

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

MEMBERS:

- Mr Gerry Kelly (Chairperson)
- (1) Ms Deborah Watters (Vice Chairperson)
- (2) Mr Ryan Feeney
- Mr Trevor Lunn
- Mr Ian McCrea
- Mr Conall McDevitt
- (2) Mr Gearóid Ó hEára

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (3) Declan McGeown, Head of Community Safety
- (3) David Hughes, Head of Policing, Policy, Strategy Division
- (3) Nichola Creagh, PCSP Project Manager

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (2) Mr Edgar Jardine, Interim Chief Executive
- 6 Board Officials

- (1) Item 1 to 6
- (2) Item 1 to 5
- (3) Item 4 only

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

No apologies were received. 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 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 JULY 2011

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 27 July be agreed.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

3.1 Meeting with ACC Kerr on 25 July 2011 (Item 3 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a meeting will be arranged with the new ACC Criminal Justice.

3.2 Consideration of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Committee and A Work Programme for 2011 – 2012 (Item 4 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a mapping exercise of Partnerships will be brought to a future CEC meeting in the context of the review of the Board's Community Engagement Strategy.

3.3 Consideration of the Draft Community Engagement Strategy (Item 5 of Minutes Refers)

This has been deferred to a future CEC meeting.

3.4 Department Of Justice Consultation on Implementation (Item 6 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that copies of correspondence to the Justice Minister regarding the Implementation of PCSPs was attached for Members information and consideration. NOTED

3.5 Memorandum of Understanding for the Operation of the Joint Committee
(Item 7 of Minutes Refers)

NOTED.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Meeting with Belfast District Policing Partnership (DPP) Chairs and Vice-Chairs – July 2011

The Chair advised Members of his and the Vice-Chair's attendance at the above meeting. The Chair and Vice-Chair raised issues identified at the meeting around:

- The disconnect between the work of the Board and the Belfast DPP;
- Frustration at the lack of clarity of the role of the Principal Belfast DPP;
- Disconnect between policing on the ground and the work of the DPP; and
- Assessment of the individual Member's performance and overall partnership effectiveness.

Members discussed the issues raised, suggesting some solutions.

It was:-

AGREED:

- Officials would meet with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Belfast DPP;
- Officials would ensure that they facilitate an update on DPP and Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSP) business to all Chairs and Vice-Chairs;
- Officials would consider options for the operation of Belfast within the legislative context for Belfast PCSP and DPCSP.

4.2 Laramie Project – July 2011

The Chair advised Members of his attendance at the production of the Laramie Project as part of the Belfast Pride Festival.

It was:-

AGREED:

- Officials would arrange for the Laramie Project to go to the Assembly and also to consider other venues.

4.3 NILGA/SOLACE Briefing On PCSPs – September 2011

The Chair advised Members that he would be attending a NILGA/SOLACE event on 28 September 2011. Any Member who wished to attend was advised to contact Member Services.

POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS

5. BRIEFING ON POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS

The Chair welcomed Declan McGeown, Head of DoJ Community Safety Unit, David Hughes, Head of Policing, Policy and Strategy Division and Nichola Creagh, PCSP Project Manager to the Committee meeting.

DoJ officials briefed Members on the key issues from the PCSP implementation and emerging issues from the DoJ Consultation on PCSPs. Members were advised that the consultation closed on 13 September 2011 and that 70 responses had been received.

Key issues arising from the responses included:-

- The role of the Policing Committee;
- The numbers and types of organisations that should be designated ; and
- The use of merit in the appointment process.

Members raised various issues and concerns with DoJ officials.

- Designation of organisations to PCSPs;
- Complexity of the Code of Practice for Independent Members;
- Consideration of merit in the Board's process for appointing;
- Inclusion of young people on PCSPs /DPCSPs.

Members had significant concerns regarding the paying of reasonable expense allowances to Independent Members of PCSPs. They discussed that if the issue of reasonable expenses was not addressed this had the potential to adversely affect the appointments process and the timescales for establishing PCSPs.

Another issue raised was whether the PCSPs could be achieved by April 2012 and also the impact of RPA on PCSPs.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials would:-

- Obtain a list of the respondents to the consultation document and a summary of the key issues from DoJ;
- A list of organisations suggested in the consultation for designation to PCSPs either by local or compulsory designation;
- Obtain clarification on the model for payment of expenses to PCSPs;
- Officials to circulate the Hansard reports regarding the Assembly Committees consideration of designation of organisations.

6. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CONSULTATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS (PCSPs)

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members views on a general consultation on the implementation of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships.

Members discussed a number of issues related to PCSP implementation:

- The process and cost for appointment of independent Members;
- The arrangements for Belfast PCSP;
- Designation of organisations.

In relation to the appointment of independent members to PCSPs. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Board, that the Board does not consider candidates position following interview as part of its process for appointing Members to PCSPs.

Members requested that they should be provided with more detail on these areas.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

Officials would prepare a paper for Members on the issues discussed namely:

- Key issues in the Belfast Model;
- Impartial assessors;
- Disqualification;
- Merit Principle.

This paper is to be e-mailed to Members.

7. RECRUITMENT CRITERIA FOR INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS (PCSPs)

The Committee considered the recruitment criteria for PCSPs. Members discussed essential and desirable criteria on the Person Specification.

It was:-

AGREED:

Officials would revise the Person Specification for PCSPs for independent Members based on the discussion points raised by Members and take views from key stakeholders before finalising.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

8. REPORT FROM THE CROSS COMMUNITY CONSORTIUM ON ISSUES AFFECTING LOYALIST AND REPUBLICAN COMMUNITIES IN RELATION TO POLICING

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with a copy of a report commissioned by the Board on police engagement with Loyalist and Republican communities.

Members acknowledged that it was important for the Committee in taking forward its work in this area.

It was:-

AGREED:

- Officials would forward the report to the PSNI to comment on the recommendations;
- The Chair and Vice-Chair will hold a follow up meeting with the Consortium on the report; and
- Officials will consider the report as a theme for a future public meeting of the Board.

POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY

9. BRIEFING PAPER ON LOCAL RESOLUTION AND DISSATISFACTION PROCESS

A Board official briefed Members on the OPONI local resolutions and PSNI dissatisfaction process. This was initially set up as a pilot scheme in 'D' District.

The dissatisfaction process has now been incorporated into the PSNI's Policing Commitments published in April 2011.

It was:-

AGREED:

- Officials to ask PSNI for a presentation on the potential impact on community confidence and to report back to HR&PS Committee before January 2012 Committee meeting;
- CEC Members to review HR&PS Committee work programme and identify opportunities for collaborative working.

DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS

10. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS EFFECTIVENESS ASSESSMENT FOR YEAR 2010/11

This paper has been deferred to a future Committee meeting.

11. ANTRIM DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP – INDEPENDENT MEMBER'S ATTENDANCE

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of the attendance rate of an Independent Member of Antrim DPP during the period April 2010 to September 2011.

Members were asked to consider if this individual should be referred to the Board for consideration of removal from office. Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

Not to recommend referral to the Board for consideration of removal.

12. INFORMATION PAPERS

There were no matters arising.

13. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

There were no matters arising.

14. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 NICVA

The Committee discussed the possibility of a meeting with NICVA to discuss its priorities for Community Engagement.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a future meeting of CEC should be held at NICVA Headquarters to enable engagement with NICVA on Board priorities for Community Engagement.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 27 October 2011 at 10:00am.

(Meeting closed 1.20pm).

Member Services

September 2011

Chairperson