

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 APRIL 2008 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)  
Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)

- (1) Mrs Dolores Kelly
- (2) Mr Alex Maskey
- (3) Mr Basil McCrea
- (4) Mr Daithí McKay
- (1) Ms Mary McKee
- (5) Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- (1) Mr Brian Rea
- Mr Trevor Ringland
- (6) Mr David Simpson

#### **POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (7) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice)
- (7) 1 PSNI Officer

#### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION NORTHERN IRELAND**

- (8) Mr Kit Chivers
- (8) Mr Brendan McGuigan
- (8) Mr James Corrigan

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
- Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
- (9) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
- (9) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- 3 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 1 to part item 16
- (2) Item number 12 to part item 16
- (3) Part item number 13 to part item 16
- (4) Item numbers 3.3 to part item 16
- (5) Item numbers 1 to part item 15
- (6) Item 3.5 to part item 15
- (7) Item number 15 only
- (8) Item number 16 only
- (9) Item numbers 1 to 14

## **1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

There were no apologies received. NOTED.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2008**

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 21 February 2008 should be agreed.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2008**

### **3.1 Chief Officers' Issues (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

This matter was dealt with at item 7.

### **3.2 Serious And Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) (Item 3.13 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that arrangements had been made for the Deputy Director of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency to meet with Members on 19 June 2008. NOTED.

Members discussed the remit of SOCA and the desirability of the agreement of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and SOCA. Officials undertook to provide information about the arrangements that the Scottish police authorities had in place for SOCA, prior to the meeting in June 2008.

### **3.3 Management Of Members' Time/Availability (Item 5.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Vice Chairman updated the Committee on 2 meetings which had been held with Board Members regarding their views on how officials could best assist Members in managing their time. Based on these discussions, a paper containing proposals would be brought to the next Committee meeting for consideration. NOTED.

### **3.4 National Policing Board (Item 5.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chief Executive advised that the issue of local representation on the National Policing Board had been raised with the NIO and once a substantive reply was received, the matter would be brought back to the Committee. NOTED.

### **3.5 Invitation To Attend District Policing Partnership (DPP) Meeting (Item 5.4 Of Minutes Refers)**

This matter was dealt with under item 12.

### **3.6 Recruitment And Selection Policy (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was reminded that at its February 2008 meeting, it had resolved that the Board's Recruitment and Selection Policy should be changed to allow for trawling of the Civil Service to assist in filling vacancies at Staff Officer level and above, in addition to external recruitment. Following discussion at the March 2008 Board meeting, it was resolved that the issue should be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

The Committee reconsidered the paper.

Following discussion, it was:-

## **RESOLVED:**

That subject to any comments from the Equality Commission, the Board's Recruitment and Selection Policy be changed to allow for trawling of the Civil Service to assist in filling vacancies at Staff Officer level and above, in addition to external recruitment.

### **3.7 Complaint Against A Member Of The Board (Item 12.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that it was anticipated that the complaint against a Member of the Board would be resolved informally. NOTED.

## **4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Engagements**

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

- DPP Members' Information Session – Antrim – 10 April 2008;
- Meeting with Institute for Conflict Research – Belfast – 16 April 2008;
- Visit to Police Property Storage Facility – Seapark – 16 April 2008.

NOTED.

### **4.2 Publications**

The following publication had been received:-

- The Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland No 3 – Spring 2008.

NOTED.

### **4.3 Correspondence**

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

- letter from Chief Constable dated 27 February 2008 regarding assistance with legal expenses and letter from Chairman dated 8 April 2008;
- letter from Police Ombudsman dated 3 April 2008 regarding discharge of firearm in Londonderry on 17 January 2004; (this letter will be referred to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee for consideration);
- letter from Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) dated 7 April 2008 regarding the PERF's 2008 Leadership Award;
- letter from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister dated 7 April 2008 regarding Local Government Elections – Reconstitution of District Policing Partnerships;
- letter from Chief Constable dated 10 April 2008 regarding press report which was issued following a briefing in Dublin;
- letter from Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson dated 11 April 2008 regarding his appointment as Minister in the Office of the First Minister in the Northern Ireland Executive.

NOTED.

### **4.4 News Releases/Articles**

- Launch of the Northern Ireland Law Commission – Northern Ireland Office – 1 April 2008;
- Policing Board and PSNI publish revised Gender Action Plan – Northern Ireland Policing Board – 7 April 2008.

NOTED.

## **5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Publication Of Members' Expenses 2007/08**

The Chief Executive referred Members to a schedule detailing expenses – mileage, other transport, flights, accommodation and other expenses for the year 2007/08.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That the schedule of Members' travel and subsistence for the year 2007/08 should be published on the Board's website.

### **5.2 Invitation To Attend Police Executive Research Forum Meeting In San Francisco 29/30 May 2008**

The Chief Executive referred Members to correspondence received inviting the Chairman and Members to attend the Police Executive Research Forum meeting in San Francisco on 29/30 May 2008.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

- that the Chairman and Ms Mary McKee should represent the Board at the Forum meeting;
- that the Members should be accompanied by one official.

### **5.3 Invitation To Participate In Seminar For Police Certification In Mexico 19/20 June 2008**

The Chief Executive referred Members to correspondence received from the Centro de Certificacion Profesional Policial (CENTRPOL) extending an invitation to the Board to participate in a seminar for police certification in Mexico City on 19/20 June 2008.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the Vice Chairman should represent the Board at the CENTRPOL seminar.

**5.4 Seminar On How Best To Improve Policing Effectiveness, Partnerships And Accountability**

The Chief Executive advised Members about a seminar organised by the Centre for Public Policy Seminars on improving policing effectiveness, partnerships and accountability. Any Member interested in attending was asked to contact the Secretariat. NOTED.

**6. QUESTIONS AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The Chairman reminded Members of discussion at the April 2008 Board meeting, when it was agreed that legal advice which had been received regarding the conduct of the Board meeting in public and to questions and answers which might give rise to breach of due process or human rights, should be considered by the Committee.

The Committee considered a paper containing legal advice in relation to the form of words used in the Board's revised approach to the conduct of public sessions of Board meetings.

It was:-

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the Board should approve the following form of words, "questions should not be asked nor answers given where they are likely to identify individuals in a context or situation where the consequence of the individual being so identified might cause the individual to suffer a real and immediate risk of harm or disproportionately infringe any other human rights of the individual or the

individual's family; or where the questions and answers might unfairly deprive the individual of due process or a fair procedure".

## **7. SECONDMENTS AND ACTING-UP OF OFFICERS AT CHIEF OFFICER RANKS**

The Committee considered a draft policy regarding secondments and acting up of police officers at Chief Officer ranks.

It was:-

### **RESOLVED:**

That the following policy should be adopted:-

- that the PSNI requires Board approval in advance for all secondments and acting-up to Chief Officer ranks, including the terms of the appointment;
- that in requesting approval from the Board the PSNI be required to inform the Board of:-
  - the circumstances of the secondment/acting-up appointment;
  - the capacity of the PSNI to release the officer involved and the arrangements made to cover the duties of the officer during the period of the secondment/acting-up appointment; and
  - the nature of the competition undertaken for the secondment/acting-up appointment and its outcome.
- that the Board accepts responsibility under the disciplinary and conduct regulations for the officer during the period of the secondment/acting-up appointment.

## **8. ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE (ACC) RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES**

The Chairman informed Members of ACC Sheridan's intended end of service date with PSNI. The Committee was also advised that having considered the requirements of the organisation, the Chief Constable had requested that the Board should appoint a suitable replacement. NOTED.

The Committee considered a paper which detailed the procedures for the appointment of an Assistant Chief Constable.

It was:-

### **RESOLVED:**

- that the Board should make arrangements for the appointment of an Assistant Chief Constable to fill a vacancy.

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That the selection panel for the ACC Recruitment should comprise the Chairman, Vice Chairman, representation from each of the 4 political parties on the Board and one independent Member.

## **9. 2009 – 2012 NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING PLAN TIMETABLE**

The Committee considered a timetable for producing the 2009 – 2012 Northern Ireland Policing Plan.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

To approve the proposed dates and actions contained in the draft timetable, the proposed facilitator for the joint PSNI/NIPB strategy event and the proposed date and location for the strategy event.

**10. NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD – STATISTICAL AND RESEARCH STRATEGY 2008 – 2012**

The Committee considered a proposed Statistical and Research Strategy for the remainder of the Board's term of office.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To approve the Statistical and Research Strategy for 2008 – 2012.

Officials highlighted that the strategy would be reviewed on an ongoing basis, including formally at the end of each year, to take account of ad hoc requests for statistical and research projects and changing priorities. The strategy would be placed on the Board's website. NOTED.

The Chairman and Members paid tribute to the work of the staff in the Statistics and Research Branch.

**11. NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN – 2007 – 2008 – END YEAR ASSESSMENT**

The Committee considered the end of year assessment of the achievement of targets contained in the 2007/08 Board Corporate Business Plan.

Members sought and received further information regarding targets denoted as “amber” – where progress had been made but not sufficient to meet the “green” status.

With regard to target 1.6.3, “to agree a model for the future of District Policing Partnerships by March 2008”, the Committee noted that a Ministerial review of DPPs/Community Service Partnerships had now commenced and that this superseded the objective. The Committee highlighted the need for a meeting in the near future with NIO officials to progress the matter and the Chairman indicated that he had written again to the Minister on the matter.

With regard to target 3.5.7 “to progress the Board’s decisions on Police Officers Part-Time and Police Community Support Officers (POPTs/PCSOs) within agreed project timescales”, the Committee noted that significant preparatory work on recruitment had been undertaken by the Board with PSNI and DPPs by June 2007 but that the project had been deferred due to the Comprehensive Spending Review 07 funding settlement.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- that the Resources and Improvement Committee should seek to progress funding for the POPT/PSCO initiative in the 2009/10 and 2010/11 financial years; and
- that the Human Resources Committee and the Community Engagement Committee should pursue the alternative strategies that had been put in place by PSNI following deferment of the initiative.

**12. ROLE OF THE POLICING BOARD IN STRATEGIC ISSUES RAISED THROUGH DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)**

The Committee considered two papers regarding the role of the Policing Board in the strategic issues raised through District Policing Partnerships.

The Chairman advised that he would be meeting with representatives of Belfast DPP, along with Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Engagement Committee, to discuss the handling of legacy issues.

There was support for the proposals contained in the second paper for holding a briefing session for representatives of all DPPs on the topic of legacy issues.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- that a further paper should be brought to the Committee and the issue be considered again at a later date.

**13. INTERIM SCHEME FOR A RESEARCH ALLOWANCE TO SUPPORT POLITICAL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

The Committee considered a paper which contained proposals for the introduction of a scheme to provide a research allowance to political Members of the Board. The paper set out proposals regarding access to information, general conditions for the operation of the interim scheme and budget arrangements.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- that the Chief Executive should further discuss the proposals with a representative of each of the political parties;
- that following these discussions, a paper containing further options should be brought back to the Committee for consideration at a later date.

## **14. INFORMATION PAPERS**

The Committee considered the following information papers:-

### **14.1 Serious Organised Crime Agency Funding**

NOTED.

### **14.2 Secretary Of State's Annual Report On The Independent Monitoring Commission**

NOTED.

### **14.3 Quarterly Qualitative Report On New PSNI Headquarters And Regional Structures Outlined In Part 3 Of The 2007 – 2010 Policing Plan**

A Member highlighted the need for the Board to receive a specific timeframe for the delivery of the programme of Change Management to create the new PSNI Headquarters structure. The Chief Executive advised that the Chief Constable would be attending the next meeting of the Committee to brief Members on the review of Headquarters.

NOTED.

## **15. OMAGH – FATAL FIRE**

The Chairman welcomed ACC Criminal Justice Department to the meeting.

The ACC gave Members a confidential verbal briefing about the fatal fire in Omagh in November 2007. NOTED.

In response to a question from a Member, the ACC updated Members on legislation in England and Wales relating to the management of sex offenders on release from prison and the implications of the extension of equivalent legislation to Northern Ireland. In

response to questions, he also commented on PSNI planning regarding the extension of legislation in respect of violent offenders as well as sex offenders.

The Chairman thanked the ACC for his contribution and he left the meeting.

**16. BRIEFING FROM CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION NORTHERN IRELAND (CJINI) ON THE FORTHCOMING INSPECTION REPORT ON ROADS POLICING**

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland and representatives from CJINI to the meeting.

The CJINI representatives gave Members a confidential, advance briefing on the content of their report on a cross border inspection of Roads Policing.

Members discussed a number of issues arising from the briefing and noted that it was anticipated that the report would be published within the next few weeks.

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

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

There were no matters arising.

**18. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

There were no matters arising.

**19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no matters arising.

**20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 15 May 2008 at 2:00pm in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 5:10pm).

**Secretariat**

**April 2008**

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**Chairman**