

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

MEMBERS:

- Mr Gearóid Ó hEára (Chairperson)
- Mrs Anne Connolly
- Mr Jonathan Craig
- (1) Mr Ryan Feeney
- (2) Mr Gerry Kelly
- Mr Trevor Lunn
- Mr Stuart MacDonnell
- (3) Mr Conall McDevitt
- Mrs Joan O'Hagan
- Mr Robin Newton
- (4) Ms Deborah Watters

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Edgar Jardine, Interim Chief Executive
- Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services
- Mr Peter Gilleece, Director of Policy
- 2 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 10 to close
- (2) Item numbers 1 to 7
- (3) Item numbers 1 to 10
- (4) Item numbers 1 to 12

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Brian Rea (Vice Chairperson), Mr Ross Hussey and Mr Brian Rowntree. NOTED.

The Chairperson advised that Mr Feeney would join the meeting at a later stage.

The Chairperson asked Members to declare any conflicts of interest arising from the agenda. Mr McDevitt declared a possible conflict of interest arising at item 10. No other conflicts of interest were declared.

2. REVIEW OF FORMAT OF BOARD MEETING ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2011

The Interim Chief Executive summarised discussion that had taken place between some Members of the Committee and other Board Members prior to the formal commencement of the Committee meeting. The Committee discussed the issues raised and further reviewed the format for the Board meeting.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- That while the overall format for the Board meeting on 1 September 2011 was generally successful, that further consideration should be given to the procedures for putting questions at the Board meeting in public and that officials should refine timings and the layout for the October 2011 meeting;
- That a paper setting out the proposed refinements should be circulated to all Board Members prior to the October 2011 meeting.

3. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEES

3.1 Meeting Held On 28 July 2011

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 28 July 2011.

3.2 Meeting Held On 4 August 2011

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 4 August 2011.

In response to an enquiry from a Member in relation to the circulation of draft minutes in electronic format, the I/Chef Executive advised that work on the IT Review should be completed in the next 3-4 weeks and a report would then be brought to the Committee.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETINGS

4.1 Meeting Held On 28 July 2011

4.1.1 Appointment Of An Assistant Chief Constable (Item 3.1.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairperson updated the meeting on the appointment process for Assistant Chief Constable. He advised that the Appointment Panel meeting had been held on 15 September 2011 to shortlist candidates. The Panel had agreed to take legal advice concerning some documentation relating to the process and a further Selection Panel meeting would be arranged once the legal advice had been received. NOTED.

4.1.2 Organisational Review Of The Board (Item 3.2.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Interim Chief Executive advised that the 3 Directors had taken up their new responsibilities with effect from 12 September 2011. As the post of Deputy Chief Executive had now been made redundant, action had been initiated in relation to a business case concerning redundancy arrangements. NOTED.

4.1.3 Police Integrity And Public Confidence (Item 4.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairperson of the Committee wrote to HMIC on 23 August 2011 seeking confirmation on whether HMIC propose to investigate any relationships that might exist between the PSNI and the media as part of the review initiated by the Home Office. The Committee considered a copy of a response received from the HMIC, confirming that the PSNI would be included in the review. NOTED.

4.1.4 Review Of The Work Of The Committee (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee had previously agreed that the objective to develop a programme of engagement with key organisations and individuals should be further considered by officials and a more specific list of strategic organisations and individuals drawn up. Officials advised that work was ongoing on the matter and a paper would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee. NOTED.

4.2 Meeting Held On 4 August 2011

4.2.1 Policing Architecture (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised that the Draft Board Protocol was currently being considered by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and that it was anticipated that a meeting with DOJ would be held in the near future to further discuss the matter. NOTED.

4.2.2 PSNI Programme Boards (Item 3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a paper which provided legal and governance opinions on the attendance of Board Members and officials at PSNI Committees.

It was:-

AGREED:

That attendance of Board Members at PSNI Programme Boards should be included in the agenda for a future roundtable meeting with the PSNI Service Executive Team.

A response was awaited from PSNI concerning Board access to minutes of all Programme Board meetings. NOTED.

4.2.3 Public Session Of The Board Meeting (Item 4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a paper in relation to holding Board sessions outside Waterside Tower. NOTED.

With regard to themes for future public meetings, it was:-

AGREED:

- That the theme for the October 2011 public meeting should be 'Children and Young People';
- That the theme for the November 2011 public meeting should be 'Speedy Justice';
- That officials should liaise with the Youth Justice Review Team to consider whether Youth Justice should be a specific theme for a future meeting.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.1 Police Ombudsman's (OPONI) Annual Report

The Chairperson reminded the Committee that the Board had deferred consideration of the OPONI Annual Report at its September 2011 meeting to a future date. Following discussion at item 2, it was:-

AGREED:-

That the volume of business for the October 2011 meeting would not facilitate a substantive discussion with the Police Ombudsman on his Annual Report and that the meeting should be deferred.

5.2 Committee Priorities And Targets

The Chairperson proposed that a half day should be set aside for the Committee to examine its priorities and targets for the next year. Members discussed the need for the meeting to be kept as informal as possible and, it was:-

AGREED:

- That a half day meeting should be arranged at a venue outside Waterside Tower to facilitate a Committee discussion on priorities and targets;
- It was agreed that the half day event should include consideration of the Programme of Work of each Committee of the Board.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

6.1 Meeting With Probation Board For Northern Ireland

The Interim Chief Executive updated the Committee about a meeting that had been held between the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board and representatives from the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI). He referred Members to a note of the main points that had arisen, which was tabled at the meeting. The Committee noted that it had been agreed that the Board should arrange for the opportunity for representatives from the PBNI to give a briefing to the Board's Community Engagement Committee at a future meeting.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board should arrange for the Community Engagement Committee to invite representatives from PBNI to a future meeting.

6.2 Training On Public Accountability And Governance

The Interim Chief Executive updated the Committee on the training given to Members on public accountability and governance on 2 September 2011. As a significant number of Members were not available, the Interim Chief Executive indicated he was minded to rerun the training but the event would require a sufficient number of Members to make it viable. Members who attended the meeting discussed its merits and the need for all Board Members to have an understanding of their personal responsibilities.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials should contact Members to ascertain if there was a sufficient number available to ensure a further training session is viable.

During subsequent discussion of the training needs of Members, it was:-

AGREED:

That arrangements should be made for training on 'chairing of meetings' to be offered to all Board Members.

6.3 Research Seminar

The Interim Chief Executive advised, that in order to raise the Board's profile in the local criminal justice community, he had invited Professor Nick Fyfe, from the Scottish Institute for Policing Research, a consortium of Scottish universities supported by ACPOS to

speak at a lunch time seminar on 27 October 2011. Professor Fyfe had been asked to speak on how policing research is organised in Scotland with the focus on community engagement. Officials would make arrangements to invite participants from the justice community including DOJ, PBNI, Youth Justice, PSNI and NISRA. NOTED.

6.4 Review Of The Public Order Response By The PSNI

The Interim Chief Executive reminded the Committee about discussion at the September 2011 Board meeting of Board participation in the Review of the Public Order Response by the PSNI being undertaken by ACC Urban Region. By way of example, the Interim Chief Executive circulated a diagram outlining the involvement of stakeholders in a HMIC review process.

Members discussed how best the Board should participate in the Review. There was consensus that while the Board should participate, it would not be appropriate for the Board to lead the Review, nor to act in a manner which could potentially endorse the outcome before the Review is finalised by PSNI. Participation of the Board at official level at stakeholder meetings was considered an appropriate way to initiate involvement.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Interim Chief Executive should write to PSNI to detail the role of the Board in the Review.

Members requested further information about the Terms of Reference for the Review and officials undertook to re-circulate the material that had been given to the Board.

7. NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD'S STATISTICAL AND RESEARCH STRATEGY 2011 – 2015

The Committee considered a paper containing proposals for the Board's Statistical and Research Strategy for 2011 – 2015. Officials advised that many of the proposed activities were included to meet the Board's statutory obligations to assess the level of public satisfaction with the performance of the police and District Policing Partnerships.

Following discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the Statistical and Research Strategy for 2011 – 2015.

8. LEAD MEMBERS PORTFOLIOS

Officials advised Members that an area for improvement contained within the Independent Assessment Report, suggested that the Board should seek to identify a Lead Member for each key area of business. The Committee considered a paper containing proposals for Lead Member responsibilities and proposed lead Members for identified business areas.

The Committee discussed the Lead Member areas of responsibility, and it was:-

AGREED:

- That the number of areas of responsibility should be reduced to around 9;
- That independent Members, rather than political Members should be appointed as Lead Members;
- That consideration be given to the spokespersons role afforded to Lead Members
- That a revised paper should be brought to the October Board meeting for consideration by all Members.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board should identify Lead Members for key policing business areas.

During discussion, Mrs O'Hagan and Ms Watters indicated that they would attend the Diversity Steering Group meeting on 7 October 2011 on behalf of the Board.

9. OVERVIEW OF ORGANISED CRIME WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Committee considered a paper which provided an overview of the current situation in relation to organised crime in Northern Ireland, with particular focus on human trafficking.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Committee should meet with the Minister for Justice, and PSNI and SOCA representatives to discuss the approach to tackling human trafficking and in particular the response to the new strategy published in 2011 entitled, "Human Trafficking: A Government Strategy".

10. PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY OF PSNI PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The Committee considered a paper containing proposals to enable the Board to monitor the performance of the PSNI with respect to Protective Services. Officials referred Members to an Independent Assessment of the Board's functions under the agreed HMIC/Audit Commission Framework for assessing Police Authorities, which recommended that the Board should actively engage in the setting of priorities and targets for Protective Services.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That PSNI should be asked to provide the Board with an assessment against each of the elements of Protective Services which are not currently monitored;
- Consideration should be given to including qualitative targets in Part 3 of the 2012 – 2015 Policing Plan, in advance of the strategy event planned for 10 November 2011.

It was further:-

AGREED:

That the CJINI Report on PPANI (Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland) should be discussed with CJINI at an early opportunity.

11. BRIEFING ON FORENSIC SCIENCE NORTHERN IRELAND

The Committee considered a briefing paper on Forensic Science Northern Ireland (FSNI) and noted the content of a letter from ACC Crime Operations regarding the CJINI 3rd follow-up review of the inspection findings on Scientific Support Services in PSNI.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That the Committee should meet with PSNI representatives to discuss the views of CJINI on the content of the paper, prior to a decision on further action;
- To invite representatives from FSNI to meet with the Committee;

- Following further discussions, to write to the Lord Chief Justice regarding backlogs in forensic science analysis reports.

12. INFORMAL ROUNDTABLE MEETING BETWEEN THE BOARD AND PSNI SERVICE EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Committee was reminded that a recommendation arising from the recent Governance and Accountability Workshop for Board Members was that the Board should arrange an informal roundtable with the PSNI Service Executive Team, to consider the Board's discharge of its responsibilities to hold the PSNI accountable.

It was:-

AGREED:

That an informal roundtable meeting should be arranged.

Members discussed the agenda for such a meeting, and it was:-

AGREED:

That the agenda should include PSNI Programme Boards, Board meetings in public and public meetings, and accountability.

Members discussed the venue for the meeting, and it was:-

AGREED:

That the meeting should be held at a venue outside Waterside Tower.

During discussion, the Chairperson advised that any Members who wished to make contact with the District Commander in their local area would be encouraged to do so.

13. INFORMATION PAPERS

13.1 2011 Northern Ireland Policing Board Stakeholder Survey

The Board noted an information paper on the findings of the 2011 Board Stakeholder Survey.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That officials should provide a further, verbal briefing on the survey at the October 2011 Committee meeting;
- That Members should receive a list of the stakeholders who had been invited to participate in the survey.

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

There were no matters arising.

15. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

16. ANY ORTHER BUSINESS

16.1 Destruction Of Material At PSNI Gough

A Member referred to recent media coverage of the destruction of a significant amount of written material stored at PSNI Gough.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Committee should write to the Chief Constable to request a report on the circumstances surrounding the destruction of the material stored at PSNI Gough.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Thursday, 20 October 2011.

(Meeting closed 5:00pm).

Secretariat

September 2011

Chairperson