

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 7 JULY 2011 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

- Mr Brian Rea (Chairperson)
- Mr Gearóid Ó hEára (Vice Chairperson)
- Ms Anne Connolly
- Mr Jonathan Craig
- (1) Mr Gerry Kelly
- Mr Trevor Lunn
- Mr Ian McCrea
- Mr Conall McDevitt
- (1) Mr Stuart MacDonnell
- (2) Mr Adrian McQuillan
- Mr Robin Newton
- Mrs Joan O'Hagan
- (2) Mr Brian Rowntree
- Ms Caitríona Ruane
- Mr Pat Sheehan
- Mr Michael Wardlow
- (3) Ms Deborah Watters

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

- (4) Mr Matt Baggott (Chief Constable)
- (4) Mrs Judith Gillespie (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (4) Mr Alastair Finlay (ACC Urban Region)
- (4) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Crime Operations)
- (4) Mr Dave Jones (ACC Rural Region)
- (4) Mr Will Kerr (ACC Criminal Justice)
- (4) Mr Joe Stewart, Director of Human Resources
- (4) Ms Liz Young, Head of Media & PR
- (4) Superintendent, Command Secretariat
- (5) Inspector, Security Branch

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

- Mr Edgar Jardine (Interim Chief Executive)
- (6) Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)
- (6) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
- (6) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- (6) Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- (6) 3 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 – 15
- (2) Item numbers 1 – Part 16
- (3) Item number 2.3 to close
- (4) Item number 15 only
- (5) Part item 5.1 only
- (6) Except item number 5.8

## 1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Ryan Feeney and Mr Ross Hussey. NOTED.

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

On behalf of Members, the Chairperson expressed sympathy to Mr Ian McCrea and his family following an arson attack on his car which was burnt out.

## 2. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

### 2.1 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 7 April 2011

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 7 April 2011, the final meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Policing Board. The Chairperson asked those Members present, who had attended the meeting, to confirm that they were content to approve the minutes as a correct record.

It was:-

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 7 April 2011 be agreed.

## **2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 7 April 2011**

The Board considered the draft minutes of the meeting.

It was:-

### **RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting in public held on 7 April 2011 be agreed.

A Member referred to discussion at the Board meeting held on 2 June 2011 endorsing the use of gender neutral terminology by the Board and requested that future references to “Chairman and Vice Chairman” be replaced by “Chairperson and Vice Chairperson”.

## **2.3 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 1 June 2011**

The Board considered the draft minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2011, the first meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Policing Board.

A Member referred to the final paragraph of item 3 of the draft minutes concerning the rotation of positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson between members of differing community backgrounds, and suggested that the draft wording did not fully reflect Members agreement to continue the rotation.

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That officials should amend the draft minutes to reflect the agreement of the Board to rotate the position of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson between members of differing community backgrounds.

A Member referred to item 8 of the draft minutes, bullet point 5 regarding discussion between the Board and the Minister of Justice. The Member suggested that the wording of the minutes concerning the discussion on gender balance should reflect comments made to the Minister that his accompanying team did not contain any female members of staff.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

To amend the bullet point to read, “the gender balance within the Board membership and the absence of women in the delegation from the Department of Justice”.

Subject to these amendments:-

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 1 June 2011 be agreed.

**2.4 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 2 June 2011**

The Board considered the draft minutes of the meeting.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board held on 2 June 2011 be agreed.

## **2.5 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 16 June 2011**

The Board considered the draft minutes of the meeting.

It was:-

### **RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board held on 16 June 2011 be agreed.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

### **3.1 Meeting Held On 7 April 2011**

#### **3.1.1 PSNI Hearing Loss Claims (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairperson referred Members to a letter dated 11 April 2011, issued to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Justice, advising that the new Board would consider funding for hearing loss claims for future years in more detail. The Chairperson asked the Resources and Improvement Committee to continue to closely monitor the position.

#### **3.1.2 Briefing On Her Majesty's Inspectorate Of Constabulary (HMIC) Report On The PSNI (Item 6.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board considered a paper which provided an overview of the inspection findings of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) Report on the PSNI. The Inspection findings, published in February 2011, were based on an Inspection in 2010 examining progress against the targets set out in the 2010/11 Policing Plan and a number of other areas of policing. The Inspection also examined progress against recommendations made during the 2008 HMIC Inspection on Major Crime and Serious and Organised Crime. The Record No: 166116

report concluded that overall, and against the difficult background, the PSNI was delivering a mixed performance against the Policing Plan targets.

The Board considered the recommendations contained in the report.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- That a letter be issued to HMIC seeking his views on the Chief Constable's response to the Board on the report;
- To invite HMIC to attend the September 2011 Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting to discuss his report.

### **3.2 Meeting Held On 1 June 2011**

#### **3.2.1 Appointment Of Assistant Chief Constable (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Interim Chief Executive advised the Board that the Appointment Panel had met on 2 occasions and agreed the Procedures Document, the Advertisement, the Job Description, the Personnel Specification, Terms and Conditions of Appointment and the Application Form. Advertisements for the post had been published with a closing date for applications of Friday, 12 August 2011. A meeting to shortlist applicants for interview had been arranged for 15 September 2011 with interviews on 28 September 2011.

#### **3.2.2 Appointment Of Chief Executive Of The Policing Board (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)**

This matter was dealt with at item 5.8.

### **3.3 Meeting Held On 2 June 2011**

#### **3.3.1 Organisational Review Of Northern Ireland Policing Board (Item 3 Of Minutes Refers)**

This matter was dealt with at item 5.8.

### **3.4 Meeting Held On 16 June 2011**

#### **3.4.1 Proposal For Public Session Of The Board Meeting (Item 3 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairperson reminded Members that at the Board meeting on 16 June 2011, it was agreed:-

- That the July 2011 Board meeting should be held in Private Session;
- That the next Board meeting in public should be held on 1 September 2011;
- That the meeting in September 2011 should focus on a theme, and that “domestic abuse” had been suggested as the theme and that provision should be made for the format to include the opportunity for Members to raise other issues of concern with the Chief Constable at the meeting.

The Chairperson sought the approval of Members to make the necessary arrangements.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

- That officials should make the necessary arrangements for the September 2011 Board meeting in public to focus on the theme of “domestic abuse”;
- That stakeholders should be invited to the meeting in public;

- That officials should provide a list of themes for future Board meetings in public for the next 6 months, for consideration at the September 2011 Board meeting.

#### **4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Engagements**

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

- 30 June 2011 – Meeting with representatives of Safeworld – Post Conflict Mediation;
- 29 June 2011 – Police Federation Conference;
- 25 June 2011 – Gold Command Room to observe Whiterock Parade;
- 22 June 2011 – Garden Party at Hillsborough;
- 6 June 2011 – General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland;
- 5 June 2011 – RUC George Cross Annual Provincial Service.

NOTED.

##### **4.2 Correspondence**

The Chairperson highlighted the following correspondence which had been received/issued:-

- Letter from PSNI dated 10 May 2011 regarding Police response to bomb in the vicinity of A1;
- Letter from PSNI dated 15 June 2011 regarding Policing with the Community Awards Ceremony 2011;

- Letter to Police Federation dated 29 June 2011 regarding article in Police Beat.

NOTED.

The Chairperson referred Members to a letter, tabled at the meeting, dated 14 June 2011 from the Chairman of the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Justice, Mr Paul Givan MLA. The letter related to the Committee's decision to request an oral briefing from the Chief Constable and his officers on the PSNI's spending and saving delivery plans over the next 4 years.

The Board discussed the Committee's proposal to invite the Chief Constable to provide an oral briefing in the context of the Board's legislative responsibilities for the PSNI strategic financial planning process, annual estimates and medium/long term financial planning.

Following discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

- That the Chairperson should issue an interim reply to the Committee for Justice;
- That the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee consider the matter as part of their consideration of the draft protocol on the policing architecture.

## **5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Threat And Risk Assessment for Board Members**

The Interim Chief Executive provided information to Members in relation to the Department of Justice's duty of care in terms of the provision of threat and risk assessments in respect of all Policing Board Members. NOTED.

A representative from PSNI provided a confidential briefing on personal security.

### **5.2 Procedures For The Approval Of Minutes Of Committee Meetings**

The Interim Chief Executive referred Members to the draft minutes of the Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held on 10 June 2011, item 5 bullet point 4 and discussion about the procedures for the approval of Committee meetings.

The Interim Chief Executive advised that the Committee was of the view that draft minutes of Committee meetings should be put to the next Committee meeting for approval, rather than to the Board meeting for approval of recommendations contained in the minutes. The Committee had also discussed the provision of an Executive Summary of meetings to the Board for information.

A Member referred to the unique nature of the Audit and Risk Management Committee and a specific need for it to agree the minutes before noting by the Board.

Subsequent discussion, including reference to the Independent Assessment Report highlighted the need to examine the role of each Committee and a need for a wider discussion on the role of Committees, including delegated powers and the remit of Committees to implement policies agreed by the Board.

It was:-

## **AGREED:**

That officials should prepare a paper in relation to corporate governance and the role of Committees for consideration by the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

During discussion, reference was made to a recommendation in the Organisational Review to enhance the use of technology to gain efficiencies in the Board and there was need for the issue of corporate governance to be further considered. The Interim Chief Executive advised that officials were in the process of arranging a seminar for Board Members on public accountability and governance in early September 2011 (provisional date 7 September 2011).

The Vice Chairperson reminded Members that the Interim Chief Executive would take forward a review of technology within the Board under recommendation 20 of the Organisational Review.

### **5.3 Communication Issues**

The Interim Chief Executive referred Members to item 13 of the draft minutes of the June 2011 Audit and Risk Management Committee and its recommendation that the standing agenda item relating to communication issues for all Committees should be removed. The Interim Chief Executive and Members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee outlined the background to the Committee's discussion of the control assurance framework and the mechanisms for conveying information to the public to reduce reputational risks.

Discussion ensued about provision within Standing Orders for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of a Committee or another Member to comment publicly on a specific subject. Members discussed the need for the Board to be in the position to respond quickly for requests for spokespersons to comment on the Board's behalf, while at the same time ensuring that such spokespersons maintained a consistency with the Board's corporate position. A Member suggested that the inclusion of the item of Communication Issues on

each agenda ensured there was an opportunity for each Committee to consider specific issues for news releases and to agree a corporate approach. Members also discussed the delegated authority given by the Board to Committees to carry out specific functions on behalf of the Board and the remit that this gave Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons to act as spokespersons for the Board.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- That a copy of the relevant Standing Orders relating to public comments should be circulated to all Members;
- That the Interim Chief Executive should review the Standing Orders to ensure they reflected the views of the current membership.

#### **5.4 Accompaniment Of Members By Officials To Meetings**

The Interim Chief Executive offered all Members the opportunity to invite officials to accompany them to meetings to provide support and advice where appropriate. NOTED.

#### **5.5 Association Of Police Authorities – NIPB Representative**

The Board considered a paper which sought a nominee to replace Professor Sir Desmond Rea as the NIPB representative on the Association of Police Authorities (APA) Board. Members discussed the role of the APA and the previous NIPB contribution to its work. Members also discussed the costs in respect of membership of the APA and whether this represented value for money. Officials advised that the previous Board had discussed membership of the APA and had agreed to pay the costs for 2011/12. Officials also updated Members on progress of the Police and Social Responsibility Bill, which contained a proposal to directly elect Police and Crime Commissioners and the possible impact this would have on the future of the APA.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- That a paper should be prepared for a future meeting on the relevance of the APA to the Board;
- That further consideration should be given to inviting the APA to hold a meeting in Northern Ireland.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the Chairperson of the Board should represent NIPB on the APA Board for 2011/12 and that NIPB representation on the APA Board should be reconsidered before the end of the financial year.

Officials were asked to consider the most appropriate method for the Chairperson to report to the Board on his role with the APA Board.

## **5.6 National Policing Improvement Agency Associate Director**

The Interim Chief Executive advised that he had received a request from the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) for a representative from the Board to replace Professor Sir Desmond Rea as an Associate Director. The Interim Chief Executive outlined the role that was required by the representative.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board Chairperson should replace Professor Sir Desmond Rea as an Associate Director of NPIA.

## **5.7 Meetings Between Board Members And Staff**

The Interim Chief Executive referred Members to previous discussions at which the Board had agreed that it should meet with all members of the Board staff. He proposed that an appropriate number of staff be invited to join Members at the monthly Board meeting at lunch time, on an informal basis, to discuss their role. The consensus view among Members was that this would be an appropriate way forward.

## **5.8 Organisational Review Of Northern Ireland Policing Board**

The Interim Chief Executive updated members with reference to the current position. Discussion ensued around the following:-

- Grading of Chief Executive current being reviewed/evaluated;
- Position of current Deputy Chief Executive, covering Corporate Services Directorate;
- Implications of Director of Corporate Services transferring to the PSNI.

The Interim Chief Executive referred Members to Annex 1 – suggested revised organisation chart and the review of posts at Deputy Principal level. Members' attention was drawn to surplus staff at Staff Officer level.

It was agreed that decisions needed to be made quickly, particularly in light of the ongoing uncertainty facing staff.

Following discussion, it was:-

### **AGREED:**

- To accept the recommendations contained within Para 7 of the document;

- That the Interim Chief Executive report further to the Board on the plans to implement the KPMG report.

## **5.9 Whistle Blowing Policy – Board Contact**

The Interim Chief Executive advised that in the context of the Board's Whistle Blowing Policy, it would be desirable for a Member to be appointed as a champion for staff who wished to raise a matter with a Member, rather than an official. He suggested that as the Chairperson could be involved in any appeal, it would be more appropriate for an independent Member to act as the Whistle Blowing champion. Members undertook to consider the matter and come back to the Interim Chief Executive.

## **5.10 Public Services Training College, Desertcreat**

Members were advised it was anticipated that the Department of Finance and Personnel would approve the business case for the Public Services Training College in Desertcreat in August 2011, with an announcement at the September 2011 Board meeting. It was proposed that the Board should receive a briefing at the September 2011 meeting on Desertcreat from PSNI. A Member requested that such a briefing should include a 3D presentation. The Interim Chief Executive advised that appropriate arrangements would be made with the Deputy Chief Constable.

## **6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **6.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning & Performance Committee Held On 21 April 2011**

The Chairperson of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee advised, that as the April 2011 Committee meetings had taken place after the final Board meeting,

the previous Board was not in a position to agree the content of the minutes. He requested those Members present at the meeting, to consider the content.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting held on 21 April 2011 be approved.

**6.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Held On 29 April 2011**

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting held on 29 April 2011 be approved.

**7. AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**7.1 Minutes Of The Audit And Risk Management Committee Meeting Held On 10 June 2011**

**7.1.1 Procedures For The Approval Of Minutes Of Committee Meetings (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Vice Chairperson of the Committee referred to previous discussion about the procedures for the approval of minutes of the Audit and Risk Management Committee and

other Committee meetings and asked Members to note the draft minutes of the meeting of 10 June 2011. NOTED.

## **8. RESEARCH ALLOWANCE SCHEME TO SUPPORT POLITICAL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

The Board considered a paper in relation to the amount of funding to be made available to the representatives of each political party for the political Members Research Allowance.

Officials advised that in February 2011, the Board had reviewed such funding and had agreed that the allowance should be paid on the basis of equal value to each political party represented on the Board. The Board's current budget included £80,000 in total for the political Members Research Allowance Scheme, this had been apportioned equally between the 4 political parties represented on the Board. There now being 5 political parties represented on the Board, Members were asked to decide on whether a Research Allowance should be paid to political Members and if so, how much should be provided to each of the 5 parties.

Following discussion, it was:-

### **RESOLVED:**

That the current budget allocation for 2011/12 of £80,000 in total should be apportioned equally between the 5 political parties represented on the Board.

## **9. MCCAUGHEY JUDICIAL REVIEW: SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENT**

The Board considered a paper containing a summary of the Supreme Court Judgement of 18 May 2011, in the matter of an application by Brigid McCaughey and another for judicial review.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

To write to the PSNI to ask for an assessment on how the decision of the Supreme Court in its Judgement of 18 May 2011 would impact on the Service.

**10. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2012 – 2015 POLICING PLAN**

The Committee considered a paper in relation to the proposed timetable for developing the 2012 – 2015 Policing Plan and an establishment of a sub-group to develop the Policing Plan, as identified as an area for improvement in the Independent Assessment Report. Officials advised that some of the proposed dates in the timetable could be amended.

Members discussed the merits of establishing a sub-group and the Vice Chairperson advised that it was anticipated that the sub-group would report on a regular basis to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee to ensure there was no loss of collective decision making.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That a sub-group to develop the Policing Plan should be established comprising the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board, Mr Hussey, Mr Kelly, Mr Lunn, Mr McCrea, Mr McDevitt, Mr MacDonnell, Ms O'Hagan, Mr Rowntree and Mr Wardlow.

## **11. SPECIAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – OPERATION STAFFORD: BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Board considered a paper which provided background information on the establishment and previous meetings of a Special Purposes Committee.

Officials advised, that under Section 59 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, the Chief Constable, following a request for a report by the Board, could share sensitive information relating to that request with a Special Purposes Committee of the Board that he would not otherwise share with the full Board. Officials advised that the Special Purposes Committee had received confidential briefings on Operation Stafford for the purpose of monitoring the PSNI in accordance with the statutory functions of the Board.

Officials further advised it was anticipated that a meeting of the Special Purposes Committee could be required in late August / September 2011.

It was:-

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Board should establish a Special Purposes Committee, comprising the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board and one representative from each of the political parties.

## **12. ORGANISED CRIME AND NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY**

The Board considered a paper which provided background information on organised crime and the Government's proposals for a National Crime Agency. Members were advised that the Board had 3 seats on the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) Stakeholder Group which advises and monitors progress in achieving cross-cutting objectives to combat organised crime. Members were advised that previously the Board's Chair and

Vice Chair had filled 2 of the seats, with the third seat rotated between Members from the DUP and the SDLP.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

- That the Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson should fill 2 of the seats on the OCTF Stakeholder Group;
- The third seat should be rotated between representatives from the DUP (Mr Newton) and Sinn Féin (Mr Sheehan) who should attend alternate meetings.

The Board considered whether there were any specific issues or aspects of organised crime on which they would like more information. Members undertook to come back to officials should they require any further information.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

To invite officials from the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and ACC Crime Operations to a future Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee to brief Members on the issue of organised crime.

**13. DISPOSAL OF GARNERVILLE AND STEEPLE PSNI TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS**

The Board considered a paper which sought formal approval to dispose of police training establishments at Garnerville in East Belfast and Steeple in Antrim, to part finance the construction of the Public Services Training College at Desertcreat, Cookstown.

Members discussed the legal responsibilities of the Board in disposing of the police estate; the delegation of responsibility by the Board to the Chief Constable for the day to day running of the estate; the role and responsibilities of the Desertcreat Programme Board; and the financial arrangements that would be put in place should disposal of the properties not realise the amount originally estimated.

A number of Members expressed concern that the Desertcreat Programme Board and PSNI had apparently initiated action in connection with disposal of the property prior to the Board giving formal approval to dispose of the establishments. The consensus view among Members was that there was a need to ensure there was no ambiguity in the audit trail of the disposal of police estate assets.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To approve the disposal of the Garnerville and Steeple training establishments.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- That officials should write to PSNI to clarify the procedures in relation to the disposal of sites within the PSNI estate;
- To write to the Deputy Chief Constable (who Chairs the Desertcreat Programme Board) highlighting the Board's statutory responsibilities for the disposal of the police estate and advising that formal approval had been given, subject to any funds being raised being allocated in their entirety for the development of Desertcreat.

## **14. RELEASE OF POLICE OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT INTO THE LOUGHINISLAND MURDERS**

The Board considered a paper which provided an overview of the findings of a recent report published by the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPONI) into the terrorist attack at the Heights Bar, Loughinisland in 1994. Officials advised that the Police Ombudsman had made 3 recommendations for the Chief Constable; to commission a full major crime review of the Loughinisland murder investigation, to commit sufficient resources, and to re-establish effective lines of communication with the victims and survivors.

Officials also advised that the Chief Constable would join the meeting later to discuss the OPONI report. There was agreement that the paper should be reconsidered following the discussion with the Chief Constable (Item 15.2 refers).

## **15. MEETING WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AND SENIOR EXECUTIVE TEAM**

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Constable and his Senior Executive Team to the meeting.

### **15.1 Report Of Performance Against The Policing Plan – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2011/2012**

The Chairperson referred Members to a paper which provided an update of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Performance of the PSNI against the targets set out within Part 2 of the Policing Plan 2011/2014. In commenting on the PSNI achievement against the targets set, the Chief Constable described the performance in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter as positive with encouraging trends. The Chief Constable commented generally on the use of discretion by police officers and the high success rate with victims in dealing with low level crime in this manner.

The Chief Constable commented on the statistics relating to each individual target within the Plan. Members sought clarification and further information in respect of a number of aspects of the police performance including:-

- The criteria for recording a crime in the category “anti social behaviour”;
- Mechanisms to improve inter-agency working concerning anti social behaviour and other crime issues.
- Measures to improve call handling;
- Analysis work on crime types and its application in vulnerable areas;
- A decrease in the detection rate for homophobic crime and ongoing police contact with stakeholder groups to improve reporting rates;
- The wider issue of hate crime and how detection rates could be improved;
- The policing contribution to the decrease in the number of killed or seriously injured on the road;
- Improving capacity in inter-agency and effective community safety planning and the more effective use of resources;
- Improving confidence in the police through improved performance and changes in policing culture.

## **15.2 OPONI Report Into The Loughinisland Murders**

A Member raised a number of specific questions in relation to the actions taken by police during the investigation process.

The Chief Constable advised that he could not respond in detail to some of the questions as they raised issues that were sub judice and he was anxious not to reveal any details that could compromise ongoing investigations or impact on future court proceedings.

In response, ACC Crime Operations confirmed that the police investigation into the Loughinisland murders had not at any stage been undertaken by the Historical Enquiries Team (HET). He advised that the murder investigation remained live.

The Chief Constable confirmed that he was not in a position to require retired officers to co-operate with the Police Ombudsman, although he considered this was a desirable action for retired officers to undertake.

The Deputy Chief Constable indicated that the legal advice received was that there was insufficient evidence to successfully prosecute a case against Person 'U'.

The Chief Constable emphasised that there would be no immunity for informants.

Members discussed the lack of closure for the families of victims of the attack and the resources which had been and are currently being devoted to the investigation. PSNI representatives outlined the number of current serious crimes being investigated and the resource implications for such investigations. Members also sought information on what weight police gave to community confidence in prioritising criminal investigations.

The Chief Constable reminded Members of the PSNI's responsibilities under Article 2. He advised that while there had been advances in scientific techniques, in many cases it was difficult to apply these to older exhibits which had been handled to standards which existed some years ago. The Chief Constable offered to give a more detailed presentation to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee concerning the complexity of serious crime investigations.

With regard to a future meeting with survivors and victims' relatives, the Chief Constable confirmed that police were seeking to make contact via the families' solicitor and that the PSNI was willing to meet with the families.

Following discussion, the Chief Constable and the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

Members reconsidered the paper at item 14. Following discussion, it was:-

## **AGREED:**

- That the Board's Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee should consider the wider issues arising from the Ombudsman's report and report back to the Board on any matters arising;
- To write to the Chief Constable asking him to address any issues arising from the OPONI report and to comment specifically on recommendations 8.1; 8.2 and 8.3;
- To seek legal advice in relation to the requirement for retired officers to cooperate with the Police Ombudsman's investigators (Human Rights & Professional Standards Committee to take forward).

Officials were asked to draft a news release to be considered under item 19.

## **16. TENTH ANNIVERSARY – CONFERENCE “CHANGE AND CHALLENGE” – NOVEMBER 2011**

The Board considered a paper which contained proposals for a conference to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Board and PSNI in November 2011.

Officials outlined the initial discussion that had taken place centred on a theme of Policing with the Community, with a focus on community participation and input at the event. Officials sought the view of Members on Board representation on the Steering Group.

Members discussed the target audience for the conference and requested further details in respect of an estimate of overall costs and options; and the benefits of the Board being involved in the Steering Group to shape the agenda.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That a further paper should be provided for the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting in July 2011.

**17. NATIONAL REVIEW OF POLICE LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING UNDERTAKEN BY CHIEF CONSTABLE PETER NEYROUD**

The Board considered a paper, circulated the day before the meeting, giving details in respect of a review that was taking place by Chief Constable Peter Neyroud of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) into police leadership and training. Officials outlined the tight timescales that surrounded the public consultation on the review.

A special meeting of the Human Resources Committee had been held on 4 July 2011 to consider the recommendations and to identify the issues which might affect policing in Northern Ireland. In addition, the Department of Justice had written to the Board detailing a number of questions for consideration. A request had also been made that the PSNI should also consider the report and convey its views to the Department of Justice through the Board highlighting the DOJ consultation questions and the PSNI responses.

The Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee outlined the Committee's recommendations and referred the Board to a draft response to the consultation, prepared by officials following the Human Resources Committee meeting.

Members proposed a number of amendments and subject to these amendments being made, it was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board should respond to the consultation as recommended by the Human Resources Committee.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That all Members should be circulated with the final version of the Board's response.

**18. INFORMATION PAPERS**

**18.1 Policing And Community Safety Partnerships**

**18.2 Revised Schedule Of Board And Committee Meetings – June – December 2011**

NOTED.

**19. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That news release should be issued in relation to:-

- The Board's approval to proceed with the disposal of the Garnerville and Steeple sites;
- The discussion with the Chief Constable on the actions being taken by PSNI on issues arising from the Ombudsman's report into the murders at Loughinisland.

## **20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **20.1 The Laramie Project**

The Director of Community Engagement reminded Members that in support of Belfast Pride 2011 the Policing Board, in partnership with the Rainbow Project and the Board's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Reference Group was hosting a production of 'The Laramie Project' on 26 and 27 July 2011 at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast.

## **21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

- That the next Policing Board meeting in public should be held on 1 September 2011;
- That the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board should consider whether there was a need for a Board meeting in private on 4 August 2011.

(Meeting closed 5:25pm)

**Secretariat**

**July 2011**

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**Chairperson**