

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Barry Gilligan (Chairman)
Mr Brian Rea (Vice Chairman)
(1) Mr Alex Attwood
(2) Mr Basil McCrea
(3) Mr Alex Maskey
(4) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
Mr Trevor Ringland
Mr Jimmy Spratt

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Adrian Donaldson (Chief Executive)
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
Three Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 – 7
- (2) Part item number 4 to close
- (3) Item number 4 to close
- (4) Item number 4 to part item number 7

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mrs Mary McKee and Mrs Rosaleen Moore.
NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2.1 Minutes Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Meeting Held On 30 July 2009

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

AGREED:

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

2.2 Minutes Of A Special Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Held On 18 August 2009

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

AGREED:

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

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

3.1 Meeting Held On 30 July 2009

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

The Committee considered a paper on a response which had been received from the PSNI on Mr Reber's second report on the outstanding Patten recommendations which had been provided to the Board in June 2009.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board's response to the PSNI should be based on the information contained in the paper.

Members noted that a paper would be provided for consideration at the October 2009

Committee meeting regarding the proposed approach for reporting on the outstanding Patten recommendations in 2010. NOTED.

3.1.2 Home Office Consultation Proposals For A New Retention Policy In Respect Of DNA “Keeping the Right People on the DNA Database) (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a letter which had been received from ACC Criminal Justice dated 25 August 2009 regarding a Home Office Consultation on Government proposals in respect of DNA samples/profiles and fingerprints which had been previously considered by the Board. NOTED.

3.2 Meeting Held On 18 August 2009

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS

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

4.1 Engagements

- Dinner with Brigadier Norton – 25 August 2009;
- Opening of the Michaelmas Sittings – 7 September 2009;
- Dinner in Honour of The Hon Louis B Susman (US Ambassador to the UK) – 14 September 2009;
- Meeting with the Minister of State and A/Chief Constable – 15 September 2009;
- Vision Conversation with PSNI Students – 17 September 2009.

4.2 Publications

There were no matters arising.

4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman referred Members to the following correspondence:

- Letter from ACC Criminal Justice dated 24 August regarding vetting of contractors.

In response to a query, Officials undertook to provide the Members concerned with a copy of the Crown Solicitor's advice which was referred to in the ACC's letter.

The Director of Policy undertook to raise further concerns expressed by Members with the Crown Solicitor.

- Letter from Chief Executive of Ombudsman's Office dated 21 August 2009 concerning a complaint which had been made against the administration of the police complaints process by the Senior Investigating Officer in the murder investigation of Mr Sean Brown;

Any Member wishing to receive a copy of the cover letter was asked to contact Secretariat. The accompanying report was marked "Private and Confidential" and cannot be circulated.

- Letter from Police Ombudsman dated 3 September 2009 which provided a report on policing recommendations for the PSNI following the Omagh Bomb Trial.

Any Member wishing to receive a copy of the report was asked to contact Secretariat.

The Committee noted that the Chairman had written to the A/Chief Constable seeking a response to the report and a response was awaited. The report would be considered further by the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee. NOTED.

A Member referred to information which the PSNI had provided to the Public Affairs Committee in July 2009 and suggested that a special Committee of the Board should be set up to receive such information. The Chairman undertook to explore the sharing of information with the Board with ACC Crime Operations.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Chief Constable – Annual Performance Review

The Committee considered a confidential paper, tabled at the meeting, in relation to the former Chief Constable's Performance and Development Review 2008 - 2009.

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

5.2 Chief Constable - Relocation

The Committee considered a confidential paper, tabled at the meeting, in relation to a relocation package for the new Chief Constable.

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

5.3 Car Parking – Members

The Committee considered a paper in relation to the method to be used for allocating car parking spaces at Waterside Tower to Members for Board meetings.

After discussion It was:-

RESOLVED:

To maintain the current car parking arrangements.

5.4 Conferences/Seminars

The Chief Executive highlighted the following conferences:-

- Children's Law Centre Conference – Belfast – 21 October 2009.
- PSNI Offender Management Conference – Ballymena – 21 October 2009.
- Road Safety Expo 09 – London – 12 November 2009.

NOTED.

6. CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION NORTHERN IRELAND (CJINI) FOLLOW UP REPORT ON HANDLING VOLUME CRIME AND POLICE BAIL

The Committee considered the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) follow up report on handling volume crime and police bail. This report contained CJINI's assessment of the progress in implementing the 10 recommendations which were contained in the original report which had been published in 2006.

The Committee noted that 3 of the original recommendations in respect of handling volume crime had been assessed as not achieved by CJINI together with 1 recommendation in relation to Police Bail.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

- to request a written report from the PSNI seeking comments on the 4 recommendations which have been assessed as not having been achieved;
- to invite representatives from the PSNI to brief the Committee on the 4 outstanding recommendations which had not been achieved and also invite the CJINI representatives to this briefing.

7. NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD'S STATISTICAL AND RESEARCH STRATEGY 2009 – 2013

The Committee considered a paper regarding the Northern Ireland Policing Board's Statistical and Research Strategy for 2009 – 2013.

Officials reminded the Committee that when the strategy had been presented to the Committee for approval in May 2009, Members had recommended that a Sub-Committee should be set up to consider it.

The Sub-Committee had met in June 2009 and proposed having 1 Omnibus Survey each year (of approximately 30 questions) and using the 2010 DPP Public Consultation Survey to collect information at a local (PSNI Neighbourhood) level.

On further reflection, Officials proposed continuing with two Omnibus Surveys each year, as at present, but reducing the number of questions by half, to approximately 15 questions per survey. (The savings accrued from this reduction contributed to the £500,000 efficiency savings requested by the NIO.)

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That a meeting of the Sub-Committee should be arranged to consider the proposed Statistical and Research Strategy further and report back to the Committee.

8. FINDINGS FROM THE 2008/2009 PSNI/NIPB QUALITY OF SERVICE SURVEY

The Committee considered a paper regarding the findings from the 2008/2009 PSNI/Policing Board Quality of Service Survey.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the report on the findings from the 2008/2009 PSNI/Policing Board Quality of Service Survey should be published on the Board's website.

The Committee noted that the report would also be placed on the PSNI's website.

NOTED.

9. INFORMATION PAPERS

The Committee considered the following information papers:-

- 9.1 Briefing Paper On The Police Accountability Review.**
- 9.2 Briefing Paper On The Strategy For Tackling Serious Organised Crime.**
- 9.3 Criminal Justice Inspector Northern Ireland (CJINI) Report On Police Custody**
- 9.4 Update On PSNI Performance Against Part 3 Of The Policing Plan 2009 – 2013**
- 9.5 Letter From Assistant Chief Constable, Criminal Justice, regarding Public Protection Arrangement NI**
- 9.6 Letter From British Irish Rights Watch Regarding Board's response To Issues Raised**
- 9.7 Core Project – Update on PSNI Performance Agreement Part 3 of the Policing Plan 2009 – 2012.**

NOTED.

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

There were no matters arising.

11. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Appointment of New Chief Constable

The Committee noted that Mr Matt Baggott would take up the appointment of PSNI Chief Constable on Tuesday, 22 September 2009 and would meet with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman on this date. NOTED.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 15 October 2009 at 2:00pm. Members noted that the Minister of State was scheduled to attend the meeting along with other Members of the Organised Crime Task Force to brief the Board on its work. NOTED.

(Meeting closed at 3.55pm).

Secretariat

September 2009

Chairman

Record No: 119928