

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 1:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS:**

Mr Alex Maskey (Chairperson)  
Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairperson)  
Mr Leslie Cree  
Ms Mary McKee  
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára  
Mr David Rose  
Mr Suneil Sharma

**DISTRICT POLICING  
PARTNERSHIP (DPPS)  
MANAGERS AND  
MEMBERS IN  
ATTENDANCE**

**(1)** Representatives from North Down,  
Fermanagh, Newry & Mourne DPPs and  
East Belfast District Policing Partnership  
sub-group

**PSNI IN ATTENDANCE:**

**(2)** Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Criminal  
Justice)  
**(2)** 2 PSNI Representatives

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr David Jackson, Director of Community  
Engagement  
4 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 5 only**
- (2) Item number 6 only**

**1. APOLOGIES, ETC.**

Apologies were received on behalf of Peter Weir. NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2009**

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement meeting held on 22 January 2009 be agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2009**

**3.1 Minutes Of The Community Engagement Committee Meeting Held On 27 November 2008** (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised that the minutes of the November 2008 Committee meeting had been amended as agreed. NOTED.

**3.2 Policing Plan 2009 – 2012** (Item 4.2 of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 6.

**3.3 Proposals For Outreach To Loyalist And Republican Communities** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 10.

**3.4 Community Engagement – Visits To Schools** (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that officials would bring an update to a future Committee meeting. NOTED.

**3.5 District Policing Partnerships Six Month Assessment of the Implementation of the PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Framework** (Item 10 of Minutes Refers)

Representatives from Fermanagh, North Down, Newry and Mourne and East Belfast District Policing Partnerships attended the meeting and updated the Committee on the

six month assessment of the implementation of the PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Framework. NOTED.

### **3.6 Development Of The Board's Framework For Monitoring Neighbourhood Policing** (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a paper would be brought to the March 2009 meeting.

### **3.7 District Policing Conference Report** (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the verbatim transcripts had now been removed from the report and that the report has now been placed on the Board's website. NOTED.

### **3.8 Letter From Women's Reference Group** (Item 16.1 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that officials had drafted a reply to the letter received from the Women's Reference Group. NOTED.

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

The Chairperson updated the Committee on the following issues:-

### **4.1 Neighbourhood Watch Workshops**

The Chairperson advised Members that Neighbourhood Watch Workshops were being held on 2 March 2009 at the Glenarm House Hotel, Cookstown and 12 March 2009 at the Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick.

### **4.2 District Policing Partnership Briefings**

The Chairperson advised Members on the following 2 briefings:-

- The Refresh of the Policing with the Community Strategy – Ballymena – 25 February 2009; and

- Alcohol and Knife Crime – Glenarm House Hotel, Cookstown –  
10 March 2009.

#### **4.3 District Policing Partnerships Chairperson/Vice Chairperson Forum**

Members were reminded of the District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) Chairperson/Vice Chairperson Forum which would be held on 24 March 2009 at the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown. An invitation had been sent to all Board Members and the Committee were reminded that the response date was 16 March 2009.

#### **4.4 PSNI Policing with the Community Challenge Panel Meetings**

The Committee was advised that David Rose and Suneil Sharma represented the Committee at a meeting of the Challenge Panel meeting to provide an update to the Committee.

#### **4.5 Meeting With GAA**

The Vice Chairperson had recently met with the GAA and reported that it had been a useful meeting.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That officials for the Community Engagement Branch would contact the GAA to establish what form further contact should take.

### **5. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS' BRIEFING TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE SIX MONTH ASSESSMENT OF PSNI NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING FRAMEWORK**

The Chairperson welcomed the managers and members from North Down, Fermanagh, Newry & Mourne DPPs and East Belfast District Policing Partnership sub-group to the meeting.

The DPP members provided the Committee with their views of their DPP's assessment. Some DPPs were unhappy with the format of the Assessment Framework and felt that it was a 'tick box' exercise that did not provide a good qualitative assessment.

All DPP members expressed their views on the completion of the assessment, but generally there was concern over:-

- Availability of information against the Northern Ireland Policing Plan targets;
- The 4 box marking criteria being too narrow;
- Criteria used not providing scope for qualitative comments;
- Allocating sufficient time for DPPs to consider the report in future.

Following the discussion, the Chairperson agreed to review the assessment framework and thanked the DPP members and managers for attending the meeting and welcomed the opportunity to hear the views of various DPPs on the assessment.

## **6. PSNI UPDATE ON REFRESHING POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

The Chairperson welcomed ACC McCausland and his colleagues to the meeting.

ACC McCausland gave a presentation on the process for refreshing the Policing with the Community Strategy. He updated the Committee on the following:-

- Consultation – Internal Stakeholders
- Consultation – External Stakeholders
- PWC Strategy Challenge Panel
- PWC Strategy Steering Group
- Communication Plan to support the PWC Strategy

ACC McCausland further requested the Committee to consider using a consultant to assist them in scrutinising their review of the PWC Strategy.

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed the following issues with ACC McCausland and his colleagues:-

- the use of a consultant. The Committee felt that it was not necessary to use a consultant for this exercise;
- the Committee had concerns there was no model as yet and that only the concept was on paper;
- PSNI consulting with the Board's reference groups should be considered;
- Timing of the refresh – Members requested a 2 page document as opposed to a lengthy report document and this should be provided to the Committee by June 2009;
- Involvement of Board Members on the PWC Steering Group and Challenge Panel.

Following discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

- that there was no need for a consultant to assist in refreshing the strategy;
- that the new Strategy should be a 2 page document that people would understand and is delivered consistently across all of PSNI;
- To refresh the PWC Strategy by 30 June and publish by 30 September and to agree for inclusion in the Policing Plan;
- That officials would provide Members with a copy of the Board's framework for monitoring PWC;
- That Board Members would sit on the Steering Group and Challenge Panel.

Following the discussion, the Chairperson thanked ACC McCausland and his colleagues for attending and they left the meeting.

## **7. BELFAST DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SUB-GROUPS FOR APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2008**

The Committee considered a paper which provided Belfast DPPs assessment of the work of each of the four Belfast Sub Groups for the period April to September 2008.

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee would meet with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Belfast DPP to discuss the assessment and seek further information on the work of the Belfast DPP.

## **8. CONVICTION OF A MEMBER OF MOYLE DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP**

Members considered a paper which advised Members of the conviction of a political member of Moyle District Policing Partnership (DPP).

The Chairperson, Mr Maskey, and Mr Ó hEára declared an interest in this case and Mr Maskey asked the Vice Chairperson to take the Chair for this agenda item.

The Committee raised various questions and they were as follows:-

- Classification on schedule 3 Para 7 (1) (b) of the Police Act 2000 as amended contained in the Board's Policy;
- Any relevant information received from the Council or DPP on this matter;
- The timing of the conviction – over 4 years ago;
- Public interest.

Following a discussion, the view of the Committee was:-

- That the Committee should recommend to the Board that the DPP member should not be removed. In coming to their recommendation the Committee took account of;
  - The minor status of the offence, reflected by the Magistrate in imposing a £60.00 fine.
  - The length of time that had lapsed between the date of the offence in 2005 and the date of the conviction in 2009.
  - The guiding principle within the Board's Policy which states;

*"...the Board will take account of in each case will be the degree to which the DPP Member's behaviour or action resulting in their case being referred to the Board for consideration will lead to a loss of confidence on the part of the public in the DPP Member's ability to carry out the roles and responsibilities required of them".*

The view of the Committee was that there was no evidence to suggest a loss of confidence within the community in the member's ability to carry out the roles and responsibilities required of them.

- The member's positive record of working with the Police since taking up appointment with the DPP.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- to recommend that the Board do not remove the member from the Moyle DPP;
- That a paper would be presented at the next Board meeting on 5 March 2009.

**9. REQUEST FOR FUNDING A VISIT OF DPP MEMBERS TO A SEMINAR OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (CDI) IN TALLAGHT WEST, DUBLIN**

The Committee considered a paper which sought agreement to make a contribution towards a visit by members of West Belfast DPP Sub Group to a seminar of the Child Development initiative in Tallaght West, Dublin.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To provide a financial contribution of £750 towards the cost of the visit.

**10. PROGRESS REPORT FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BRANCH**

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

The section of the report 'Engaging with Loyalist and Republican communities' contained insufficient detail.

Another Member raised the issue of the Irish language. Following a discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

- a more detailed report with regard to engaging Loyalist and Republican Communities would be provided at the March 2009 meeting;
- Officials would liaise with Board Members to set dates for a meeting to discuss the subject of outreach to the Irish Language Community.

**11. HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
THEMATIC INQUIRY ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Committee considered a paper which informed them of the Terms of Reference and potential opportunities for engagement of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee Thematic Inquiry on Children and Young People. NOTED.

**12. SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS 2009**

The Committee considered the schedule of presentations for 2009. It was:-

**AGREED:**

To take a written report from PSNI on Policing with the Community and Neighbourhood policing.

**13. INFORMATION PAPERS**

There were no matters arising.

**14. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

It was:-

**AGREED:**

To draft a question for the Chief Constable on the refresh of the Policing with the Community Strategy.

## **15. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

Members noted that a report was scheduled to be published by CJINI and that information would be circulated before publication.

Communications in relation to the Moyle DPP Member would be considered after the Board Meeting.

## **16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no matters arising.

## **17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 26 March 2009 at 5:00pm and will be held in the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

(Meeting closed at 4:30pm).

**Secretariat**

**February 2009**

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**Chairperson**