

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 2:00PM IN MALONE HOUSE, BELFAST

MEMBERS:

PRESENT:

(1) Mr Gearóid Ó hEára (Chairperson)
Mr Brian Rea (Vice Chairperson)
Mrs Anne Connolly
Mr Jonathan Craig
Mr Ryan Feeney
Mr Gerry Kelly
Mr Stuart MacDonnell
Mr Conall McDevitt
Mrs Joan O'Hagan
Mr Brian Rowntree
Mr Michael Wardlow
Ms Deborah Watters

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Edgar Jardine, Interim Chief Executive
Mr David Jackson, Director of Planning, Performance & Partnerships
Mr Peter Gilleece, Director of Policy
Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services
2 Board Officials

(1) Part item 2

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Trevor Lunn and Mr Robin Newton . NOTED.

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

2. STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF POLICING BOARD

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to a number of papers prepared by officials in relation to proposals for Members to consider the strategic direction and strategic purpose of the Policing Board. He suggested to Members that after almost 6 months of operation as a new Board, it was appropriate to reflect on the Board's strategic direction and focus on future key areas of work.

Each Member commented on their experience of the Board since their appointment and the unanimous view was that there was a need to adopt a more strategic approach.

Members discussed:-

- The unique role of the Board in the context of the policing and criminal justice system;
- How to make best use of the competences and skills of the Board membership;
- How the Board might measure its success;
- How the Board might develop a more corporate approach and be more selective in the issues that the Board takes forward;
- The strategic areas that the Board might focus on, e.g. finance; confidence and local accountability;
- The Board's working relationship with the PSNI as a critical friend;
- The need for the Board to stay relevant and be more proactive rather than reactive;
- The merits in using expert advisers to assist the Board in its work;
- The need to streamline work to ensure the Board was less bureaucratic and meeting time was used more effectively;
- The role of Board Members at public meetings;
- The need for the Board to develop connectivity with PCSPs;
- The merits in being more overtly involved in the community.

The Interim Chief Executive referred to the forthcoming Board/PSNI Change and Challenge conference of 17/18 November 2011, and suggested that the Board might wish to take stock of its strategic direction following analysis of the issues raised at the conference. He highlighted the resources available to PSNI/DOJ, particularly in relation to finance and suggested that the Board would need to take this into consideration in future planning. He also reminded Members of the need for the Board to have clarity in relation to fully understanding its role in holding the Chief Constable to account and within the overall criminal justice system.

Members considered the unique position and purpose of the Policing Board.

Members discussed:-

- The most appropriate way to hold the Chief Constable to account;
- The role of Lead Members at public meetings;
- Reducing the volume of Board business and focusing on more strategic business;
- Focusing on the Board's remit and staying within this confine;
- Evaluating and measuring the success of each Board meeting;
- Defining the unique role of the Board for the public;
- Clarifying what success would look like for the Board at the end of the current term of office;
- The wording that might be included in a future Vision Statement;
- How the Board might approach the sensitive and complex issue of 'policing the past';
- The use of qualitative research in focusing on community issues.

Members considered how the Board might define and agree strategic principles and what strategic priorities the Board should adopt.

Officials reminded Members of the strategic direction and priorities included in the Policing Plan and the Board's Corporate Plan and Members identified a number of priorities for consideration, including public confidence; accountability; interface between the Board and the community; finance and resources; community engagement

and outreach; police accountability and delivery; community impact and research; and tenure.

Members also discussed the advocacy role that the Board might have in the future.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- That the Board should review its priorities after the Change and Challenge conference and informal meeting with the PSNI Service Executive Team on 24 November 2011;
- That further consideration should be given to the strategic priorities of community engagement, performance and value for money;
- The officials should prepare a draft Plan for consideration at a future meeting of the Board Planning Sub-Committee which included the objectives suggested by Members;
- That a further meeting should be arranged in January 2012 to consider the implementation of the strategic approach to the evaluation of police policy and practice.

(Meeting closed 4:40pm).

Members Services

November 2011

Chairperson