 4:30pm).

**Secretariat**

**January 2009**

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**Chairman**