

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2009 AT 5:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS:**

- Mr Alex Maskey (Chairperson)
- Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairperson)
- Mr Leslie Cree
- (1)** Ms Mary McKee
- Mr Suneil Sharma
- Mr David Rose
- (1)** Mr Peter Weir

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr David Jackson, Director of Community  
Engagement  
4 Board Officials

**(1) Item numbers 1 – 12**

**1. APOLOGIES, ETC.**

No apologies were received. NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2008**

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement meeting held on  
27 November 2008 be agreed, subject to an amendment to item 15.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2008**

#### **3.1 Arts Council Of Northern Ireland** (Item 3.10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a letter had been sent to the Chief Executive of the Arts Council thanking her for the presentation to the Committee on 27 November 2008. NOTED.

#### **3.2 PSNI Knowledge Sharing Day** (Item 4.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that officials had provided feedback to PSNI on the Knowledge Sharing Day event which had been attended by Ms Mary McKee on 26 November 2008.

#### **3.3 Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender (LGBT)** (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under agenda item 8.

#### **3.4 Policing With The Community (PWC) Awards 2009** (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the Board approved contributing £18k towards the Policing with the Community Awards 2009. NOTED.

#### **3.5 Board's Response To Consultation On The Northern Ireland Community Safety Strategy** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted the Board's response to the consultation on the Northern Ireland Office Community Safety Strategy and was asked to note the proposed engagement with young people by the Committee on the issues relating specifically to young people. NOTED.

The Committee was also updated on the Ministerial Review of DPPs and CSPs. NOTED.

**3.6 District Policing Partnership Members' Attendance – Six Monthly Review**  
(Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a paper would be brought to the March 2009 Committee on attendance of District Policing Partnership (DPP) members. NOTED.

**3.7 Magherafelt District Policing Partnership Member's Attendance** (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the member had made representation to the Board on the reasons for the prolonged absence and that this case would be brought to the February 2009 Board meeting. NOTED.

**3.8 Funding In Support Of External Projects** (Item 13 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the Board had accepted the policy, application form and guidelines on funding in support of external projects. NOTED.

**3.9 Workshop With Members To Develop The Community Engagement Action Plan** (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter would be dealt with under item 7.

**3.10 Request For Funding From The Belfast Butterfly Club** (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the Board would make a contribution towards the Belfast Butterfly conference.

Peter Weir recorded his dissent on the grounds that the proposed conference did not demonstrate a close link with policing.

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

The Chairperson updated the Committee on the following issues:-

##### **4.1 Update On Community Engagement Event Derry/Londonderry – 18 February 2009**

The Director of Community Engagement updated the Committee on the Community Engagement event scheduled for 18 February 2009. NOTED.

##### **4.2 Policing Plan 2009 – 2012**

The Committee was asked to agree a date for inclusion in the Policing Plan 2009 -2012 for refreshing the Policing with the Community (PWC) Strategy.

It was:-

##### **AGREED:**

To recommend to PSNI the 30 June 2009 as the date for refreshing the strategy and reporting to the Board, progress as required.

#### **5. PROGRESS REPORT FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BRANCH**

The Committee considered a paper which advised of the progress made in implementing the Board's Community Engagement Strategy.

The Vice Chairperson advised that a lot of work is going on and that the general public could be made aware of this.

Following discussion:-

It was:-

**AGREED:**

To revisit the objectives and actions in the annual work plan.

**6. PROPOSAL TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH WITH WORKING CLASS COMMUNITIES**

The Committee considered a paper which had been referred from Corporate, Policy, Planning and Performance Committee (CPPPC) asking Members whether they should recommend that the Board undertake research with working class communities.

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend to CPPPC not to proceed with the research as outlined in the paper.

**7. PROPOSAL FOR OUTREACH TO LOYALIST AND REPUBLICAN COMMUNITIES**

The Committee considered a proposal to undertake outreach to the republican and loyalist communities.

A lengthy discussion took place during which Members raised various concerns and shared their views.

Following discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

That officials would undertake a scoping study and report back to the May 2009 Committee meeting.

## **8. REPORT FROM LESBIAN, GAY, BI-SEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered a report from the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender (LGBT) reference groups. This followed their attendance at the November 2008 Committee meeting.

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That officials would draft a response to the LGBT reference groups.

## **9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – VISITS TO SCHOOLS**

The Committee was asked to consider a paper which sets out a programme on how visits to schools could be organised to assist the Board in achieving the objectives of its community engagement strategy, and also if Members are able to commit time to the proposed programme.

The Committee had mixed views on this proposal, and some of the views expressed were as follows:-

- should it be a DPP or PSNI role
- which schools should be chosen
- time constraint on Members
- context of visits.

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That officials would bring a paper to a future Committee meeting detailing a pilot scheme.

One Member highlighted the additional time constraints this would place on Members, taking into account their other commitments.

#### **10. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS SIX MONTH ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PSNI NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING FRAMEWORK**

The Committee considered a paper which provided them with a report on District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) six month assessment of the implementation of PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Framework.

The Committee considered the assessment in detail and it was:-

##### **AGREED:**

To invite representation from DPPs to a meeting of the Committee to discuss in detail how the DPP made their Assessment. It was agreed to seek representation from DPPs who made their assessments in each of the 3 categories – ‘excellent’, ‘fair’ and ‘poor’.

It was also agreed to seek representation from PSNI following the DPPs input.

#### **11. DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOARD’S FRAMEWORK FOR MONITORING NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING**

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members to consider options for developing the Board’s Framework for Monitoring Neighbourhood Policing.

The Committee were presented with 4 options.

- (1) DPPs to conduct a separate additional survey specifically to measure neighbourhood policing;

- (2) to commission the DPP Public Consultation Survey once every 4 years and replace the 2<sup>nd</sup> survey with a biennial survey of neighbourhood policing.
- (3) to include a new section assessing the impact of neighbourhood policing into the existing biennial DPP Public Consultation Survey.
- (4) To develop a consortium approach with partners to public consultation.

The Committee discussed the various options at length taking into account the resource implications.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

For Officials to develop further, the detail and implications of option 3, “to include a new section assessing the impact of neighbourhood policing into the existing biennial DPP Public Consultation Survey”.

## **12. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE REPORT**

The Committee considered a paper which advised of the report of the inaugural DPP conference.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the report should be published on both the Board and DPP websites.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the verbatim speaking notes contained within the report be reduced to summary notes.

**13. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS DRAFT TRAINING & EVENTS SCHEDULE APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010**

The Committee noted a paper which advised of the District Policing Partnership Members Training and Events Schedule for April 2009 – March 2010. NOTED.

**14. FAILURE TO BE APPOINTED AS INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO NEWTOWNABBEY DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP IN APRIL 2008**

The Committee considered a paper which provided them with correspondence from a former District Policing Partnership (DPP) member who failed to be reappointed during the last reconstitution of DPPs.

Following discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

That this matter should now be closed.

**15. SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS 2009**

The Committee noted the Schedule of Presentations for 2009. NOTED.

**16. INFORMATION PAPERS**

## **16.1 Letter From Women's Reference Group**

The Committee considered a letter received from the Women's Reference Group following their attendance at the Community Engagement Committee meeting in August 2008.

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That officials would draft a reply to this letter.

## **17. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That a question would be drafted for the Chief Constable on the issues raised by DPPs on the implementation of the Neighbourhood Policing framework.

## **18. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

There were no matters arising.

## **19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **19.1 District Policing Partnership Review Survey 2009**

The Committee was asked to agree questions to be included in the proposed District Policing Partnership (DPP) Review Survey 2009.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

To include the proposed questions in the DPP Review Survey 2009.

**19.2 Best Value Review Community Engagement**

Officials had met with the Auditors and provided the necessary updates with the expectation that these recommendations will now be regarded as complete. NOTED.

**20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 26 February 2009 at 2:00pm.

(Meeting closed at 7:05pm).

**Secretariat**

**January 2009**

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**Chairperson**