

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mr Barry Gilligan (Chairman)
- Mr Brian Rea (Vice Chairman)
- (1) Ms Martina Anderson
- Mr Alex Attwood
- (1) Mr Tom Buchanan
- Mr Alex Maskey
- (2) Mr Basil McCrea
- (3) Mr Daithí McKay
- Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
- (4) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- (1) Professor Sir Desmond Rea
- Mr Trevor Ringland
- Mr David Rose
- Mr Suneil Sharma
- Mr Jimmy Spratt
- Mr Peter Weir

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (5) Mrs Judith Gillespie (A/Chief Constable)
- (5) Mr Duncan McCausland (A/Deputy Chief Constable)
- (5) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Crime Operations)
- (5) Mr David Jones (ACC Rural Region)
- (5) Mr David Best (Director Finance & Support Services)
- (5) Mr Joe Stewart (Director of Human Resources)
- (5) Ms Liz Young, Head of Media & Personnel
- (5) 2 PSNI Personnel, Command Secretariat

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Adrian Donaldson (Chief Executive)
- Dr Debbie Donnelly (D/Chief Executive)
- (1) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
- (1) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
- Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- 3 Board Officials

**WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE
AUTHORITY IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Mark Burns-Williamson (Chair)
Mrs Ann Liston
Councillor Glen Miller
Councillor John Ruding
Mr Fraser Sampson (Chief Executive)

- (1) Item numbers 1 to 8 and 12**
- (2) Part Item number 4.4 to close**
- (3) Item numbers 9, 10, 11 and part 12 to close**
- (4) Item numbers, 9, 10, 13 and 14**
- (5) Item number 12 only**

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Leslie Cree, Ms Mary McKee and Mrs Rosaleen Moore. NOTED.

The Chairman advised the Board that Mrs Dolores Kelly had resigned from the Board with effect from 14 August 2009 to take up the Chair of the Northern Ireland Assembly's Environment Committee and had been appointed as a member of the Assembly's Health Committee. The Chairman paid tribute to the work carried by Mrs Kelly during her membership of the Board.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Alex Attwood to the meeting, following his reappointment to the Board.

The Chairman welcomed representatives from the West Yorkshire Police Authority in attendance at the meeting. The Chair of the Authority, Councillor Mark Burns-Williamson introduced Mrs Ann Liston, independent member; Councillor Glen Miller, Conservative Member of Bradford City Council; Councillor John Ruding, Labour Member of Bradford City Council; and Mr Fraser Sampson, Chief Executive of the Authority.

The Chairman advised that a briefing from the Public Prosecution Service had been postponed to facilitate a discussion on the PSNI Strategic Review. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

2.1 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 2 July 2009

The Board considered the draft minutes of the meeting and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 2 July 2009 be approved.

2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 2 July 2009

The Board considered the draft minutes of the meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting in public held on 2 July 2009 be approved.

2.3 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 6 August 2009

The Board considered the draft minutes of the meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 6 August 2009 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

3.1 Meeting Held On 2 July 2009

3.1.1 Visits To Board Website (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)

Further to an enquiry by a Member, the Chairman advised that during the period mid July 2008 to mid July 2009 there were 2,285 views recorded against the minutes of Board meetings. NOTED.

3.1.2 Appointment Of A New Chief Constable For The PSNI (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive informed Members that Leicestershire Police Authority at its meeting on 27 August 2009, had agreed to the Board's request to release Mr Matt Baggott early from his notice period. Accordingly, Mr Baggott would leave his current post on 20 September 2009, travel to Northern Ireland on 21 September 2009 and assume the appointment of PSNI Chief Constable on Tuesday, 22 September 2009.

Further details in relation to the Chief Constable's contract are attached in a confidential appendix – Appendix 'A'.

3.1.3 Assistant Chief Constable Selection Panel (Item 3.2 Of Minutes of Minutes Refers)

Officials updated the Board on the Assistant Chief Constable appointment process.

Members were advised that interviews had been arranged for 8 September 2009. NOTED.

3.1.4 Sub Committee On The Restructuring Of Committees (Item 17.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised that it had proved difficult to arrange a suitable date for an 'Away Day' to consider restructuring of Committees. He proposed, and it was:-

AGREED:

That a Sub Group, comprising the Chairman, Vice Chairman, a representative from each political party on the Board and 2 independent Members should meet to discuss the restructuring of Committee in early October 2009 and bring proposals back to the Board.

3.2 Meeting Held On 6 August 2009

3.2.1 Disposal/Running Costs Of Stations – PSNI Allocation Of Savings (Item 2.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman reminded Members that the PSNI had undertaken to supply details of how future £1.8m savings in running costs and the £5.5m income from disposal of police stations would be allocated in advance of the September Board meeting. He referred Members to a letter dated 1 September 2009 from the Acting Chief Constable in response to the Board's formal request for the information. The Chairman advised that he had spoken with the Acting Chief Constable and expressed his concern that the information contained in the response did not meet Board requirements. The Acting Chief Constable had undertaken to provide further information and this would be brought to either the next Resources and Improvement Committee meeting or the October Board meeting. NOTED.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

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

- Visit to PSNI Stations in "F" District – 28 July 2009;
- PSNI Graduation Ceremony – 31 July 2009;
- Meeting with Jeffrey Donaldson MP regarding Dromara PSNI Station – 4 August 2009;
- Meeting with the Childrens' Commissioner –5 August 2009;
- Meeting with the Omagh Support and Self Help Group – 12 August 2009;
- Presentation at Steeple Road, Antrim to PSNI Students – 13 August 2009;
- Meeting with representatives from the republican community in the Belfast area – 27 August 2009;
- Meeting with Sir Ian Andrews, new Chair of SOCA – 27 August 2009;
- Meeting of Organised Crime Task Force Stakeholder Group – 1 September 2009.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

- Inspection of Forensic Science Northern Ireland – CJINI – July 2009;
- Annual Report and Accounts – National Policing Improvement Agency 2008/09 – July 2009.

NOTED.

4.3 Correspondence

- letter from Assistant Chief Constable, Criminal Justice dated 25 August 2009 regarding a Home Office Consultation on Government Proposals for a new retention policy in respect of DNA samples/profiles and fingerprints.

NOTED.

4.4 Efficiencies 2010/2011

The Chairman referred Members to correspondence received from the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and PSNI regarding the identification of options for making efficiency savings of £17m in 2010/11. The Chairman informed Members that PSNI had written to the NIO to seek a tripartite meeting involving the Minister of State, the Chief Constable and the Board's Chairman to consider the matter. A provisional date of 15 September 2009 had been arranged. Members discussed the correspondence.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that the Chairman should convey to the NIO that a cut of £17m was not acceptable to the Board;
- that a copy of the correspondence should be forwarded to the First Minister, Deputy First Minister and the Assembly and Executive Review Committee for information;
- that the Chairman should refer to the Board's position on this matter in his opening remarks during the Board meeting in public.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Members' Attendances At Meetings And Events During the Period 31 May 2007 – 30 June 2009 And Members' Expenses 1 April – 30 June 2009

The Board considered a schedule giving details of Members' attendances at Board and Committee meetings and other events. Members also considered a table which gave details of travel and subsistence relating to Members for the period 1 April to 30 June 2009. The Chief Executive asked Members to advise Secretariat by 11 September

2009 of any inaccuracy or omission. After this date, arrangements would be made to have the information published on the Board's website. NOTED.

5.2 Programme Of Board Meetings 2010

The Board considered a draft programme of Policing Board meetings for the year 2010.

It was:-

AGREED:

To adopt the following programme of meetings:-

(No meeting in January)

Thursday 4 February

Thursday 4 March

Thursday 1 April

(No meeting in May)

Thursday 3 June

Thursday 1 July

Thursday 5 August (Provisional, should there be an urgent requirement)

Thursday 2 September

Thursday 7 October

Thursday 4 November

Thursday 2 December

5.3 Committee Membership

The Chief Executive sought approval from the Board for Mr Alex Attwood to replace Mrs Dolores Kelly on the Board's Committees and other groups, including the OCTF Stakeholder Group, until the restructure of Committees is completed.

It was:-

AGREED:

That Mr Alex Attwood should replace Mrs Dolores Kelly on Board Committees and other groups.

5.4 Conferences

The Chief Executive advised Members of the following conference:-

- The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) – the Surveillance Society; Policing, Information and Public Confidence Conference – Ryton, Coventry – 8 October 2009.

NOTED.

5.5 Correspondence

The Chief Executive advised Members of correspondence received from an MLA in relation to an alleged breach of the Declaration against Terrorism by a serving District Policing Partnership member. The correspondence will be passed to the Community Engagement Committee for consideration. NOTED.

6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

6.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee Held On 30 July 2009

The Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

6.1.1 Home Office Consultation In Respect Of DNA (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman reminded Members that the Board had agreed a response to be issued to the Home Office at its meeting in August 2009. He referred Members to the letter issued to the Home Office on 6 August 2009, which was tabled at the meeting.

NOTED.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting held on 30 July 2009 be approved.

6.2 Minutes Of A Special Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Held On 18 August 2009 – Strategic Review

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting held on 18 August 2009 be approved.

PSNI Strategic Review

The Chief Executive referred Members to a paper, tabled at the meeting, which contained proposals in relation to the Board's oversight and the monitoring of the implementation of the PSNI Strategic Review. He also referred Members to a copy of a paper placed before the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee on 18 August 2009 which contained a summary of recommendations contained in the Strategic Review.

The Chairman referred to the intense media commentary on the 'leaked' PSNI Strategic Review. He reminded Members that the Review Report was an internal PSNI document that was shared with the Board on a 'Restricted' basis. The Chairman expressed disappointment at the leak of the document to the media and stated that whoever leaked this document had done a great disservice to policing and indeed, to the Board. The Chairman expressed the belief that, at a time when the Board was working to build further confidence in policing, the leak had done serious damage to confidence in the Service. He re-emphasised the need for the Board to be able to demonstrate that it was being effective in the oversight and holding to account of the PSNI to ensure frontline service to the community.

The Board considered how it should deal with the Report and the position it should take in dealing with the Strategic Review recommendations.

A number of Members echoed the views of the Chairman that the leaking of the Report had not assisted either the Board or policing. A number of Members expressed concern that the Chairman and Members had not been informed that the Review was taking place, prior to June 2009. Members also commented on the need to clearly identify what were internal PSNI issues and the strategic issues that were the remit of the Board and Government

Following discussion:-

It was:-

AGREED:

- that a meeting of the Board should be arranged to discuss the Strategic Review in more detail;
- subsequent to this meeting, and the new Chief Constable taking post, the Board should meet with the PSNI Command Team to discuss the content and monitoring of the Strategic Review;

- that Committees should consider the impact of the Strategic Review's recommendations on their responsibilities.

Members indicated their intention to raise a number of specific issues relating to the Strategic Review later in the meeting with the Acting Chief Constable.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community Engagement Committee Held On 25 June 2009

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 25 June 2009 be approved.

7.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community Engagement Committee Held On 27 August 2009

As the minutes of the 27 August 2009 meeting were not yet available, the Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

7.2.1 Meetings With Representatives From The Republican Community In The Belfast Area – 27 August 2009

7.2.2 Annual District Policing Partnership (DPP) Effectiveness Assessment 2008/09

7.2.3 District Policing Partnership Members' Attendance

**7.2.4 Meeting With Chairs And Vice Chairs Of District Policing Partnerships -
27 August 2009**

7.2.5 Business Plan For Community Engagement

7.2.6 Traveller Children Witnessing Domestic Violence

NOTED.

8. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Director of Corporate Services highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

**8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee
Held On 21 August 2009**

8.1.1 PSNI Efficiency Savings (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

**8.1.2 PSNI Supplemental Financial Bid For August 2009 In Year Monitoring
Round (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)**

**8.1.3 Northern Ireland Policing Board Efficiency Savings (Item 11 Of Minutes
Refers)**

8.1.4 SPED Applications (Items 12 To 15 Of Minutes Refers)

Following discussion on funding for the SPED scheme and on the negative equity situation that some officers had experienced, the Chief Executive advised that written confirmation was awaited concerning the release of funding for housing moves under the SPED scheme. When correspondence was received, this would be brought to the attention of the Resources and Improvement Committee. NOTED.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 21 August 2009.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

As the minutes of the 2 September 2009 Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee meeting were not yet available, the Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

9.1.1 Taylor Reforms

9.1.2 2008/09 PSNI Use Of Force Report

9.1.3 Human Rights Advisors Briefing – Report On Policing Of The Ardoyne Parades – 13 July 2009

NOTED.

10. INFORMATION PAPERS

There were no matters arising.

11. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

12. QUESTIONS FOR THE ACTING CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Chairman welcomed the Acting Chief Constable and other PSNI representatives to the meeting. He also welcomed Chief Superintendent Kirby from Wiltshire Police, who accompanied ACC Jones to the meeting as part of a training programme.

The Chairman advised the A/Chief Constable that Members had a number of specific issues in relation to the Strategic Review Report. During subsequent discussion on the Report, Members emphasised the need for the Board to have input to issues of a strategic nature. Members suggested that time should be dedicated for the Board and the PSNI Command Team to meet to consider the Report in detail. The Acting Chief Constable confirmed that such a discussion would be facilitated on a mutually suitable date.

Members sought information on when the Review Report had been shared with the Northern Ireland Office. The PSNI representatives undertook to advise the Board of the specific date that the Minister of State was briefed. Members were informed that this was subsequent to the briefing given to Members of the Corporate Policing, Planning and Performance Committee on 18 June 2009. ACC Jones stated that he would advise the Board of the precise date as soon as possible.

A Member highlighted recommendation 2 of the Report, which related to funding arrangements and emphasised the need for the Board to be afforded the opportunity to be involved in fulfilling its role.

The meeting discussed correspondence received from the NIO in relation to efficiency savings in 2010/11 and the role of the Board in relation to funding of the PSNI.

The Board sought and received further information in relation to:-

- the circumstances surrounding an illegal roadblock in Meigh, South Armagh and the response of the PSNI to the incident, including the debriefing of the officers involved;

- the current threat level;
- the policing response to a commemoration of the hunger strike in Galbally on 9 August 2009;
- the police investigations into the murders of Sappers Mark Quinsey, Patrick Azimkar and Constable Stephen Carroll;
- the return of material held by the Stevens Inquiry Team to the control of the PSNI;
- the GCHQ dissemination policy on the sharing of intelligence with the RUC.

The Board then moved into public session, and following the Board meeting in public the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting with the Chief Constable was arranged for 1 October 2009 at Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 3:10pm).

Secretariat
September 2009

Chairman