

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2008 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Alex Maskey (Chair)
Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chair)
(1) Mr Leslie Cree
(1) Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson
(2) Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
Mr David Rose

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(3) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief
Constable)
(3) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice
Department)
(3) 2 PSNI Representatives, Criminal Justice
Department

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM IN ATTENDANCE:

(4) 4 Representatives

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr Debbie Donnelly, Deputy Chief
Executive
Mr David Jackson, Director of Community
Engagement
5 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 – 3 & 9
- (2) Item numbers 1 – 3, 9 & 10
- (3) Item number 9 only
- (4) Item number 10 only

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Tom Buchanan and Ms Mary McKee.

NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2007

It was:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee held on 22 November 2007 be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2007

3.1 Hate Crime (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that officials were awaiting a response from PSNI in relation to two specific incidents. NOTED.

3.2 Invitation From PSNI To Participate In And Support The Annual Policing With The Community Awards Scheme (Item 4.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that this item had been referred to the Board meeting and that the Board had agreed to support this initiative by sitting on judging panels and by way of financial support as requested. NOTED.

3.3 DPP Chairs And Vice Chairs Forum Meeting (Item 4.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that officials would re-examine the format of the DPP Chairs' and Vice Chairs' Forum meeting.

3.4 Independent Research Into The Effectiveness Of Neighbourhood Watch In Northern Ireland (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a paper would be presented to the February 2008 Community Engagement meeting. NOTED.

3.5 Appointment By The Policing Board Of Independent Members To The District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) And To The Sub-Groups To Belfast DPP (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that this matter had been referred to the Board and that the policy was accepted. NOTED.

3.6 Assessment Of The Effectiveness Of District Policing Partnerships During The Year 2005/06 (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised the Committee, that they are revising the DPP effectiveness framework and had made arrangements to ensure that Members of the Committee had sight of survey questions relating to the work of DPPs before going to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee. NOTED.

3.7 Ballymena DPP Independent Member Vacancy (Item 14.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a paper on the recruitment competition to fill the Ballymena DPP vacancy.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- to accept Option 2 in the paper as the approach to fill the current vacancy in Ballymena DPP; and
- To adopt a similar approach to future vacancies within Banbridge and Coleraine DPPs, subject to procurement requirements.

3.8 £100,000 Underspend DPP Budget (Item 14.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that this matter had been referred back to the Resources and Improvement Committee. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 DPP Political Members Induction Events

The Chair advised the Committee on two briefings which had been held at the end of November 2007 in Belfast and Cookstown. The Committee were advised that both events had been successful and well attended. NOTED.

4.2 Round Table Discussion

The Chair advised the Committee on the Round Table discussion that had taken place on Tuesday, 22 January 2007.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a list of actions from the meeting would be taken forward and that the original group who attended the Round Table discussion would be advised of these.

4.3 Board Members Links With District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)

The Chair advised the Committee that they are encouraged to make contact with their respective DPPs.

It was:-

AGREED:

That Board Members be updated on a brief guidance note for Members links with DPPs.

4.4 March 2008 Community Engagement Committee Meeting

The Committee was advised that the March 2008 meeting falls during the Easter week.

It was:-

AGREED:

That business scheduled for the March 2008 meeting would be dealt with at the February or April 2008 meeting.

5. REVISED CODE OF PRACTICE ON FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS AND BELFAST SUB GROUPS

The Committee considered a paper which updated Members on the responses to the consultation and considered the points raised: It was:-

AGREED:

To approve the recommended responses to incorporate the recommendations to the redraft of the Code of Practice, with the exception of a recommendation of the Chief Constable, for cases of historical or other enquiries to be referred to the Board.

6. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: BELFAST, COLERAINE, DUNGANNON & SOUTH TYRONE AND FERMANAGH DPPs

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with details of the level of attendance by DPP Members in Belfast, Coleraine, Dungannon and South Tyrone, and Fermanagh DPPs.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the Committee accept the approach outlined in the paper.

**7. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE
DRAFT POLICY**

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with a revised draft policy on DPP Members' attendance.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Committee agree the revised current draft policy on DPP Members' attendance for formal consultation with key stakeholders.

**8. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) MEMBERS' CAPACITY
BUILDING PLAN APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009**

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members' views on the draft DPP Members' Capacity Building Plan for the period April 2008 to March 2009.

The Committee noted the Capacity Building Plan, and it was:-

AGREED:

To hold a one day Best Practice conference for DPPs.

9. DEVELOPING A MONITORING FRAMEWORK IN RELATION TO POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Chair welcomed the Deputy Chief Constable, ACC Criminal Justice and two colleagues to the meeting, and invited them to discuss the further development of a Monitoring Framework in relation to Policing with the Community. This followed Mr Bob Lunney's report on Policing with the Community which had been presented to the Committee in October 2007.

During the briefing, the Committee and PSNI discussed the following points:-

- Neighbourhood Policing is a part of the framework for Policing with the Community;
- that the focus of the framework is on outcomes;
- the importance of all officers understanding the Policing with the Community framework/strategy;
- tenure and the professionalising of neighbourhood policing officers;
- The role of neighbourhood policing in developing Police and Community Together (PACT).
- The role of the Community Police Officers in undertaking a Community Impact Assessment.

An area of concern raised by a Member was the impact of the decision on the Full-Time Reserve (FTR) and neighbourhood policing. The Deputy Chief Constable and ACC Criminal Justice advised the Committee that the reduction in FTR numbers would have a negligible impact on the Neighbourhood Policing as there were only around 25 FTR officers currently employed in neighbourhood policing.

Following the briefing, it was noted that PSNI fully accept the report on Policing with the Community produced by Mr Bob Lunney. It was:-

AGREED:

That PSNI would work on developing a range of indicators that will enable the Implementation of Policing with the Community to be measured.

**10. REPORT FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM
RECOMMENDING A PROCESS TO SUPPORT THE BOARD'S FUTURE
ENGAGEMENT WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Chair welcomed representatives from the Northern Ireland Youth Forum (NIYF) to the Committee. The NIYF briefed Members on their report and, in particular, some of the barriers young people had about engaging with the Policing Board. They then discussed their recommendations with the Committee.

The Committee welcomed the Report and paid tribute to the quality of the work that had gone into it.

The Chair stated that the Committee was committed to working with young people them and welcomed NIYF's offer to facilitate the establishment of a Youth Persons Reference Group.

Following a discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- to accept the recommendations contained in the Report; and
- That officials would work with the NIYF to implement the recommendations and would report back to the Committee.

11. PROGRESS REPORT FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BRANCH

The Committee considered a paper which advised on the progress made in implementing the Community Engagement Strategy. The Committee were also advised of two events that were taking place and that all Members were invited to attend.

- launch of the Community Engagement Strategy – Long Gallery, Stormont – 28 January 2008 – 12:00noon – 2:00pm;
- Induction Day for Reference Groups at the Radisson Hotel, Belfast – 28 February 2008 – 10:00am – 3:00pm.

The Committee considered how best Members could engage with the Community Engagement Reference Groups. It was;

AGREED

That officials would bring a paper to the Committee setting out the options for Members engaging with the Reference Groups.

12. PROGRAMME FOR A DPP, PSNI AND COMMUNITY JOINT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a paper which updated the position regarding the development and delivery of a joint programme between DPPs, PSNI and the community, using funding secured from the International Fund for Ireland (IFI).

The Committee considered the timescale for the completion of the programme which did not take account of the reconstitution of 23 DPPs in April 2008.

Consideration was also given to establishing a Reference Group for the programme and what the membership of this Group should be.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That the IFI would be contacted and asked to extend the timescale for completion from December 2008 to April 2009
- That a Reference Group would be established and the Chair of the Committee, Alex Maskey would Chair the Group and Barry Gilligan and Mary McKee would also sit on the Group.

13. ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PUBLIC MEETINGS

This matter was deferred until the February 2008 Committee meeting.

14. INFORMATION PAPERS

14.1 Correspondence From Castlereagh DPP

NOTED.

14.2 Applications For Appointment As Independent Members Of DPPs And Belfast Sub Groups – Statistical Comparison Between 2005 Competition And 2007/08 Competition

NOTED.

14.3 Raid Control Pilot – Six Month Evaluation

NOTED.

15. SCHEDULE OF BRIEFINGS/REPORTS 2008

The Committee considered the schedule of briefings/reports for 2008.

It was:-

AGREED:

That in light of the cancellation of the March 2008 Committee meeting, the briefing on Policing with the Community fund would be dealt with at the February 2008 meeting.

16. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

That a question on how PSNI engage with young people be put to the Chief Constable at a future 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 Thursday, 21 February 2008 at 5.00pm

(Meeting closed at 5:45pm).

Secretariat

January 2008

Chair