

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2010 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Dominic Bradley (Chairperson)
Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Vice Chairperson)

- (1) Mr Jonathan Bell
- Mr Leslie Cree
- Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
- Mr Trevor Ringland

- (2) Mr Alastair Ross

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (3) Mr David Best, Director of Finance & Support Services

- (3) Chief Superintendent Alan Todd

- (3) Superintendent John McCaughan, Command Secretariat

- (3) One PSNI Representative

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Adrian Donaldson, Chief Executive
Mr Sam Hagen, Director of Corporate Services
Mr David Wilson, Director of Planning
3 Board Officials

- (1) Part item number 5 only
- (2) Item numbers 4 – 11
- (3) Item number 5 only

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mrs Rosaleen Moore. NOTED.

No conflicts of interest arising from the agenda were declared by Members.

2. MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2010

The Committee considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 October 2010.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 15 October 2010 be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2010

3.1 Updated Station Review List – 2008 PSNI Estate Strategy (Item 3.1 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that feedback from District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) and PSNI regarding station reviews would be brought to the December 2010 meeting.

3.2 Station Review – Crumlin Police Station (Item 5 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

3.3 PSNI Finance Report On Expenditure For September 2010 (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the subject of Armed Civilian Guards would be discussed at a future Resource and Improvement Committee meeting. NOTED.

3.4 Call Management (Item 9 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a copy of the PSNI report on the Mystery Shopper Initiative would follow. NOTED.

3.5 Northern Ireland Policing Board Accounts To September 2010 (Item 10 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

3.6 Assisted Removals (PSNI) (Item 11 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

3.7 Questions for the Chief Constable (Item 13 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Assembly Question – Displaced Police Officers Who Are In Negative Equity

The Committee noted the response to an Assembly Question regarding Displaced Police Officers who are in negative equity. NOTED.

4.2 Transfer of Military Bases to the Northern Ireland Executive

The Committee considered a letter received from the Department of Justice.

The Chairperson of the Committee advised that there appeared to be no movement on this.

4.3 Attendance at PSNI Estates Steering Committee

The Chairperson briefed the Committee on his and the Director of Planning attendance at the PSNI Estates Steering Committee meeting held on 21 October 2010.

The Committee was advised on:-

- The large number of requests for additional security work on PSNI sites due to the dissident threat and impact on the PSNI budget;
- The proposed conversion of Larne Custody Suite as a short term holding centre for immigration detainees;
- The conversion of Newtownards Custody Suite to house detainees held under the new Serious and Organised Crime Police Act;
- That PSNI have confirmed that there will be a Refresh Estate Strategy brought to the Resources and Improvement Committee in early 2011.

5. PSNI FINANCE

5.1 Budget 2010 Ring Fencing Of PSNI Budget

The Chairperson welcomed Mr David Best, Chief Superintendent Alan Todd, Superintendent John McCaughan and his colleagues to the meeting.

The Committee considered a letter from the Department of Justice (DOJ) to the Deputy Chief Constable regarding the DOJ budget for 2010 under a ring fenced scenario. The letter set out what a projected Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) resource and capital budget could potentially be in a ring fenced scenario.

The Committee discussed the implication of the proposed budget with the PSNI Director of Finance and Support Services. The DOJ have invited PSNI to meet with them and discuss.

It was:

AGREED:

That following this meeting with DoJ the Chief Constable would update the Board at the December Board meeting and PSNI would report back to the Resource and Improvement Committee on details once they were established.

5.2 Report on Expenditure for October 2010

Mr Best briefed the Committee on PSNI expenditure.

The Committee noted details of the various PSNI financial issues.

	Actual £k	Budget £k	Variance £k
Staff Costs	314,982	322,231	7,249
Non Staff Costs	84,514	91,627	7,113
Historical Enquiries Team	3,112	3,473	361
Receipts	(4,482)	(3,663)	819
Cash Payment of Provisions	54,551	51,583	(2,968)
Depreciation & Impairment	18,009	17,855	(154)
DEL Pensions	6,064	8,964	2,900
Hearing Loss & Equal Pay Provision	19,189	0	(19,189)

Members discussed at length the issue of police overtime with the PSNI representatives and the impact the terrorist threat had on the overtime budget.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That PSNI would provide the Committee with a breakdown of overtime costs split into categories of overtime relating to dealing with the terrorist threat and overtime relating to regular police functions;
- That a press release would be issued around recent media coverage of the PSNI overtime.

5.3 Submission for the December 2010 In-Year Monitoring Round

The Committee considered the PSNI submission for the December 2010 Monitoring Round. It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the PSNI submission.

6. NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD ACCOUNTS

6.1 Accounts to October 2010

The Committee noted the detail content in the Board's Accounts to October 2010.

6.2 December Monitoring Round Submission

The Committee considered a paper which provided details in relation to the Board's submission for the December 2010 Monitoring Round.

On the issue of Capital Expenditure, the Committee discussed the £1.9m pressure due to additional security measures at Waterside Tower.

Various options were discussed to deal with this pressure, including:-

- Moving to a vacant property within the PSNI estate;
- Moving to within the Stormont estate;
- Sub-letting all or part of Waterside Tower.

During the discussion, Professor Sir Desmond Rea declared an interest in the owners of the building "Prentice Estates".

Following discussion, it was:-

Record No: 150027

AGREED:

That the Chief Executive would meet with the PSNI to discuss:-

- The security of the building;
- Possibility of using police estate.

7. INFORMATION PAPERS

The Committee noted the following information papers.

7.1 PSNI IS Strategy Monitoring Information

NOTED.

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

There were no matters arising.

9. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

It was:-

AGREED:

That a news release would be issued regarding PSNI and Board responses to media coverage of PSNI overtime.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee was arranged for Friday, 10 December at 10.00am.

(Meeting closed at 11:30am).

Secretariat
November 2010

Chairperson