

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2011 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mr Gearóid Ó hEára (Chairman)
- (1) Mr Brian Rea (Vice Chairman)
- (2) Mr Dominic Bradley
- (3) Mr Alex Maskey
- (4) Mr Basil McCrea
- (1) Mr Ian McCrea
- Mr Daithí McKay
- (5) Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- Professor Sir Desmond Rea
- (3) Mr Trevor Ringland

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

- (1) **Item number 3.2 to close**
- (2) **Item numbers 3.2 to 5 and 9**
- (3) **Item number 3.4 to close**
- (4) **Item number 4.2 to close**
- (5) **Item numbers 1 to part item 8 and 9**

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Barry Gilligan, Ms Mary McKee and Mr Jimmy Spratt. NOTED.

The Chairman asked Members to declare any conflicts of interest arising from the agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2010

It was:-

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meetings held on 16 December 2010 be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2010

3.1 Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised that replies were awaited from the Minister of Justice in response to the enquiries raised by the Committee at the November 2010 meeting. NOTED.

3.2 Working Lunch With District Commanders (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised that a written reply had been received from the Chief Constable regarding clarification of his comments at the lunch with District Commanders on 14 October 2010. The letter from the Chief Constable was considered at item 4.3.2.

3.3 Selection Criteria For PSNI Chief Officer Appointments (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Acting Chief Executive informed the Committee that Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) had been invited to attend the meeting to present his findings in relation to the selection criteria for PSNI Chief Officer appointments. The Committee was advised that HMIC was not currently in a position to report and was finalising his research. It was anticipated by officials that he would be in a position to attend the February 2011 Committee meeting. NOTED.

A Member referred to previous attempts by the Board to encourage the Department of Justice in the Republic of Ireland to open appointments to chief officer posts in An Garda Siochana to officers from PSNI and following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That the Board should write to the Minister of Justice to raise the issue of reciprocation in respect of senior appointments to PSNI and An Garda Siochana.

The Chairman of the Committee advised that requests had been received from 2 PSNI Chief Officers asking that the amount of time required to give notice of retirement be reduced from 3 months to 2 months and that their requests had been acceded to.
NOTED.

3.4 Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised that the invitation to HMIC to meet with the Committee to discuss the working relationship with CJINI had been deferred.

It was:-

AGREED:

That HMIC and the Chief Inspector of CJINI should be invited to meet with the Committee in February 2011 to discuss their planned inspection programmes and the relationship between the two inspection bodies with regard to PSNI inspections.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

There were no matters arising.

4.2 Correspondence

The Chairman of the Committee advised that the following correspondence had been received by the Board:-

- Letter from the Deputy Chief Constable dated 21 December 2010 regarding the secondment of ACC Urban Region to NPIA from 26 January – 13 April 2011.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials should write to the PSNI reiterating the Board's policy regarding the secondment of PSNI officers.

4.3 Leadership Group

The Chairman of the Committee referred Members to the following papers considered by the Board's Leadership Group:-

4.3.1 Meeting Between Board Members And PSNI Chief Officers – 17 November 2010

The Chairman of the Committee referred Members to a note that he had prepared which outlined the main points arising from a meeting between Board Members and PSNI Top Team held on 17 November 2010. NOTED.

The Chairman of the Committee advised that he and the A/Chairman of the Board had met with the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable on 14 January 2010 to discuss the arrangement of another meeting between Members and PSNI Top Team, to consider issues of contention and to discuss working relationships. During the discussion the Chief Constable had expressed concern that details given to the Board in confidence had found their way into the media.

4.3.2 Correspondence From The Chief Constable

The Committee considered a letter dated 23 December 2010 from the Chief Constable which outlined a number of issues which PSNI sought the support of the Board in pursuing. The Committee discussed the content of the letter.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That officials should prepare a paper setting out the main issues raised in the Chief Constable's letter, as the basis for an agenda for a future meeting between Members and PSNI Top Team;
- That the Audit and Risk Management Committee should consider the issue of the confidentiality of Board documentation;
- That officials should arrange a meeting with PSNI to discuss an agreed approach in relation to human rights.

4.3.3 Correspondence From The Chief Constable – Independent Assessment Report

The Committee considered a letter dated 29 November 2010 from the Chief Constable to the A/Chairman of the Board in relation to the Independent Assessment Report.
NOTED.

The Chairman of the Committee reminded Members that there was now a requirement to establish an appointment panel to take forward the award of a contract for a Board Change Manager. The Leadership Group had proposed that the Panel should comprise 3, 5 or 7 Board Members.

The Chairman informed Members that in order to meet contract deadlines, Panel Members were required to sign initial documentation on 20 January 2011, and sought an indication from the Committee on the appropriate number for the Panel. He suggested that the panel comprise 3 Members - the A/Chairman of the Board, the A/Vice Chairman of the Board and 1 independent Member (Mrs Moore).

The DUP representative indicated that his party would require further time to consider the number and membership of the Appointment Panel.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

6. DRAFT 2011 – 2014 POLICING PLAN

The Committee considered a further draft of the 2011/2014 Policing Plan. Officials identified a number of issues in relation to performance indicators 1, 4, 6, 7 and 8.

Discussion focused on the setting of specific numeric targets for reduction in a number of crime categories and increases in detection rates.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials should convey the Committee's views to PSNI and that a final draft of the Policing Plan be brought to the Committee at its next meeting.

During discussion, Members referred to the circumstances that had resulted in the cancellation of the joint Policing Plan Strategy Event. The Committee suggested that it would be beneficial that this event takes place in respect of future plans.

The Committee discussed the need for the Board to monitor future composition of PSNI, to ascertain if this remained representative of the community, following the conclusion of the recruitment recommendations in the report of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland (the Patten Report) and the current freeze on recruitment. Officials advised that Part 3 of the Plan would include reference to the PSNI Equality and Diversity Strategy and that the Chairman's Foreword to the Policing Plan could also include reference to the Equality and Diversity Strategy.

7. DRAFT 2011 – 2014 NIPB CORPORATE PLAN

The Committee considered a first draft of the 2011 – 2014 NIPB Corporate Plan. Officials reminded Members that at the Committee meeting in December 2010, it had been agreed to reduce the number of performance indicators to between 12 and 15. Officials commented on the performance indicators that had been drafted. The Committee discussed the draft and made a number of suggestions.

Officials undertook to bring a revised draft to the next meeting of the Committee.

8. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REPORT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Committee considered a paper containing the Independent Assessment Report Implementation Plan and a draft Board response to the Independent Assessment Report.

It was:-

AGREED:

To defer consideration of the Independent Assessment Report Implementation Plan and Board response to the next meeting of the Committee.

Members discussed the publication of the Independent Assessment Report on the Board's website. A number of Members supported the view that the report should now be published on the website and a number of Members indicated that while they were in favour of publication that this was not the appropriate time to do so. A Member referred to the Committee's decision to obtain legal advice before publication of the report and highlighted that the requested legal advice had not yet been received or considered.

It was:-

AGREED:

To defer consideration of publication of the report until the next Committee meeting.

9. BUDGET 2010

The Committee considered a paper containing details of the information and decisions taken by the Leadership Group and Resources and Improvement Committee in relation to the Budget 2010 figures received from the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The Committee considered a letter from DOJ which gave details of draft figures covering the 4 financial years from 2011/12 to 2014/15.

The Chairperson of the Resources and Improvement Committee outlined:-

- The Departmental requests for year on year cuts in each of the budget 2010 years, totalling £1,625,000;
- The 3 generic spending areas of the Board's budget;
- The main uncertainties in relation to forecasting DPP budgets across the period;
- The various elements considered by the Committee in relation to staffing budgets;

- The potential options in relation to non staff costs and the need for decisions to be made quickly to meet Departmental deadlines.

Members discussed:-

- Whether the Assembly/DOJ should take responsibility for the funding of researchers for political Board Members, currently funded by the Board;
- The future funding of District Policing Partnership/Community Safety Partnership allowances and the cost of the DPP reconstitution exercise;
- Members' access to the Board's Full Management Accounts

It was:-

AGREED:

- To accept the Departmental request that the following year on year cuts in each of the Budget 2010 years be as follows:-

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total £
Savings to deliver	445,000	667,000	137,000	376,000	1,625,000

- That officials should raise the issue of funding of Board Members Research Allowance with the DOJ/NI Assembly;
- That the Full Management Accounts should be circulated to the Resources and Improvement Committee. The Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee will also receive copies of the Management Accounts when funding decisions are to be made by the Committee.

10. INFORMATION PAPERS

There were no matters arising.

Record No: 154151

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

There were no matters arising.

12. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Committee meeting was arranged for Thursday, 17 February 2011 at 2:00pm.

(Meeting closed at 4:55pm).

Secretariat

January 2011

Chairman