

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2011 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mr Gearóid Ó hEára (Chairman)
- (1) Mr Brian Rea (Vice Chairman)
- Mr Alex Maskey
- (2) Mr Basil McCrea
- (3) Mr Ian McCrea
- (4) Ms Mary McKee
- (4) Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- Professor Sir Desmond Rea
- Mr Jimmy Spratt

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Dr Debbie Donnelly (Acting Chief Executive)
- Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
- Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- (1) Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- Five Board Officials

- (1) Item number 3.1 to close
- (2) Part item number 5.2 to close
- (3) Part item number 3.4 to part item 13
- (4) Item number 1 to part item 7

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Barry Gilligan, Mr Dominic Bradley, Mr Daithí McKay and Mr Trevor Ringland. 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 20 JANUARY 2011

It was:-

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meetings held on 20 January 2011 be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2011

3.1 CJINI – Responsibility For Fine Enforcement (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a letter dated 26 January 2011 from the Minister of Justice to the Acting Chairman of the Board in relation to the responsibility for fine enforcement in Northern Ireland. The correspondence was in response to matters raised by the Board in November 2010, following a report by Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI).

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board should write again to the Minister raising a number of issues not addressed in the Minister's response and indicating that the Board would seek a further update on progress in April/May 2011 following the convening of a multi agency workshop.

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

The Acting Chief Executive advised the Committee that a report was awaited from Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) in relation to the selection criteria for PSNI Chief Officer Appointments. HMIC had indicated that he was not available to attend the March 2011 meeting of the Committee to discuss his report. NOTED.

3.3 Working Relationship Between CJINI/HMIC (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

Due to the unavailability of HMIC, the meeting with CJINI and HMIC to discuss working relationships had been deferred. NOTED.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials should endeavour to arrange a mutually suitable date for the Committee to meet with the Chief Inspector of CJINI and HMIC.

3.4 Correspondence From The Chief Constable (Item 4.3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised that the Leadership Group had considered a paper which set out the main issues raised in the Chief Constable's letter as a basis for an agenda for a future, informal meeting on 8 March 2011 between PSNI Top Team and Members. The Leadership Group had also considered that it would be useful to have discussions with the Department of Justice on an informal basis. The Chairman of the Committee referred Members to a meeting that he and the Acting Chairman of the Board had held with the Chief Constable on 16 February 2011, at which suggestions for a roundup meeting with PSNI was discussed.

The Chairman suggested, that with the Board being in operation for 10 years and the devolution of policing and justice, there was a need to review relationships between the Board and the other elements of the tripartite structure.

Members discussed:-

- The agenda for the forthcoming meeting with the Top Team;
- The role of the Board in holding the Chief Constable to account and being supportive of police action that is effective, efficient and impartial;
- The working relationships between the Minister of Justice/the Assembly Committee and the Board;
- The role of independent Members of the Board;
- Leadership of the Board and use of staffing resources;
- The need for the Board to consider the legacy it wished to leave to the incoming Board;
- Tensions between the Board and Top Team when their views on specific issues differ;
- The need to improve the Board's working relationship and understanding of the role of the Justice Committee;
- The requirement for debate about funding for "arms lengths bodies", including the Board.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That the issues for discussions highlighted by the Chief Constable should form the basis for the agenda on 8 March 2011, but a number of other issues raised by the Leadership Group/Committee should be added to the agenda;
- That a series of meetings between Members and the Minister, PSNI, OPONI and the Justice Committee should be arranged.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

There were no matters arising.

4.2 Correspondence

There were no matters arising.

4.3 Leadership Group

The Chairman advised that the issues considered by the Leadership Group at its meeting on 10 February 2011 had been outlined at item 3.4.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 PSNI Chief Officer – Confidential Item

The Committee discussed a confidential item, relating to a former PSNI Chief Officer. A confidential note on this matter is attached at Appendix 'A'.

5.2 PSNI Chief Officer – Confidential Item

The Committee discussed a confidential item relating to a PSNI Chief Officer. A confidential note on this matter is attached at Appendix 'A'.

6. MINISTER OF JUSTICE'S DRAFT LONG TERM OBJECTIVES FOR POLICING

The Committee considered a paper which included revised draft long term objectives for policing received from the Minister of Justice.

Officials reminded Members that the Board had been consulted prior to the consultation exercise and at the December 2010 Committee meeting, Members had suggested revisions to draft objective 5. The revised objectives included amendments to draft objective 5. The Committee considered the revised wording.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a response should be sent to the Minister indicating the Board's acceptance of the objectives.

7. FINAL DRAFT 2011 – 2014 POLICING PLAN

The Committee considered a final draft of the 2011 - 2014 Policing Plan, together with statistical background information on suggested numeric targets to be included in the Plan.

The Chairman informed the Committee that he and Board officials had met with the Chief Constable and PSNI representatives to discuss the draft Policing Plan. The meeting had considered each individual target. Subsequent to this discussion, the draft Plan being put to the Committee focused on increasing clearance rates and decreasing the number of crimes. The Chairman indicated that the targets suggested were reasonable and achievable.

Members discussed the role of the Board in holding the Chief Constable to account for meeting the Policing Plan and the need for narrative to assist the public in understanding the rationale for the targets set.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the final draft of the 2011 – 2014 Policing Plan, subject to the amendments discussed at the meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That the final draft should be sent to the Minister of Justice for his comments;
- That the Committee Chairman should be given delegated authority to sign off on the Policing Plan to enable its launch on 24 March 2011.

8. SECOND DRAFT 2011 – 2014 NIPB CORPORATE PLAN

The Committee considered a paper containing a second draft of the 2011 – 2014 Policing Board Corporate Plan.

Officials highlighted the rewording of a number of performance indicators and indicated that targets would now be included in the Corporate Business Plan. Officials also advised that the draft Corporate Plan would be circulated to various key stakeholders inviting them to provide comments prior to publication. As requested by the Committee, the Plan will be independently quality assured by the Business Consultancy Service of the Delivery Innovation Division of the Department of Finance and Personnel. NOTED.

Officials advised that the final draft would be brought to the March 2011 Committee meeting.

9. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REPORT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Chairman reminded Members that the Committee had agreed at its previous meeting to defer consideration of the Board's Senior Management Team's

Implementation Plan to address areas for improvement outlined in the Independent Assessment Report. He referred Members to a copy of the Implementation Plan which outlined management actions to date and timescales for completion of action. The Implementation Plan highlighted a number of areas for improvement which had not been accepted by the Senior Management Team.

It was:-

AGREED:

That no further action should be taken in respect of areas for improvement which were not accepted.

The Chairman also referred Members to a draft narrative providing a Policing Board response to the Independent Assessment Report, tabled at the meeting. The Chairman suggested that if agreed, the narrative could be published with the Report on the Board's website.

Members discussed the decision taken by the Committee on 4 November 2010 to publish the Report on the Board's website, the publication of the narrative and the publication of the Implementation Plan.

Following discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Independent Assessment Report should not be published on the Board's website.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials should redraft the Implementation Plan for the Leadership Group differentiating:-

- Matters that have already been implemented;
- Issues that require the direction of Members;
- Issues which will be addressed by the Change Manager.

The Committee acknowledged the work that had been undertaken by the Board's Senior Management Team to date.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Acting Chief Executive should inform all Board staff of the action taken to date in response to the Report.

10. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT NORTHERN IRELAND ORGANISED CRIME STRATEGY (APRIL 2011 – MARCH 2014)

The Committee considered a consultation document received from the Department of Justice on the draft Northern Ireland Organised Crime Strategy.

Members discussed whether the Board should make a submission in respect of the consultation.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board should make a submission to the consultation, highlighting issues relating to human trafficking and civil recovery as specific areas of interest for the Board.

11. INFORMATION PAPERS

11.1 Briefing Paper On 'Avoidable Delay'

NOTED.

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

A Member referred to an incident on 3 February 2011 when a member of the public was shot dead by an off duty police officer and sought information on when the Acting Chairman of the Board had been advised about the incident.

The Acting Chairman of the Board advised that he had been informed of the shooting the same evening as the incident occurred by the Deputy Chief Constable by telephone.

Members discussed the role of the Police Ombudsman's Office in investigating the incident and the limitations of the Board's statutory responsibilities in respect of such incidents.

The Member indicated that he intended to raise the matter with the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting.

13. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Committee considered a paper in relation to the publication of the Policing with the Community Strategy (PWC) 2020; the Board's position in respect of introduction of the PSNI Policing Commitments; and planned communications activity in respect of this by PSNI. The Committee considered options for the timing of publication, whilst publication of the Policing Plan and the PWC Strategy 2020 are closely related there was the potential that the message concerning the Policing with the Community Strategy could get lost in a joint launch.

Members discussed the matter.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chairperson of the Community Engagement Committee should give further consideration to the matter and discuss the date of the Policing with the Community launch with the Acting Chief Executive.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Resources And Improvement Committee Meeting 25 February 2011

The Vice Chairperson of the Resources and Improvement Committee, invited all Board Members to attend the February 2011 Committee meeting at which the PSNI and Policing Board budgets would be considered.

It was:-

AGREED:

That papers prepared for the Resources and Improvement Committee in relation to the PSNI and Board budgets, together with the full Management Accounts, should be circulated to all Board Members prior to the meeting.

Officials advised that the PSNI and Board budgets would also be considered at the 3 March 2011 Board meeting. NOTED.

A Member requested that details of allowances paid to Independent Board Members should be circulated to all Members of the Committee.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Committee meeting was arranged for Wednesday, 16 March 2011 at 2:00pm.

(Meeting closed at 5:25pm).

Secretariat

February 2011

Chairman