

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 JUNE 2009 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mr Barry Gilligan (Chairman)
- Mr Brian Rea (Vice Chairman)
- (1) Mr Tom Buchanan
- (2) Mrs Dolores Kelly
- Mr Basil McCrea
- Mr Daithí McKay
- (2) Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- (3) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- (4) Mr Trevor Ringland

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (5) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (6) Mrs Judith Gillespie (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (5) Mr Alistair Finlay (ACC Urban Region)
- (6) Mr Dave Jones (ACC Rural Region)
- (7) Mr Joe Stewart (Director of Human Resources)
- (7) Mr Michael Cox (Deputy Director of Human Resources)
- (5) Ms Liz Young (Head of Media and PR)
- (5) Superintendent Chris Noble ('B' District Commander)
- (6) Superintendent John McCaughan (Command Secretariat)

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Adrian Donaldson (Chief Executive)
- (8) Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)
- (9) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
- (9) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- (9) Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- (8) 3 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 5.1 to close
- (2) Item number 4.1 to close
- (3) Item number 3.4 to close
- (4) Item number 3.1 to close
- (5) Item number 15.1 – 15.3 only
- (6) Item number 11, and 15.1 – 15.3
- (7) Item number 10, 11 and 15.1 to 15.3

- (8) **Except item number 5.4**
- (9) **Except item number 5.4, 10, 11 and 15**

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Ms Mary McKee, Mr Alex Maskey and Mr Jimmy Spratt. Mr Spratt had nominated Mr Tom Buchanan as the substitute political Member to attend the meeting in his place. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 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 21 May 2009 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 2009

3.1 Update On The Outstanding Recommendations From The CJINI Report On Scientific Services In PSNI (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

A response was awaited from PSNI in relation to the outstanding recommendations contained in the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) Report on Scientific Services in PSNI. The PSNI response would be brought to a future Committee meeting. NOTED.

3.2 Response To British/Irish Rights Watch Correspondence (Item 4.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a draft reply to British/Irish Rights Watch in response to their letter of 23rd April 2009 regarding the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2009-2012.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That approval be given for the response to be issued to British/Irish Rights Watch.

3.3 Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Oral Evidence Sessions (Item 4.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman reminded Members of discussion at the Board meeting of 11 June 2009 regarding this item and the Committee considered a draft reply to the Committee Clerk of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee.

Subject to the deletion of the final paragraph in the draft letter, it was:-

RESOLVED:

That approval be given for the letter be issued to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee.

3.4 Memorandum of Understanding with CJINI (Item 9 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a revised draft of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and CJINI. Officials advised that the draft had been prepared incorporating the views expressed by Members at the May 2009 Committee meeting, Record No: 113715

together with subsequent discussions with a number of Members. The draft had been shared with CJINI.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the Memorandum of Understand with CJINI.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman highlighted the following engagement which he had undertaken on behalf of the Board:-

- Launch of the Communications Campaign "You, Your Child and Alcohol" - 15 June 2009.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

There were no matters arising.

4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman referred Members to the following correspondence:-

- Letter from the Chief Constable dated 1 June 2009 regarding Policing the Past.

It was:-

AGREED:

That Members would discuss the content of the letter with the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting private session on 2 July 2009.

- Letter from PSNI dated 17 June 2009 regarding the draft PSNI Estate Strategy.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials should write to the PSNI to highlight Board requirements regarding the forthcoming meeting with PSNI to consider the draft Estate Strategy.

4.4 News Releases

There were no matters arising.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Personal Protection Weapon Policy Review

The Committee considered a letter received from PSNI dated 4 June 2009 which reported on the outcome of a review that had been undertaken of the PSNI policy in respect of personal protection weapons.

It was:-

AGREED:

That Members should discuss the findings with the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting private session on 2 July 2009.

5.2 Recouping of Historical Enquiries Team Additional Funding

The Committee considered a letter dated 26 May 2009, tabled at the meeting, which advised that agreement had been reached whereby NIO would not seek to recoup the amount of £1.4m that had been provided to meet the funding difficulties within the PSNI HET budget from the 2009/2010 budget. NOTED

5.3 Policing Board Function

The Chief Executive referred to previous correspondence regarding the arrangement of a Policing Board function on 30 June 2009 to mark the contribution made by the outgoing Chief Constable and former Board Chairman. In seeking and receiving the approval of Members to the arrangement of the event, the Chief Executive reminded the Committee that Members' contributions for the former Chairman's gift needed to be received as soon as possible. NOTED.

5.4 Chief Officers' Bonus Scheme – 2008-2009

The Committee considered a confidential paper, tabled at the meeting, in relation to bonus payments for PSNI chief officers and senior civilian staff in respect of performance in 2008-2009.

A confidential appendix regarding this item is attached at Appendix A.

6. CJINI REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF SECTION 75 OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND ACT 1998 ON THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Committee considered a paper which referred to 2 criminal justice system wide recommendations made by CJINI which were relevant to PSNI. These related to the monitoring process to provide criminal justice agencies with an equity monitoring system of defendants and the proposed strategy for securing and monitoring a Section 75 reflective workforce across the system. CJINI had also recommended that data collection systems within PSNI be considered to improve the collection of information on the community/religious background of persons who are stopped and searched and equality information for persons arrested.

It was:-

AGREED:

- To request a written report from PSNI detailing their plans to address the issues/recommendations contained in the report and this be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee for further consideration;
- To request a written report from PSNI regarding the recently published CJINI Report on Police Custody.

7. SENIOR OFFICERS ALLOWANCES

Consideration of this paper was deferred to the next meeting. NOTED

8. REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF OUTSTANDING PATTEN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee considered a paper which provided an update on progress towards the implementation of the outstanding recommendations contained in the Patten Report.

Members were reminded that the Board had assumed responsibility for 32 of the 35 Patten Recommendations identified as outstanding in the Oversight Commissioners (OOC) final report of May 2007. In 2008 the Board had noted that 10 outstanding recommendations had been implemented, that substantial progress had been made on a further 6 and that 16 recommendations had not progressed significantly since the OOC report in 2007. 21 recommendations remained outstanding.

In the 2009 assessment, provided by Mark Reber, a further 6 recommendations were reported as having been implemented or resolved. 15 recommendations remained outstanding. Of these, substantial progress had been made in 5 recommendations and 10 recommendations had not been progress significantly.

Members discussed the future approach of the Board in taking forward the outstanding recommendations.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To request a response from the Chief Constable regarding the assessment.

Mr McCrea asked that it be recorded that he was not content with progress to date in relation to the implementation of the 4 recommendations pertaining to community and neighbourhood policing and that the Board needed to find alternative ways of dealing with these issues.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That the Sub-Committee considering Committee Structures should consider options for the monitoring and management of the outstanding Patten Recommendations;

- That the Director of Policy should submit a paper to the Sub-Committee on this issue and that the paper be copied to all Members.

9. REPORT FROM PSNI HEAD OF MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

It was:-

AGREED:

To defer consideration of a monitoring report from the PSNI Head of Media and Public Relations to a future meeting.

10. BRIEFING ON REVIEW OF PSNI RANK RATIOS

Members were reminded that the Human Resources Committee had received an initial briefing from PSNI in October 2008 on the work being undertaken by PSNI regarding Rank Ratios. A further Board workshop had also been held in February 2009 regarding the matter.

The Chairman welcomed the Director and Deputy Director of PSNI Human Resources to the meeting.

The Deputy Director gave Members a confidential briefing on the current position in relation on the impact of considerations of rank ratios on human resources in PSNI. Further details and a copy of the slides used in the presentation are included in Annex A.

11. BRIEFING REGARDING PSNI STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW

The Chairman advised that PSNI had been taking forward initial work on a strategic review on how to enhance the service which is provided by PSNI. The focus of the review had been on the core functions for policing and the quality of service delivered.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had received an initial briefing on the Project in preparation for the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed the Deputy Chief Constable and ACC Jones to the meeting. ACC Jones gave Members a confidential briefing on the work undertaken on the Organisational Review to date. Further details and a copy of the slides used in the presentation are included in Annex A.

12. INFORMATION PAPERS

The Committee considered the following information papers:-

12.1 Measuring the Performance of Committees 2008-2009

12.2 Serious Organised Crime Agency Annual Report 2008-2009

12.3 Policing Plan Update – responding to the threat from terrorism

12.4 Policing Plan Update – public protection arrangements

NOTED.

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

It was:-

AGREED:

That the following items should be raised:-

- The content of a letter from the Chief Constable dated 1 June 2009 concerning Policing the Past
- The content of a letter from the Chief Constable dated 4 June 2009 regarding the PSNI Personal Protection Weapon Policy Review.

14. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Police Response To Racism Attacks In South Belfast

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable and other PSNI representatives to the meeting. The Chief Constable informed Members about the police response to recent racist attacks on members of the Romanian community in the Lisburn Road area of Belfast. The District Commander, B District, detailed the timeline of events, including police response times to calls for assistance regarding racist incidents in the Lisburn Road area from 8 June onwards. The Committee was advised that PSNI were treating the events as an “critical incident”.

Members discussed the report and requested and received further information concerning:-

- The possible motivations for the attacks;
- Media response to the incidents;
- The potential for involvement of groups or agencies based outside Northern Ireland;
- The attitude of some elements of the Northern Ireland community to ethnic minorities ;
- The response of government to the attacks; and
- The assistance given by police to those involved to move to alternative accommodation.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Board should issue a news release regarding the discussion with the Chief Constable and this should highlight that the police alone could not resolve what is a wider societal issue.

15.2 Full Time Reserve

The Vice-Chairman of the Board took the Chair.

The Committee received a verbal report from the Chief Constable in relation to his decision regarding the remaining complement of full-time officers in the PSNI. The Chief Constable advised the Committee that, in line with the Report of the Independent Commission on Policing in Northern Ireland (the Patten Report), the remaining officers in the full-time reserve would be phased out in 2011. The Chief Constable outlined the measures that the PSNI had put in place to ensure that front line policing would not be adversely affected by the release of the remaining full-time reserve officers.

The Chairman resumed the Chair.

In response to questions from Members, the Chief Constable advised that the relevant ACCs had reviewed each full-time reserve post with their Superintendents. He outlined the additional measures that were being put in place to redeploy existing regular officers and to provide additional protection to front line officers.

Members discussed:-

- The impact of the decision on public confidence;
- The reaction of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland to the decision;
- The severance package available to full-time reserve officers after March 2011;
- Equality of treatment for all full-time reserve officers.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a news release should be issued by the Board in relation to the Chief Constable's decision.

The representatives from the DUP recorded their opposition to the Chief Constable's decision. The Member representing the Ulster Unionist Party also recorded his Party's concerns.

15.3 Decommissioning of Loyalist Weapons

A Member sought and received the Chief Constable's views on the veracity of media reports that a number of loyalist organisations had commenced decommissioning of weapons.

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

15.4 Further response to consultation on the Review of CSPs and DPPs

The Committee considered a paper containing a revised draft response to the Northern Ireland Office Consultation document "Local Partnership Working on Policing & Community Safety – A Way Forward". The Chairman reminded Members that it had been agreed at the June Board meeting that the Committee should agree the final response to the NIO consultation. He advised that the draft document now included amendments discussed at the June Board meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to the reply to the Minister of State regarding the consultation document.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 16 July 2009 but In view of the absence of a number of Members on holiday and other Board business, this date was currently under review. All Members will be notified of the date of the July meeting in due course. NOTED.

(Meeting closed 1.15 pm).

Secretariat
June 2009

Chairman