

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Mr Alex Maskey (Chairperson)  
Mr Tom Buchanan  
Mr Leslie Cree  
Ms Mary McKee  
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára  
Mr Ian Paisley Jnr  
Mr David Rose  
Mr Peter Weir

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

(1) Mr Matt Baggott (Chief Constable)  
(1) Mr Will Kerr (ACC Criminal Justice)  
(1) 2 PSNI Officials

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

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

#### **(1) Item number 5 only**

#### **1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Brian Rea and Mr Suneil Sharma. NOTED.

#### **2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2009**

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That the draft minutes of the Community Engagement meeting held on 22  
October 2009 be approved.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2009**

**3.1 District Policing Partnership Members' Attendance** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that this case will be reviewed again in January 2010.  
NOTED.

**3.2 Belfast District Policing Partnership Effectiveness Assessment For Years 2008/09** (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Principal Belfast District Policing Partnership (DPP) and each of the four sub-groups will be invited to an informal meeting with Members of the Committee at the January 2010 meeting.  
NOTED.

**3.3 Communities And Policing Through Justice And Policing (CAPT)** (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

**4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

The Chairperson highlighted the following engagements which he had undertaken on behalf of the Committee:-

**4.1 District Policing Partnership (DPP) Conference – Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle – 17 November 2009.**

**4.2 Committee on the Administration of Justice Conference (CAJ) – 18 and 19 November 2009.**

NOTED.

## **5. POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Constable, ACC Kerr and his colleagues to the meeting.

The Chief Constable briefed the Committee on his plans for the delivery of Policing with the Community. This is based on a 2 staged phased approach.

The first stage is to address improved delivery of service in policing. This will deal with issues such as visibility of police officers and delivery of effective frontline policing, how PSNI respond to calls from the public and how officers provide feedback to victims of crime.

The second stage is more long term and seeks to address the wider issue of organisational cultural change. This is directly linked to the nature of leadership, and the value attached to the role of front line officers.

The Chief Constable is establishing 2 Programme Boards to take forward the implementation plan which will be carried by ACC Will Kerr.

The Committee has agreed with the Chief Constable to park the PWC Strategy document at this point and move to deliver the initial implementation plan as set out by the Chief Constable and ACC Kerr at the meeting.

The Committee also requested PSNI to provide a further update to the January 2010 Committee on the Policing with the Community implementation plan.

The Committee thanked the Chief Constable and his colleagues for their presentation and they left the meeting.

## **6. PARTICIPATION BY A DPP MEMBER IN THE NATIONAL HUNGER STRIKE COMMEMORATIVE EVENT AT GALBALLY, CO TYRONE – AUGUST 2009**

The Committee considered a paper which provided the circumstances surrounding the participation by a DPP member in the National Hunger Strike Commemorative Event. The Committee noted correspondence between Board officials and the Crown Solicitor's Office.

The Committee were asked if in light of the Crown Solicitors advice they considered that the Members action constituted a breach of the Declaration against Terrorism.

The Committee accepted the advice of the Crown Solicitor's Office; however three Members, Mr Peter Weir, Mr Tom Buchanan and Mr Leslie Cree wished to record their dissent with advice provided by the Crown Solicitor.

## **7. INFORMATION PAPERS**

### **7.1 Granting of an Interim Receiving Order by SOCA in relation to an Independent Member of a DPP**

### **7.2 Community Engagement Update**

### **7.3 Issues to be considered in relation to a Thematic Review on Race Hate Crime**

### **7.4 PSNI Response to the "Through our Eyes" Report by the Rainbow Project**

### **7.5 Reference Groups Key Issues for Policing Plan**

### **7.6 Record of action taken in relation to Issues raised by Reference Groups**

The Committee noted the Information Papers.

At item 7.1 in response to a Members request, officials provided further information on the process to be followed when considering a DPP Member's removal from office.

The Committee agreed to review this case when the outcome of the SOCA investigation was known.

A Member raised the issue of establishing an Irish Language Reference Group.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the Director of Community Engagement would consider the practicalities of this and report back to the Committee.

**8. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That officials would draft questions on the following:-

- Policing with the Community;
- The Call Handling System.

## **9. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

- That the Chief Constable's meeting with the Committee to update Members on the Policing with the Community Strategy should be highlighted.
- A summary of the discussion with the Chief Constable, regarding Policing with the Community, should be circulated to the other Committees.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **10.1 "Thin End of the Wedge" – Request to Northern Ireland Policing Board for Gap Funding**

The Committee considered details of a proposed project entitled "Thin End of the Wedge", and were asked if they wished to support this project financially.

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

- That the Board would support this project by contributing £5k.
- That Officials would bring forward proposals for a framework for supporting future projects.

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 28 January 2010 at 5:00pm, Waterside Tower, Belfast.

Meeting closed (3:45pm).

**Secretariat**  
**November 2009**

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**Chairperson**