

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2011 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS

- (1)** Mr Jonathan Craig (Chairperson)
- (1)** Mr Stuart MacDonnell (Vice Chairperson)
- Mrs Anne Connolly
- Mr Robin Newton
- Mr Brian Rowntree
- Mr Pat Sheehan
- Mr Michael Wardlow

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (2)** Mrs Judith Gillespie, Deputy Chief Constable
- (3)** Mr David Best, Director of Finance and Support Services
- (3)** Mr Mark McNaughton, Head of Finance
- (4)** Mr John Tully, Head of PSNI Information & Communications Services
- (5)** Mr Sam Hagan, Head of Corporate Governance
- (5)** Ms Nichole Murphy, Head of Process Improvement Unit

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Edgar Jardine (Interim Chief Executive)
Mr David Jackson, Director of Planning, Performance & Partnership
Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services
5 Board Officials

- (1)** Item numbers 1 – 5 and 12
- (2)** Item number 12
- (3)** Item numbers 6 and 12
- (4)** Item number 13 only
- (5)** Item number 14 only

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

No apologies were received. NOTED.

No conflicts of interest arising from the agenda were declared by Members.

2. MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2011

The Committee noted the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 16 September 2011.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Resources and Improvement Committee meeting held on 16 September 2011 be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2011

3.1 PSNI Report on Expenditure to July 2011 (Item 3.2 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a paper would be brought to the November 2011 meeting, advising how the Board could add value to the PSNI business case approval process.

3.2 KPMG Evaluation of PSNI Efficiency Plan (Item 3.3 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

3.3 NIPB Year End Financial Statement (Item 3.4 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

3.4 Accommodation – Waterside Tower (Item 12 of Minutes Refers)

This item was dealt with under item 11.

3.5 Meeting with PSNI Director of Finance – 24 August 2011 (Item 4.1 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

3.6 Report on Expenditure to September 2011 (Item 6.1 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

3.7 NIPB Report on Expenditure to September 2011 (Item 7 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

3.8 Assisted Removals (Item 8 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

3.9 Compensation Information April, May and June 2011 (Item 9 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

3.10 Disposal of Surplus Land at Lisburn and Craigavon (Item 10 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 PSNI Estates Steering Committee Meeting on 21 September 2011

The Committee was advised that a briefing note had been issued regarding the above meeting.

5. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2011 – 2012

The Committee noted the Committee's updated Programme of Work for 2011/2012.
NOTED.

6. PSNI REPORT ON EXPENDITURE TO SEPTEMBER 2011

	Actual £k	Budget £k	Variance £k
Staff Costs	268,351	273,315	4,964
Non Staff Costs	70,690	76,653	5,963
Historical Enquiries Team	2,805	3,250	445
Receipts	(3,286)	(3,910)	(624)
Profit/loss on disposal	(160)	0	160
Cash Payment of Provisions	50,720	33,379	(17,341)
Depreciation & Impairment	14,126	15,127	1,001
Pension Curtailments	2,347	0	(2,347)
Total Resource DEL	405,594	397,813	(7,781)

Members raised various issues and concerns with the Director of Finance and Support Services, and some of these were:-

- Overtime – overspend;
- Armoured fleet.

Members also raised the issue of the PSNI Monthly Expenditure report and suggested that a workshop should be set up to enable them to fully understand the PSNI finance report.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That Board officials should set up a workshop with PSNI to discuss the Board's requirements in relation to the PSNI Monthly Expenditure report.

7. NIPB REPORT ON EXPENDITURE TO AUGUST 2011

The Committee considered a paper which provided an update in relation to the Board Management Accounts.

Members discussed the NIPB budget savings and future budget reductions. Staff were complimented on the efficient use of resources and their ability to hand money back to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That the Chairperson's speaking note for the November 2011 Board meeting references the NIPB budget savings and future budget reductions based on PCSP savings and staffing efficiencies.

8. ASSISTED REMOVALS

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of a request from PSNI in relation to assisted removals.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- To ratify the decision taken by a Board official to approve an extension to the police leased accommodation for 3 months from 28 October 2011, ADM 70.

9. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PROPOSAL TO CONTRACT OUT THE PENSION MEDICAL APPEAL PROCESS TO A TWO PERSON PANEL

The Committee considered a paper which brought to their attention, a proposal by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to “contract out” the Pension Medical Appeals process to a 2 Person Panel and the implications for the Board’s Selected Medical Practitioner (SMP) contract and financial budgets.

Members had concerns about this in terms of governance and the cost implications.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

To write to the DOJ expressing the Committee’s concerns as outlined in the paper.

10. HER MAJESTY’S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY (HMIC) VALUE FOR MONEY PROFILES 2010 – 2011

The Committee noted the HMIC Value for Money (VFM) Profiles 2010 – 2011 which benchmarked PSNI and its most similar England and Wales police forces.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That the HMIC Value for Money Profile Benchmarking information would be sent to all Board Members;
- Officials would draft specific questions on the HMIC Value for Money Benchmarking for the Chief Constable at the November 2011 Board meeting.

11. NIPB ACCOMMODATION

Members discussed the Board's current and future accommodation requirements.

12. PSNI EFFICIENCY PLAN 2011/12 – 2014/15

The Chairperson welcomed the Deputy Chief Constable, Mrs Judith Gillespie, Mr David Best and Mr Mark McNaughton to the meeting to present the PSNI Efficiency Plan 2011/12 – 2014/15.

The current CSR (Comprehensive Spending Review) requires PSNI to make £135m savings between 2011/12 and 2014/15.

The Deputy Chief Constable began by listing the PSNI achievements over the last 10 years, including:-

- Reduced officer numbers;
- Reduced overtime;
- Improved contract procurement; and
- Programme of outsourcing.

The Deputy Chief Constable then spoke on the PSNI main projects:-

- Savings in 2011/12 of £19.6m on track;
- Focus for savings in support areas:-
 - ICS;
 - Contract management;
 - Estates;
 - Transport; and
 - Workforce modernisation.

Some of the risks identified were as follows:-

- Winsor implementation;
- Dependency on other Departments;
- Security situation;
- Economic pressures;
- Future pay;
- Failure to deliver estimated savings; and
- Funding beyond 2014/15.

The Deputy Chief Constable concluded her presentation by highlighting the way forward as follows:-

- Workforce Modernisation Strategy;
- Identification of further projects;
- External learning;
- Strategy governance;
- Looking beyond 2014/15; and
- Security funding.

Members raised various questions and concerns with the PSNI representatives, some of which were around:-

- Police numbers;
- Police overtime; and
- Police civilian staff and fixed term contracts.

Following the presentation, the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

The Committee considered further the Efficiency Plan. Members discussed having an independent assurance on the detail of the Plan before approval.

Following a further discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- To inform the Deputy Chief Constable that the Committee welcomed the report and having considered its contents, the Committee is seeking to obtain independent assurance on the detail before approval;
- Board officials to seek to provide independent assurance of the PSNI Efficiency Plan, possibly using the internal auditors; and
- Board officials to obtain the Department of Justice Efficiency Plan.

13. CONSIDERATION OF THE PSNI's ICT STRATEGY FOR 2011 – 2014

The Chairperson welcomed Mr John Tully, Head of PSNI Information and Communication Services to the meeting.

Mr Tully briefed Members on the PSNI's ICT Strategy.

- Background to ICT investment in PSNI;
- The key focus of the ICT Strategy 2011; and
- Determining areas of investment.

Members were impressed with the achievements to date and discussed the option of the Committee being presented with quarterly NPIA Summary Independent Validation reports.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- To recommend to the Board that it approves the 2011/14 PSNI ICT Strategy had been approved, subject to regular monitoring;
- That officials would arrange an IT demonstration day for Members to see PSNI IT in practice; and

- Arrange for quarterly NPIA Summary Independent Validation reports to be provided to the Committee.

14. UPDATE FROM PSNI ON CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS 2011 – 2012

The Committee welcomed Mr Sam Hagan, PSNI Head of Governance and Ms Nichola Murphy, Head of Process Improvement Unit to the meeting.

Members were provided with a 6 monthly update on PSNI Continuous Improvement.

NOTED.

15. INFORMATION PAPERS

15.1 NIPB Management Statement and Financial Memorandum

NOTED.

16. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

To arrange for HMIC Value for Money Profile Benchmarking information and funding for the Historical Enquiries Team to be included in the list of items to be discussed with the Chief Constable at the November Board meeting.

17. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Friday, 11 November 2011 at 1:00pm in Waterside Tower.

(Meeting closed 1:15pm).

Members Services

October 2011

Chairperson