

## **IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2007 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

- Mr Barry Gilligan (Chairman)
- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Vice-Chairman)
- (1) Mr Fred Cobain
- Mr Brendan Duddy
- Ms Deirdre Mac Bride
- Ms Dolores Kelly
- Mr Ian Paisley Jnr

#### **POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (2) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice)
- (2) Superintendent, Community Safety Branch
- (2) Inspector, Community Safety Branch

#### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (CJINI)**

- (3) One representative

#### **NIO COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT**

- (3) 2 representatives

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dr Debbie Donnelly, Deputy Chief Executive  
Mr David Jackson, Director of Community  
Engagement  
5 Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 – 5 and item 18
- (2) Item number 18
- (3) Item numbers 13 & 14

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Ms Foster, Mrs McCabe and Ms Purvis.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2006**

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee held on 14 December 2006 be agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2006**

**3.1 Community Engagement Strategy Initial KPIs (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee noted a paper detailing timings of DPP meetings in public.

It was:

**AGREED:**

To write to DPPs with regard to Age Concern's feedback to the Policing Board that DPPs should consider holding some meetings in public during the day to facilitate older people attending.

**3.2 Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission – Entering Places Of Detention (Item 4.4 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that Board officials would meet the NIHRC on 29 January 2007. NOTED.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the Service Monitoring Manager would update Members on the NIHRC meeting at the next Committee meeting.

**3.3 District Policing Partnership (DPP) Member's Attendance - Newtownabbey**  
(Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a letter had been issued to the DPP advising that the matter would be kept under review.

**3.4 Latest Best Estimates Of Expenditure For District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) For The Year 2006/07** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that Members would be updated at the February meeting following the submission of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter claims from Councils at end of January 2007.  
NOTED.

**3.5 CJINI Inspection Of Community Safety Partnerships And Update On Implementation Of Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Board And Community Safety Unit** (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a letter had been issued to Minister Hanson regarding the Community Safety Strategy for older persons. Members were also advised that there would be a presentation at agenda items 13 and 14, by CJINI. NOTED.

**3.6 Regulation 20 Reports** (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the Board is awaiting a reply from PSNI regarding a query from Members in relation to Regulation 20 reports on CS Spray. NOTED.

### **3.7 Information Papers (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that an invitation was issued to Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) to arrange a briefing session with Members to discuss developments around the Bill of Rights. NOTED.

## **4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman advised the Committee on the following meetings which he had attended in his role as Committee Chairman.

### **4.1 Possible Reconstitution of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)**

The Chairman advised the Committee of the financial burden that the possible reconstitution of DPPs would have on District Councils. Members were advised that officials have written to the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) seeking early views for consideration on 3 options and how the costs could be incurred.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That a copy of the Board's letter to the NIO be made available to Committee Members.

### **4.2 Future Events For Members**

The Committee was advised of various events taking place within the next few months at which they are invited to attend.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- that the Committee Members would receive a paper detailing future events;
- Committee Members would receive a paper summarising Custody Visitor events.

**4.3 Assets Recovery Agency (ARA)**

Members agreed that a question be put to the Chief Constable at the next Board Meeting regarding the closure of the Assets Recovery Agency.

**5. IMPACT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW 2007 ON DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS BUDGETS**

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with initial information on the possible impact the CSR07 would have on the resources available to DPPs.

NOTED.

**6. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) EFFECTIVENESS – KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

The Committee considered a paper which informed Members of the initial work undertaken as part of the Board's internal audit programme in developing qualitative and value for money KPIs for DPPs.

Members were asked to reflect to the Audit and Risk Management Committee that further work is required in developing the enhanced KPIs for DPPs.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the Committee take forward the work as part of the workshop arranged for Members in February 2007.

It was also:-

**AGREED:**

To provide Members with a breakdown of costs for consultants used by the Board over the last 12 months.

**7. UPDATE ON CONSULTATION FOR FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS**

The Committee considered a paper which updated Members on the consultation for the future arrangements for DPPs. NOTED.

**8. DRAFT POLICING (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2007**

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members views on the Draft Policing (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 2007.

Members were advised that the consultation period had been launched by the NIO and will run from 4 December 2006 until 22 January 2007.

Following discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

- that officials would liaise with the Assembly regarding the “Hansard” debate on the Miscellaneous Provisions Order which took place on Monday, 8 January 2007;
- a paper would be presented to the Board’s Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee at its next meeting;
- a question would be put to the Chief Constable on the rationale for these proposed police powers at the February 2007 Board meeting.

**9. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BOARD’S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of progress made in implementing the Community Engagement Strategy. NOTED.

**10. BOARD SUPPORT FOR POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY AWARDS 2007**

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members if they wished to provide financial support and to participate in the judging of the ‘Policing with the Community’ awards for 2007.

It was:-

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the Board endorse the PSNI proposal for £15,000 to support the ‘Policing with the Community’ awards and £2,000 to sponsor a specific Community Police Officer of the Year award.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

To discuss with PSNI, Members involvement in the selection process.

**11. OPTION FOR BOARD TO SUPPORT PSNI IN “RAID CONTROL” CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVE**

The Committee considered a paper which informed Members of the development of a new crime prevention initiative called ‘Raid Control’. One Member was opposed to this initiative.

It was:-

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the Board support the ‘Raid Control’ initiative with a financial contribution of up to £10,000.

**12. REMOVAL OF A CUSTODY VISITOR FROM THE SCHEME**

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members approval for a proposal to remove a volunteer from the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- that a letter would be sent to the volunteer detailing the 2 stage process and the reason for their removal;
- that the Service Monitoring Manager would identify 2 independent Board Members to apply the policy.

### **13. PRESENTATION – CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTORATE NORTHERN IRELAND (CJINI)**

The Chairman welcomed a representative from CJINI to the meeting.

The Committee was given a short overview on the recommendations from the CJINI inspection report of Community Safety Partnerships as it relates to DPPs. Members noted the recommendations by CJINI that a combined DPP/CSP structure should be explored. Immediately following the overview, a presentation was given by the Community Safety Unit.

### **14. PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY**

Community Safety Unit Officials gave a presentation on the Community Safety draft Strategy due to be issued for consultation and regional initiatives undertaken by the CSU.

Members were briefed on the revised Community Safety Strategy and the 4 proposed key issues, to be addressed in the Strategy.

- reducing crime and anti social behaviour;
- creating safer neighbourhood;
- creating positive opportunities;
- building strong, confident communities.

Members were also updated on a range of ongoing regional and pilot initiatives that CSU were taking forward.

Members were further advised that the 'Older Person's' strategy would be issued for consultation soon.

Following both presentations Members had an opportunity to discuss the presentation and had a particular interest in views on future DPP /CSP structures.

Members raised various questions and concerns. A copy of the slides is attached at Appendix 'A'.

## **15. INFORMATION PAPERS**

The Committee considered a paper which informed Members of current information papers and publications. NOTED.

## **16. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That two questions be put to the Chief Constable at the February 2007 Board meeting regarding

- The Miscellaneous Provisions Order, and
- The closure of the Assets Recovery Agency

## **17. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

There was no matters arising.

## **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **18.1 Presentation – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transsexual (LGBT) – Policing With The Community**

The Chairman welcomed ACC Harris, Criminal Justice Department and a Superintendent and Inspector from the Community Safety Branch.

The presentation began with a definition of hate incidents and was followed by statistics which showed the number of incidents and crimes.

The Superintendent spoke on various initiatives which are in place for the LGBT community and spoke briefly on the support organisations such as, Coalition on Sexual Orientation (COSO), Rainbow Project, NI Gay Rights etc.

Following the presentation, Members raised various questions and views on this matter. The views expressed were very positive and the main questions were:-

- convictions re hate crimes;
- convictions against members of the LGBT community i.e. cottaging.

Following the presentation, it was:-

**AGREED:**

- that officials would write to PSNI for details of penalties in respect of convictions against hate crime;
- a presentation on hate crime would be given to the Board at a later date.

**19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 8 February 2007 in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed at 12:45pm).

**Secretariat**  
**January 2007**

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**Chairman**