

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

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

MEMBERS:

PRESENT:

- (1) Mr Gearóid Ó hEára (Chairperson)
- Mr Brian Rea (Vice Chairperson)
- Mrs Anne Connolly
- (2) Mr Jonathan Craig
- Mr Gerry Kelly
- Mr Trevor Lunn
- Mr Conall McDevitt
- Mr Robin Newton
- Mrs Joan O'Hagan
- Mr Brian Rowntree
- Ms Deborah Watters

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Edgar Jardine, Interim Chief Executive
- Mr David Jackson, Director of Planning, Performance & Partnership
- (3) Mr Peter Gilleece, Director of Policy
4 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 3.5 to close
- (2) Item number 1 – part number 13
- (3) Part item number 5.3 to close

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

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

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

2. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2011

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 15 September 2011.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

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

The Chairperson updated the meeting on the appointment of an Assistant Chief Constable. He advised that the Appointment Panel had agreed to appoint Mr George Hamilton as an Assistant Chief Constable. Two other candidates had met the standard required for appointment and their names had been placed on a Reserve List. NOTED.

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

The Interim Chief Executive advised that a Deputy Principal would be leaving the Board on 5 November 2011 to take up a new post in PSNI. NOTED.

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

The Interim Chief Executive advised that a paper regarding a schedule of meetings with key organisations and individuals would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee. NOTED.

3.4 PSNI Programme Boards (Item 4.2.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that a response was awaited from PSNI in relation to the Board's request at the August 2011 Committee meeting for access to the minutes of all Programme Board meetings. NOTED.

3.5 Committee Priorities And Targets (Item 5.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Interim Chief Executive sought approval to dedicate the agenda for the November 2011 meeting to consider Committee priorities and targets, including the Programme of Work of each Committee.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the next meeting of the Committee should be held in Malone House, Belfast to consider the Board's strategic priorities.

3.6 Training For Members (Item 6.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Interim Chief Executive updated the Committee on training which he planned to re-run for Members on public accountability and governance, and a course on chairing of meetings. Members would be kept informed of progress. NOTED.

3.7 Overview Of Organised Crime (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that a date for a meeting with the Minister of Justice had yet to be finalised to discuss the approach to tackling human trafficking and in particular, the response to the new strategy entitled, "Human Trafficking: A Government Strategy". Members would be notified when a date was settled. NOTED.

3.8 Proposals For Future Scrutiny Of PSNI Protective Services (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that a response was awaited from the PSNI regarding its assessment of each of the elements of Protective Services that are not currently monitored. A response would be brought to the Committee when received. NOTED.

3.9 Briefing On Forensic Science Northern Ireland (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that dates for meetings with PSNI and Forensic Science Northern Ireland were yet to be finalised. Members would be notified when dates were settled. NOTED.

3.10 Informal Roundtable Meeting Between The Board And PSNI Service Executive Team (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the venue for the informal roundtable meeting between the Board and PSNI Service Executive Team would be in the Lagan Valley Island Civic Centre, Lisburn on 24 November 2011 at 5:30pm. NOTED.

3.11 Destruction Of Material At Gough Barracks (Item 16 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a letter, tabled at the meeting, from ACC Crime Operations dated 14 October 2011 regarding asbestos contamination and destruction of material at Gough Barracks in 1998. Members discussed the need to ensure that should asbestos or other contamination occur in the police estate in the future, that appropriate contingency measures were in place.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Committee should write to the PSNI seeking information in relation to policies in respect of asbestos and disposal of contaminated documents.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

There were no matters arising.

4.2 Correspondence

There were no matters arising.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Appointment Of New Board Member

The Interim Chief Executive advised that Mr Adrian McQuillan had resigned his membership of the Board and would be replaced by Mr David McIlveen. NOTED.

5.2 Support For Members

The Interim Chief Executive updated the Committee regarding the allocation of Members Rooms in Waterside Tower to the political Member and independent Member groups on the Board and advised that he would continue to pursue the matter.

5.3 Review Of Public Order

The Interim Chief Executive drew the Committee's attention to a letter, tabled at the meeting, from Assistant Chief Constable Operational Support dated 13 October 2011 regarding the review of Public Order Response by the PSNI and a structured debrief on this year's public order events arranged for 23/24 November 2011. The Committee considered attendance in an observer capacity.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- That arrangements should be made for the Board's Human Rights Advisor to attend the debrief;
- That Members should attend the debrief, depending on the number of places available.

6. BOARD MEETING IN PUBLIC / PUBLIC MEETING

The Committee considered 2 papers in relation to the management of the Board Meeting in Public and Public Meetings of the Board. The first paper focused on the format of both meetings, the frequency of public meetings, timing and venue, advance notice to PSNI of question themes and the role of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee in identifying significant Committee issues for discussion at Board meetings. The second paper was prepared following a meeting between the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee and the Board's Senior Management Team, and identified a number of limitations that had become evident in the format and suggested a number of proposals for consideration.

Members discussed the content of the 2 papers focusing on:-

- The need to devote further time to the corporate business of the Board, particularly significant issues arising from the work of Committees;
- The possibility of a second Board meeting each month, devoted to a specific theme;
- The merits in meeting with the Chief Constable in private after the public session has been completed;
- The advantages and disadvantages of holding public meetings during the evening;
- Providing the opportunity for specific themes to be considered by the Board then carried through into DPPs / CSPCs for discussion at local level;
- The theme for the December 2011 public meeting;
- The separation of corporate issues and scrutiny issues as responsibilities of the entire Board and the proposal that all Members be invited to Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That no public meeting should be held in November (the Board meeting in public will be arranged as usual);
- Further consideration should be given to the theme for the December public meeting;
- Officials should prepare a paper with proposals for a revised format for consideration at the November Board meeting, including themes for the December public meeting and public meetings in the New Year;
- That all Members be formally included as full Members of Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

7. APPROACH TO SCRUTINY THROUGH COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

The Committee considered a paper which set out an approach to undertaking the work of the Board to provide an opportunity to impose the discipline of making links between different strands of work, including the PSNI Programme Boards and in the short term, bring a greater focus to a number of key themes.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

To defer consideration of the paper to the next meeting.

8. NIPB CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN 2011 – 2012 – 6 MONTH ASSESSMENT

The Committee considered a paper detailing a 6 month assessment of progress in relation to the targets contained in the 2011 – 2012 NIPB Corporate Business Plan.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve publication of the 6 month Assessment on the website.

9. APPOINTMENT PANEL – CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered a paper in relation to options for the composition of the Appointment Panel for the recruitment competition for a Chief Executive of the Policing Board.

Members discussed the composition of the Appointment Panel; its size and representativeness; devolution of appointment responsibilities to Committees; the role of an Independent Assessor; and the experience gained from the Assistant Chief Constable appointment process.

Following further discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- That officials should prepare a further paper for consideration by the Board on the composition of the Chief Executive Appointment Panel;
- That further consideration be given to an external independent assessor / observer being invited to assist the Panel;
- That officials should ensure that all Members are in a position to discuss the Appointment Guidelines at the next Board meeting.

10. OMNIBUS SURVEY QUESTIONS – JANUARY 2012

The Committee considered a proposed list of questions to be included in the January 2012 Omnibus Survey.

Following discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the proposed list of questions be approved, subject to questions 1 and 2 being reworded.

11. INFORMATION PAPERS

11.1 PSNI Update Report On 5 Year Counter Terrorism Plan

11.2 McGurk's Bar Bombing

NOTED.

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

During discussion of subject areas to be raised with the Chief Constable, there was consensus that the issues of paramilitary assaults and the impact on confidence in policing of recent controversies surrounding the Police Ombudsman's Office should be included.

13. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Committee discussed the relationship between the PSNI and the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPONI), and it was:-

RESOLVED:

- That CJINI should be invited to investigate information sharing arrangements between PSNI and OPONI.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That officials should prepare a press release in relation to the Police Ombudsman's Office and circulate it to Members for comment

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was changed from Thursday, 17 November 2011 to Wednesday, 16 November 2011 at 2:00pm.

(Meeting closed 3:50pm).

Member Services
October 2011

Chairperson