

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2007 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- (1) Mr Barry Gilligan
- (2) Mrs Dolores Kelly
- Mr Alex Maskey
- (3) Mr Basil McCrea
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- Mr Brian Rea
- (4) Mr Trevor Ringland
- (5) Mr David Simpson

ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AUTHORITIES IN ATTENDANCE:

- (6) Mr Phil Blundell, Vice-Chairman APA and Chairman of Warwickshire Police Authority
- (6) Mr Eric Wood, Chief Executive, Warwickshire Police Authority
- (6) Ms Fionnuala Gill, Executive Director, APA

PSNI IN ATTENDANCE

- (7) Chief Superintendent, CORE Project
- (7) Inspector, CORE Project Team

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (8) Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
- (9) Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)
- (10) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
- (11) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- (9) Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- (9) 3 Board Officials
- (9) 1 Internal Auditor

- (1) Except item number 12
- (2) Item numbers 1-3, part item 4, 5 & 6
- (3) Item number 1-3, part item 4, 5 & 6, 11
- (4) Item number 1-3, part item 4, 5
- (5) Except item number 13
- (6) Item number 12 only
- (7) Item number 13 only
- (8) Except item number 4.8
- (9) Except item numbers 4.6, 4.7 & 4.8
- (10) Item numbers 3.5 to close except 4.6, 4.7 & 4.8
- (11) Except item numbers 1 & 2, part 4, 12 & 13

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson and Mrs Mary McKee.
NOTED.

The Chairman sought and received the approval of the Committee for an internal auditor to observe the meeting. The auditor is part of a team carrying out a review of Board Corporate Governance and Risk, processes, focusing on Committee structures.

The Chairman referred to 2 recent incidents, on 8 and 12 November 2007 in which 2 police officers were shot and injured. He referred Members to the news releases issued on behalf of the Board condemning the shootings and confirmed that he had written to the injured officers.

The Committee endorsed the content of the releases and discussed the challenges faced by District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) following such incidents. It was:-

AGREED:

That the Community Engagement Committee should consider how the Board could further support the work of DPPs and the local community following serious incidents in their area.

Arising from this discussion, it was:

AGREED:

That the Vice Chairman of the Board should contact Dungannon DPP to ascertain the position regarding nominations to the DPP and advise the Committee accordingly.

2. MINUTES OF A CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2007

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting held on 17 October 2007 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2007

3.1 OPONI Report – Rosemary Nelson (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive reminded the Committee that the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPONI) had been considering the Board's request for a copy of the full OPONI investigation report into allegations made by the Committee for the Administration of Justice about how specific aspects of Mrs Rosemary Nelson's personal security were handled by the RUC. He advised that he had now been informed by OPONI that the Ombudsman had decided not to accede to the Board's request and would not be circulating the full report beyond the family and the complainant. NOTED.

3.2 Research Support For Political Members (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

This issue was dealt with under item 9.

3.3 Training And Briefing Session For Members (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that the training and briefing session for Members had been re-scheduled for 3 January 2008 and that officials would inform all Board Members about the programme in due course. NOTED.

3.4 Report On Chief Officers' Remuneration (Item 5.3 Of Minutes Refers)

A confidential note on this matter is attached at Appendix 'A'.

3.5 CJINI – Follow Up Review Of The Inspection Of OPONI (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials reminded Members that following the publication of a recommendation in the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) report on OPONI, published in October 2007, relating to meetings between the OPONI and the Board, the Committee had written to the Chief Inspector of CJINI drawing his attention to the Memorandum of Understanding between the 2 organisations and to the lack of consultation by the CJINI with the Board in preparing the follow-up report and issuing a news release regarding the recommendations. The Chief Inspector had replied to the Board apologising for the lack of consultation and welcoming the Memorandum of Understanding between OPONI and the Board. NOTED.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the new Ombudsman would be invited to attend the December 2007 Board meeting. NOTED.

3.6 PSNI Management Of Sex Offenders And PSNI Participation Within The Multi Agency Sex Offenders Risk Assessment And Management (MASRAM) Committee (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

A Member highlighted the potential for some sex offenders, who as sectioned patients were not prosecuted, to fall outside the remit of MASRAM Committee and sought further clarification on the matter. Officials advised that the issue would be raised with PSNI and the Member would be supplied with further information on the matter.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman had undertaken the following engagements on behalf of the Board:-

- dinner –National Policing Improvement Agency, Bramshill – 1 November 2007;
- meeting with North Belfast DPP Sub Group – Belfast – 7 November 2007;
- meeting with Sir Alan Collins, Consul-General and Director-General, Trade & Investment, USA – Belfast – 8 November 2007;
- meeting with Minister and Chief Constable – Belfast – 12 November 2007.

The Chairman informed the Committee about the content of a confidential letter dated 6 November 2007 that he had forwarded to the Minister of State relating to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07) settlement for the PSNI and the discussion at the meeting on 12 November 2007 which centred on CSR07.

Members discussed the Government funding process, including the distribution of revenue from the sale of land from the police estate, funding for the new college, the PSNI estates strategy, and the community engagement strategy.

- meeting with West Belfast Partnership – Belfast – 13 November 2007;
- meeting with new US Consul General – Belfast – 13 November 2007;
- reception – BBC Trust – Belfast – 13 November 2007;
- meeting with Mr Al Hutchinson, Police Ombudsman – 15 November 2007.

4.2 Publications

The Chairman advised the Committee that the following publications had been placed in the library:-

- Handbook of Police Care Organisations and Programme for Police Fund Conference on 6 & 7 November 2007;
- 17th Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission – 7 November 2007.

4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman informed Members that he had received the following correspondence:-

- letter dated 31 October 2007 from Police Ombudsman regarding Section 62 Statement in respect of the investigation of the complaint made by Mr Eamon Cairns about the police conduct in relation to the murder of his 2 sons;
- letter dated 2 November 2007 from Police Ombudsman regarding regulation 20 of the RUC (Complaints etc) Regulations 2000 in respect of the investigation of the complaint made by Mr Tom Travers;
- letter dated 2 November 2007 from Keir Starmer, Board's Human Rights Advisor (a confidential note of this on this matter is attached at Appendix 'A');
- letter dated 5 November 2007 from Owen Patterson MP regarding attendance at Board Meeting in Public on 1 November 2007.

4.4 News Releases

The Chairman highlighted the following news releases:-

- Radical Changes To Northern Ireland's Criminal Justice Laws – NIO – 8 November 2007;
- US Government Statement - US Special Envoy for Northern Ireland – 13 November 2007.

4.5 Questions At Board Meetings

The Chief Executive drew the attention of Members to a paper, tabled at the meeting, which sought the Committee's recommendations on the most effective use of the opportunity to question the Chief Constable at Board meetings.

It was:

AGREED:

That the paper should be considered by the full Board and that if Members had any comments on the paper these should be made to the Chief Executive before the December 2007 Board meeting.

4.6 Chief Constable's PDR – In-Year Review

A confidential note on this matter is attached at Appendix 'A'.

4.7 Deputy Chief Constable – Fixed Term Contract

A confidential note on this matter is attached at Appendix 'A'.

4.8 Chief Executive's PDR – In-Year Review

A confidential note on this matter is attached at Appendix 'A'.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Board Staffing Arrangements

The Chief Executive updated Members on the current measures being taken to address a number of staffing pressures and advised Members on progress regarding recruitment to the vacant post of Director of Corporate Services. NOTED.

5.2 Chief Officer Issues

The Chief Executive informed the Committee about issues relating to a complaint against a PSNI officer serving overseas as an acting Chief Officer and the process for approval of officers acting to ACPO ranks.

It was:

AGREED:

That further information should be obtained about the secondment and the Board's responsibilities for PSNI officers acting as Chief Officers on secondment overseas.

5.3 Industrial Tribunal Case

The Chief Executive informed Members about the settlement of an industrial tribunal case in a District Council in which the Board was linked by the complainant. NOTED.

5.4 DPP Chairman's Forum

The Chief Executive highlighted a DPP Chairman's Forum that had been arranged for the evening of 20 November 2007 and encouraged all Members to attend. NOTED.

6. 1st DRAFT PART 2 NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING PLAN 2008 – 2011

The Committee considered the 1st draft of Part 2 of the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2008-2011. Members suggested a number of amendments which were noted by officials for inclusion in a forthcoming review with PSNI that would inform the preparation of the 2nd draft. Officials informed the Committee that a full draft of the 2008 - 2011 Northern Ireland Policing Plan would be developed for Members' consideration and presented to the December 2007 Committee meeting, which all Board Members would be invited to attend.

It was:-

AGREED:

That if Members had any further amendments they would contact the Director of Planning.

7. 2008 DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS PUBLIC CONSULTATION SURVEY QUESTIONS

The Committee considered core questions to be included in the 2008 DPP Public Consultation Survey. Members were reminded that the Policing Board has a statutory requirement under Section 3 (3) (d) (ii) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 to assess the level of public satisfaction with the performance of the police and DPPs.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the core questions for the 2008 DPP Public Consultation Survey subject to further discussions with one member on a possible additional question.

8. POLICING BOARD MONITORING OF OUTSTANDING PATTEN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee considered a paper that provided an update on Policing Board plans for monitoring outstanding Patten recommendations. The paper detailed target dates around the completion and monitoring of the 41 of 44 outstanding Independent Commission on Policing (Patten) Report recommendations, noted as incomplete by the Oversight Commissioner in his legacy document of May 2007.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the paper should be deferred to the next Committee meeting for consideration.

9. RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL MEMBERS

The Committee considered a paper relating to the Secretary of State's response to the Board's request for research support for political Members of the Board. The Secretary of State advised that no more funds would be made available to the Board, and suggested that the Members might wish to consider a scheme within existing Board resources.

It was:

AGREED:

The matter be deferred for further consideration by the Committee until after the Board is advised of its Comprehensive Spending Review 07 settlement and that this proposed expenditure be considered in light of the overall priorities of the Board.

10. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR LEGAL ACTION

A confidential note on this matter is attached at Appendix 'A'.

11. INFORMATION PAPERS

11.1 Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) Follow Up Report On Scientific Support Services In PSNI

NOTED.

11.2 Performance Monitoring Of Qualitative Targets In The 2007 – 2008 Northern Ireland Policing Plan

NOTED.

11.3 Board's Communication Strategy: Performance Report

NOTED.

The Chairman recorded the Committee's appreciation for the excellent work of the Board's Press Office staff during the year.

12. BRIEFING BY THE ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AUTHORITIES

The Committee noted the content of a paper which outlined background information on the work of the Association of Police Authorities (APA). NOTED.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Philip Blundell, Mr Eric Woods and Ms Fionnuala Gill to the meeting.

The Vice-Chairman of APA thanked the Board for the opportunity to brief the Committee. He paid tribute to the support which had been given to the APA by Members and Officials and for their assistance during the APA visit to Northern Ireland.

The Executive Director of APA gave a presentation to the Committee on the work of the APA. During the presentation the Director outlined details regarding:-

- the establishment and role of the APA;
- the APA Structures, Executive and Policy Groups;
- the APA Member Liaison Networks;
- publications which had been published by APA;
- a review of APA which was being undertaken of APA;

- current issues on the agenda of national police reform;
- challenges for Police Authorities.

A copy of the slides used during the presentation is attached at Appendix 'B'.

Subsequent to the presentation, discussion focused on:-

- the working relationship between the APA and the Independent Police Complaints Commission;
- neighbourhood policing;
- community engagement issues.

Mr Woods thanked the Board for giving the APA the opportunity to make a presentation to the Committee. In response the Chairman thanked the representatives from the APA for their contribution and they left the meeting.

13. BRIEFING BY PSNI REGARDING CORE PROJECT

The Committee noted the content of a paper which provided Members with an update regarding the implementation of the Corporate Opportunity for Resilience and Efficiency (CORE) Project in the PSNI. NOTED.

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Superintendent, CORE Project and his colleague to the meeting.

The Chief Superintendent gave a presentation to the Committee regarding the implementation of the CORE Project.

During the presentation the Chief Superintendent outlined details regarding:-

- the CORE and LINKS projects governance;
- the CORE project workstreams.
- workforce modernisation;

- review of shift systems in the PSNI;
- the District Command Unit (DCU) workstream objectives which had been achieved;
- a review of Headquarters structures.

A copy of the slides used during the presentation is attached at Appendix 'C'.

During and subsequent to the presentation, discussion focused on:-

- the consolidation of 29 DCUs into 8 and the impact this appeared to be having on some DPPs;
- Phase 1 of the Headquarters Review which included research regarding the location of specialist police units;
- neighbourhood policing with the minimum abstraction rates.

The Chairman thanked the representatives from the PSNI for their contribution and they left the meeting.

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 OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed for 13 December 2007 at 9:30am in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 5.30pm).

Secretariat
November 2007

Chairman