

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 MARCH 2009 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
- (1) Mr Basil McCrea
- Ms Mary McKee
- Mr Alex Maskey
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- (2) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- Mr Brian Rea
- Mr Trevor Ringland
- (3) Mr Jimmy Spratt

CJINI IN ATTENDANCE:

- (4) Dr Michael Maguire, Chief Inspector
- (4) Mr Brendan McGuigan, Deputy Chief Inspector

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (5) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)
- (5) C/Superintendent Kerr, Commander 'H' District
- (5) C/Superintendent Todd, Commander 'E' District
- (5) Superintendent Kee, Core Project Team
- (5) 1 PSNI Representative

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Adrian Donaldson (Chief Executive)
- Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)
- Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
- (2) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- (2) Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- 2 Board Officials

- (1) From item number 4 to close
- (2) Except item number 10
- (3) Item numbers 9 & 10 only
- (4) Item number 9 only
- (5) Item number 10 only

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

No apologies were received for the meeting. Mr Spratt, who was representing the Board at a meeting with PSNI Student Officers, had indicated that he would join the meeting at a later stage. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2009

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 19 February 2009 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2009

3.1 Special Board Meeting – Rank Ratios (Item 4.5 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised that it had not yet been possible to finalise a date for a meeting with PSNI representatives to consider PSNI Rank Ratios. One option being considered was to hold the meeting on the same date as the next Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee, scheduled for 21 May 2009. All Board Members would be invited to attend the meeting once the date was confirmed. NOTED.

3.2 Government Proposals In Response To A Review Of PACE In Northern Ireland – NIO Consultation (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised that the NIO had extended the consultation date for the Board to respond to the Government's proposals to amend the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act in Northern Ireland and that a further paper on the proposals would be brought to a future Committee meeting. NOTED.

3.3 PSNI Estate Strategy (Item 15.2 Of Minutes Refers)

Members were advised that a new date for the Special Board meeting to consider the 2008 Draft PSNI Strategy had not yet been finalised. NOTED.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Committee had previously recommended rearranging the meeting for a new date towards the beginning of May 2009. A Member suggested it would be helpful if the political parties represented on the Board held individual discussions with the Chief Constable prior to the Board meeting being arranged, to enable PSNI to be made fully aware of each political party's view on proposals for future station closures.

The Chairman advised that he would also discuss the arrangements for a future meeting with the Chief Constable. NOTED.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

There were no matters arising.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

There were no matters arising.

NOTED.

4.3 Correspondence

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

- letter from NIO dated 28 February 2009 in response to concerns raised by the Board in relation to civil recovery:

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chairman should again write to the Minister of State to express the Board's concerns about civil recovery capability.

- comments from the Chief Commissioner of Equality Commission regarding recent murders.

NOTED.

4.4 News Releases

There were no matters arising.

NOTED.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Date of June 2009 Policing Board Meeting

The Chief Executive referred to discussion at the March Board meeting regarding the need to change the date of the June 2009 Board meeting, to avoid a clash with the date of the European Parliamentary Elections.

It was:

RECOMMENDED:

- that the date of the June Policing Board meeting should be changed from 4 to 11 June 2009;
- that the Human Resources Committee meeting planned for 11 June should be held on 18 June 2009 at 2.00pm;
- that the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting planned for 18 June be brought forward from 2.00pm to 10.00am.

6. PROPOSED POLICY FOR THE USE OF WATERSIDE TOWER BY OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

The Committee considered a paper in relation to the use of Waterside Tower by outside organisations.

The Committee considered the proposed policy and, it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Boardroom and the Committee Room at Waterside Tower could be used by public sector focused organisations for individual meetings requiring a meeting place within the locality of Waterside Tower. The work of the Policing Board and its Members and staff will not be disadvantaged by other organisations using the building and no financial cost for making the accommodation available will be borne by the Policing Board.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that each application for the use of Waterside Tower should be considered individually at the time of request;
- that approval be given for the Belfast Local Commissioning Group to use Waterside Tower as a venue for a future meeting.

A Member raised an issue relating to the car parking facilities available for Members at Waterside Tower and the Chief Executive advised that he would review the matter and respond to the Member in due course.

7. 2009 – 2010 NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN

The Committee considered a paper which sought the approval of the 2009 – 2010 Corporate Business Plan.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the Corporate Business Plan for 2009 – 2010.

8. UPDATE ON THE OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION NORTHERN IRELAND (CJINI) REPORT ON SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT SERVICES IN PSNI

The Committee considered a paper which provided an update from PSNI regarding the outstanding recommendations arising from the CJINI report on Scientific Support Services in PSNI, published in December 2005. The Committee considered the PSNI response in respect of the 10 recommendations identified as outstanding in September 2008. Members noted that 5 of the 10 recommendations were considered to be suitable for discharge. NOTED.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Committee should seek a further position statement from PSNI in relation to the 5 recommendations that were still deemed to be incomplete.

9. CJINI DRAFT INSPECTION PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a background paper on the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) Programme of Inspections for 2009 – 2012. Following Committee consideration of the Draft Inspection Programme, the Chairman welcomed Dr Michael Maguire, Chief Inspector CJINI and Mr Brendan McGuigan, Deputy Chief Inspector to the meeting.

In opening discussion, the Chief Inspector outlined his approach in developing the CJINI Inspection agenda across the criminal justice system for 2009 – 2012. He advised that while the programme was fairly explicit for the first year of activity, there was more flexibility with regard to years 2 and 3. A more strategic view was being taken forward in the programme which would include a number of different ways of looking at the key questions. Dr Maguire outlined the organisational specific inspections for the 2009 – 2010 financial year and the thematic inspections that CJINI was proposing to undertake.

With regard to inspection of the PSNI, the Chairman reminded the CJINI representatives of the role of the Policing Board, as set out in the legislation, in holding the PSNI to account through the Chief Constable for the delivery of an effective, efficient and impartial police service. He highlighted the emphasis that the Board placed on the relationship between it and Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) and the need for co-ordination and collaboration with the Board and HMIC to ensure that inspections of PSNI avoided any duplication.

The meeting discussed:-

- the links between CJINI and other inspection bodies, such as HMIC, Inspector of Prisons, etc and the coordination of inspections with these organisations;
- how to ensure that any gaps in inspection of the criminal justice system were best identified and examined;
- how to ensure that areas already well scrutinised were not re-examined;
- ways in which the Board and CJINI could work better together to effect improvement;
- liaison between the Board's Committees and CJINI;
- the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and CJINI;
- follow-up on the implementation of recommendations made in CJINI reports.

The Chairman thanked the CJINI representatives for their contribution and they left the meeting.

Members reflected on the discussion, and it was:-

AGREED:

That the Chairman should write to the Chief Inspector of CJINI setting out Members' concerns on a number of the issues that had been discussed.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board should develop a Memorandum of Understanding with CJINI.

10. CORE PROJECT – UPDATE

The Board considered a paper which provided an update on progress of the CORE (Corporate Opportunity for Resilience and Efficiency) project, in line with the monitoring and reporting arrangements for the Policing Plan. NOTED.

The Chairman welcomed ACC Operational Support and other PSNI representatives to the meeting.

Superintendent Kee, Head of the CORE project team gave a presentation to the Committee on the Post Implementation Review of District restructuring. A copy of the slides used during the presentation is attached at Appendix 'A'.

During the presentation Superintendent Kee outlined the background to the restructuring of 29 District Command Units (DCUs) to 8 Districts. He detailed:-

- the strategic assumptions that had been made;
- the criteria for the Post Implementation Review;
- DCU and District functions;
- rank reductions achieved since 2001;
- the role of the Public Protection Units (PPUs);
- progress in relation to the Neighbourhood Policing Framework;
- cash and non-cash efficiencies;
- the implementation of the Headquarters Review - Phase 1;
- progress regarding the Headquarters Review - Phase 2.

Chief Superintendent Kerr and Chief Superintendent Todd, District Commanders, gave practical examples of the benefits and challenges associated with the restructuring.

In the discussion which followed, Members raised a number of issues including:-

- planning for restructuring of District boundaries to provide co-terminosity with council boundaries;
- the timetable for the completion of Phase 2 of the Headquarters Review;
- public perceptions of the realignment of District Command Units (DCUs);
- the establishment of the Partners and Community Together (PACT) model;
- possible restructuring in Belfast following the Review of Public Administration;
- the reduction of support staff posts following restructuring.

ACC Toner delivered a copy of the Post Implementation Review of District Restructuring Report to the Chairman and offered to further discuss any issues in the report with Members. Further copies would be made available to all Board Members in due course.

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

11. INFORMATION PAPERS

11.1 Update On Review Of Outstanding Patten Recommendations

NOTED.

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

There were no matters arising.

13. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

It was:-

AGREED:

That a news release should be issued regarding the forthcoming visit by Policing Board representatives to Washington and New York.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 21 May 2009 at 2:00pm in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 12:15pm).

Secretariat

March 2009

Chairman