

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 24 APRIL 2008 AT 5:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Barry Gilligan (Chair)
Mr Leslie Cree
Ms Mary McKee
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
Mr David Rose

**IMPARTIAL ASSESSOR IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr John Keanie

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Tom Buchanan, Mr Alex Maskey and Mr Suneil Sharma. NOTED.

In the absence of Mr Alex Maskey, the meeting was chaired by the Vice Chair, Mr Barry Gilligan.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2008**

It was:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee held on 21 February 2008 be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2008

3.1 Arrangements For Community Engagement Public Meetings (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

This item was dealt with at agenda item 8.

3.2 Members' Links With The Community Engagement Reference Groups (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

Members were provided with a list of dates for meetings with reference groups.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a more detailed list would be e-mailed to Members

3.3 Proposals From Crimestoppers Regarding An Anti Drugs Campaign In North And West Belfast (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a request from PSNI in partnership with Crimestoppers to the Policing with the Community Fund to promote an anti – drugs initiative in North and West Belfast.

PSNI had asked the Board to contribute £16,000 towards the cost of this initiative. Members discussed the matter and it was:-

AGREED:

- That the Board should provide £7,500 with the proviso that this is a pilot campaign.
- The request for a meeting with Crimestoppers –agreed for Autumn

3.4 Research On Policing With The Community – Request For Interviews (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that some Members had met with Johnny Byrne, ICR Researcher. NOTED.

3.5 Update From PSNI On Policing With The Community (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that there would be an update on Policing with the Community at the June 2008 Committee meeting.

3.6 Revised Code Of Practice On Functions And Responsibilities Of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) And Belfast Sub Groups (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that Paul Goggins, Minister of State had approved for issue the revised DPP Code of Practice. NOTED.

3.7 Questions For The Chief Constable (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that there would be a thematic presentation on neighbourhood policing at a future Board meeting. NOTED.

3.8 Policing With The Community Awards (Item 19.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the presentation of the Policing with the Community Award would take place on 21 May 2008 in the Millennium Forum in Derry/Londonderry. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman updated the Committee on his attendance at the following DPP events:-

- DPP Closing Reception on 10 March 2008 – Culloden Hotel, Holywood;
- DPP Introduction Event for new DPP members at the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown – 16 April 2008.

5. RECONSTITUTION OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS APRIL 2008 – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Mr John Keanie, one of the three Impartial Assessors, presented the Report to the Committee. Mr Keanie outlined how the Impartial Assessors undertook their work and highlighted the main findings.

Mr Keanie commented on the recommendations contained in the report. Members raised a number of issues in the discussion are as follows:-

- Consideration should be given ensuring that Councillors participating on the interview panels are familiar with all aspects of the appointment process,
- Consideration of the process for existing members to reapply for appointment to DPPS

Following the presentation and discussion, the Committee and Mr Keanie acknowledged the work undertaken by Board officials in the process.

It was:-

AGREED:

- to recommend that the Board accepts and publishes the Impartial Assessors' Report;

6. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPP) MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

The Committee considered a paper which notified the Committee of two DPP members' attendance. The Committee was asked to consider a course of action which was consistent with previous cases.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- Member 1 – to issue a letter regarding their attendance and review situation again in three months time;
- Member 2 – no further action required at this time.

7. FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS

The Committee considered a paper which reviewed the Board's position on the future of District Policing Partnerships in the context of the review of Public Administration. The Committee endorsed the view that there should be a coming together of DPPs and CSPs within a community planning framework. Following discussion,

It was:-

AGREED:

- That the Committee ask the Chief Constable a question at the June Board meeting to seek this opinion on whether policing would be more effective in this context.
- That the Board is asked to endorse the Committee's view

8. ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Committee considered a paper on the issue of public meetings for the purpose of community engagement and, in particular, where the first two meetings would be held.

The Committee discussed the various issues surrounding the venue and the theme of the meetings.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that a meeting would be held in Belfast in the autumn 2008 and a meeting held in Derry/Londonderry in the spring 2009;
- that these meetings would be Policing Board events to highlight the work of the Board's Community Engagement Strategy;
- A paper would be brought back to the next Committee meeting with details of the meetings.

9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ALCOHOL STRATEGY

This paper was deferred until the next Committee meeting. Following discussion,

It was:-

AGREED:

That ACC McCausland would be invited to attend the Committee meeting in May 2008 to present a proposal on the programme of work on the issue of alcohol and anti social behaviour.

10. PROGRESS REPORT FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BRANCH

The Committee considered a paper on the progress of the Board's Community Engagement branch. Board officials updated the Committee on the various aspects of their community engagement work.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that the Committee would meet with the Women's Reference Group;
- officials would circulate details of the meetings with the Women's Reference Groups and other reference groups.

11. PAYMENT OF AN ALLOWANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE POLICING BOARD'S SECTOR REFERENCE GROUPS

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

12. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

That a question would be drafted on future arrangements for DPPs in the context of the review of Public Administration.

13. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 22 May 2008 at 2:00pm.

(Meeting closed at 7:20pm).

Secretariat

April 2008

Chair