

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 JULY 2009 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Barry Gilligan (Chairman)
Mr Brian Rea (Vice Chairman)
Mr Basil McCrea
Mr Trevor Ringland
Mr Jimmy Spratt

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(1) Ms Liz Young (Head of Media and PR)

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)
(2) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
(2) Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
(2) 4 Board Officials

(1) Item number 10 only
(2) Except item number 8

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mrs Dolores Kelly, Ms Mary McKee, Mr Alex Maskey and Mrs Rosaleen Moore. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 JUNE 2009

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting, subject to a minor amendment, it was:-

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting held on 18 June 2009 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JUNE 2009

3.1 British/Irish Rights Watch Correspondence (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a letter from British/Irish Rights Watch dated 1 July 2009 regarding the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2009-2012. NOTED.

3.2 Chief Officers' Bonus Scheme 2008-2009 (Item 5.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the additional information requested at the previous meeting had been received by the Chief Executive. NOTED.

Members discussed the merits of openness and transparency in relation to the availability of information concerning bonus payments made to chief police officers and senior civilian staff and suggested that the matter should be considered further when the Chief Constable's bonus is next on the agenda.

3.3 CJINI Report On The Impact Of Section 75 On The Criminal Justice System In Northern Ireland (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a letter from PSNI dated 19 July 2009 detailing plans to address the issues/recommendations contained in the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) Report on the Impact of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 on the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland. NOTED.

The Committee noted a letter dated 30 June 2009 from the Chief Inspector of CJINI enclosing a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between CJINI and the Board. NOTED.

3.4 Monitoring Of The Outstanding Patten Recommendations (Item 8 of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised that a response had been received from the PSNI regarding the Board's assessment of the outstanding recommendations arising from the Report of the Independent Commission on Policing in Northern Ireland (Patten) and had sought further information and clarification from PSNI concerning the response, when this is received the matter will be brought back to the Committee. NOTED.

3.5 Report From PSNI Head Of Media And Public Relations (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at Item 10.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Conferences/Seminars

The Deputy Chief Executive advised Members about the following conference:-

- Developing a Collaborative Response to e-Crime – London – 9 September 2009.

Mr McCrea expressed interest in attending the conference. NOTED.

6. SENIOR PSNI OFFICERS

The Committee considered a paper detailing a proposed allowances package to be offered in relation to the current Chief Constable competition. Members discussed the package which had been provided to the outgoing Chief Constable, including the provision of accommodation and associated expenses. The Committee also discussed the confidentiality surrounding the packages offered by police authorities nationally to attract chief officers. The consensus view was that there was a need for a wider debate at national level on the allowances packages offered to chief officers and the confidentiality that surrounded such expenditure, particularly in the light of the ongoing review of parliamentary expenses and allowances.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve a package of allowances that should be offered to the Chief Constable post currently under recruitment. Details are attached in a confidential appendix, Appendix 'A'.

7. SENIOR OFFICERS ALLOWANCES

The Committee considered a paper, deferred from the June meeting, in relation to the allowances package currently available to chief police officers. Members were reminded that the pay and conditions of chief officers were decided at national level but allowances were determined locally. Members examined a request from the Chief Police Officers Staff Association (CPOSA) PSNI representative to increase the allowance for private healthcare and to provide a dental care allowance.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- That the current healthcare allowance should not be increased;
- That an allowance for dental care should not be awarded.

8. CHIEF OFFICERS BONUS SCHEME 2009 – EX-DCC LEIGHTON

The Committee considered a confidential paper, tabled at the meeting, in relation to bonus payment for the former Deputy Chief Constable in respect of performance in 2008-09.

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

9. HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION – GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR A NEW RETENTION POLICY IN RESPECT OF DNA 'KEEPING THE RIGHT PEOPLE ON THE DNA DATABASE'

The Committee considered a briefing paper from the Board's Human Rights Advisor regarding a Home Office consultation document entitled 'Keeping the right people on the DNA database'. The Committee noted that the Home Office had declined to extend the deadline of 7 August 2009 for responses.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board's draft submission should be based on the briefing paper prepared by the Board's Human Rights Advisor.

AGREED:

- That a response to the Home Office consultation should be prepared, based on the Human Rights Advisor's briefing paper, and submitted for Members consideration at the Board meeting on 6 August 2009;

- To prepare a letter to the Chief Constable seeking his views on the issues raised in the Human Rights Advisor's paper and to be submitted to Members for consideration at the Board meeting on 6 August 2009.

10. REPORT FROM PSNI HEAD OF MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Chairman welcomed the Head of PSNI Media and Public Relations to the meeting.

The Committee received a report on the work of the PSNI Media and Public Relations Department.

Members were updated on:-

- the increased volume of media enquiries, media interviews and conferences, and proactive communication campaigns;
- media training for officers;
- the launch of a new PSNI website;
- the appointment of an Internal Communications Manager;
- the publication of the Annual Report;
- the organisation of the Policing with the Community Awards; and
- the delivery of public awareness campaigns including the 'Close it, Lock it, Check it' domestic burglary campaign, 'Rape – So you think you know?'; 'Be Smart' rape campaign and various roads policing initiatives.

Members sought and received further information on media training for officers. The Committee discussed the speed of the PSNI response to the recent racist incidents in South Belfast and lessons to be learned in connection with the media coverage and the action taken by PSNI to date. Members raised the PSNI media response to the recent disorder in Ardoyne and at an international football match and to an ATM robbery in Newtownbutler. Members also discussed how the media might be encouraged to publish positive policing news that accurately reflected the true level of crime and reduced the fear of crime in communities.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Media and Public Relations for her contribution and she left the meeting.

Members discussed the working relationship between the PSNI's and the Board's Press Offices and how best to further improve the exchange of information of mutual interest. It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chairman should discuss this matter with the DCC at an appropriate opportunity.

11. INFORMATION PAPERS

The Committee considered the following information papers:-

11.1 OCTF Annual Report And Threat Assessment – Summary

NOTED.

11.2 PSNI Strategic Review Report

The Chairman reminded Members of the protective marking applied to the PSNI Strategic Review Report. He suggested that it would be beneficial for the Board to receive a briefing from PSNI on the content of the document. The Committee briefly discussed the future significance of the report for the PSNI and the Board and the timescale for introduction of recommendations.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

- That the DCC be invited to brief the Board on the content of the PSNI Strategic Review Report.

- That the PSNI Strategic Review Report be included on the agenda for consideration by the Board at its forthcoming Away Day to consider Committee structures.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That a Sub-Committee should be set up to consider the Report and make recommendations to the Committee;
- That the DCC be advised that the Board will formally respond to the Report in due course.

NOTED.

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

It was:-

AGREED:

That the following items should be raised:-

- The costs associated with the Stevens Investigation Team;
- The Home Office proposals on the new retention policy for DNA samples and other material.

13. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Committee discussed the date for receipt of the costs associated with policing disorder in the Ardoyne. Members were advised that the Board would receive a report from PSNI at the September Board meeting.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 17 September 2009.

NOTED.

(Meeting closed 12.30 pm).

Secretariat

July 2009

Chairman