

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2008 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)

Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)

Ms Martina Anderson

Mr Leslie Cree

(1) Mrs Dolores Kelly

Mr Alex Maskey

(2) Mr Basil McCrea

Mr Daithí McKay

(1) Mrs Rosaleen Moore

Mr Gearóid Ó hEára

Mr Brian Rea

Mr Trevor Ringland

Mr David Rose

(1) Mr Suneil Sharma

Mr David Simpson

(2) Mr Peter Weir

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(3) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)

(3) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)

(3) Mr Alistair Finlay (ACC Crime Support)

(3) Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Rural Region)

(3) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Operational Support)

(3) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)

(3) Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Crime Operations)

(3) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)

(3) Mr David Best (Director of Finance and
Support Services)

(3) Mr Joe Stewart (Director of Human
Resources)

(3) Ms Liz Young (Head of Media &
Communications)

(3) T/Acting Head of Command Secretariat

(3) 2 PSNI Personnel

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

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

- (1) **Item number 4.5 to close**
- (2) **Item number 3.5 to close**
- (3) **Item number 14 only**

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Tom Buchanan, Mrs Mary McKee and Mr Ian Paisley Jnr. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

2.1 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 3 April 2008

The Board considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 3 April 2008 be approved.

2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 3 April 2008

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting in public held on 3 April 2008 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

3.1 Northern Ireland Policing Board Languages Policy (Items 3.3 & 10 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 11.

3.2 Future Of District Policing Partnerships And Community Safety Partnerships (Items 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman informed Members that he had written again to the Minister and that a response was awaited from the NIO on the review of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

3.3 Questions At Board Meetings (Items 3.8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee had considered legal advice regarding the conduct of the Board meeting in public and to questions and answers which might give rise to a breach of due process or human rights.

Following consideration, the Committee had recommended to the Board that the following form of words be adopted, *“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”.*

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the wording recommended by the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

3.4 Visit To Police Property Storage (Item 3.9 Of Minutes Refers)

The date of the visit for Members to the Police Property Storage Facility at Seapark had been finalised for 6 June 2008 at 10:30am. All Members were invited to attend.

NOTED.

3.5 Management Of Members' Time/Availability (Items 3.10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Vice Chairman reminded the Board that meetings had been held with Members on 14 and 16 April 2008 to discuss Members' Time/Availability/Workload Pressures. Based on these discussions, an options paper was being prepared for consideration at the May 2008 Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee, recommendations would then be brought to the Board in due course. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

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

- Chief Police Officers' Dinner – London – 17 April 2008;
- Meeting with Ethnic Minority Police Association – Belfast – 22 April 2008;
- PSNI Sports Awards Dinner – 24 April 2008;
- Community Relations Council Conference – Belfast – 30 April 2008.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

The Chairman informed Members that the following publication had been received:-

- Strategic Review of Parading in Northern Ireland – Interim Consultative Report.

NOTED.

4.3 Correspondence

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

- letter from Police Ombudsman dated 16 April 2008 regarding dangerous driving incident on 29 January 2006 in Alliance Road, Belfast;
- letter from Children's Law Centre/Save the Children dated 14 April 2008 in response to the Equality Impact Assessment on the proposals for the introduction of TASER to the PSNI.

NOTED.

4.4 News Release

The Chairman highlighted the following news release:-

- Continuing Criminal Justice Co-Operation After Devolution – NIO – 22 April 2008.

NOTED.

4.5 PERF 2008 Leadership Award

The Chairman drew the attention of Members to the recent award by the Police Executive Research Forum of its 2008 Leadership Award to Sir Hugh Orde. NOTED.

4.6 Press Association Article

A Member referred to a Press Association article on comments made by the Chief Constable at a business breakfast with public relations professionals in Dublin on 10 April 2008.

Members discussed the comments attributed to the Chief Constable, the content of a conversation between the Chairman and the Chief Constable immediately following the report, and the content of a letter forwarded by the Chief Constable to the Chairman dated 10 April 2008.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that the matter should be further discussed with the Chief Constable during the private session; and
- that the Chief Constable should be asked to comment on the article in the Board meeting in public.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Conferences, Events Etc

The Chief Executive advised the Board about the following events:-

5.1.1 ACPO – APA 2008 Summer Conference

The ACPO – APA conference had been arranged for 24 – 26 June 2008 in Liverpool.

5.1.2 APA Workshop On Neighbourhood Policing

The APA/NPIA workshops on neighbourhood policing had been arranged for 9 June 2008 in Coventry and 17 June 2008 in Bramshill.

5.1.3 Inside Government Event – Safer And Stronger Communities

The Inside Government Event – “Safer and Stronger Communities in Northern Ireland: Creating a Safer Northern Ireland for all” had been arranged for 4 July 2008 in Belfast.

Any Member wishing to attend any of the events was asked to contact the Secretariat for further details. NOTED.

5.2 Revalorisation Of Members’ Allowances

The Chief Executive outlined a revalorisation of Members’ allowances which come into effect from 1 April 2008. NOTED.

5.3 Engagement With The Business Community

The Chief Executive informed Members that the Board had received an invitation to sit on the Business Community Advisory Forum.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a Member should represent the Board on the Forum.

5.4 Meeting With Lord Chief Justice

Provisionally arrangements had been made for a meeting on 18 June 2008 between the Board and the Lord Chief Justice. The Chief Executive identified a number of issues which Members might wish to raise at the meeting and requested that any Member who had any other issues to raise to contact him as soon as possible.

NOTED.

6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

6.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Held On 16 April 2008

6.1.1 Invitation To Attend Police Executive Research Forum Meeting In San Francisco – 29/30 May 2008 (Item 5.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive referred to the Committee approval given for the Chairman and Ms McKee to represent the Board at the Police Executive Research Forum Meeting on 29/30 May 2008 and advised that Ms McKee was no longer able to attend the meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chairman should represent the Board at the Forum meeting.

6.1.2 Invitation To Participate In Seminar For Police Certification In Mexico - 19/20 June 2008

The Chief Executive referred Members to the approval given by the Committee, that the Vice Chairman should represent the Board at the Centro de Certificacion Profesional Policial (CENTRPOL) Seminar on 19/20 June 2008. Following further research into the

travel costs associated attending the event in Mexico, he suggested that the Board might wish to change its form of input to the seminar by sending a paper.

It was:-

AGREED:

That it would be more appropriate to send a paper to the CENTRPOL Seminar.

6.1.3 Publication Of Members' Expenses 2007/08 (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

A Member requested that the schedule detailing expenses, referred to at the meeting be circulated to all Members.

6.1.4 2009 – 2012 Northern Ireland Policing Plan Timetable

A Member requested that the timetable for producing the 2009 – 2012 Northern Ireland Policing Plan be circulated to all Members.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 16 April 2008.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

7.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community Engagement Committee Meeting Held On 24 April 2008

As the minutes of the meeting were not yet available, the Chairman of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

7.1.1 DPP Reconstitution

Following the appointment of independent members to DPPs, the Impartial Assessors had presented their Report to the Committee. The Vice Chairman highlighted the endorsement contained in the Report which read,

“the process has been conducted in a manner that complies with the Code, that significantly utilises best practice methods, and that has built upon the lessons learned in the previous recruitment rounds and the recommendations made in the previous Reports of the Impartial Assesors. In the implementation of the process, the co-operation and commitment of the Policing Board, the District Councils and the other participants, towards ensuring representativeness in the District Policing Partnerships, has been impressive”.

The Vice Chairman advised that there were some recommendations for the Board to consider in relation to the re-appointment of existing members and engagement with Councils to ensure that they are fully competent on all aspects of the appointment process. Having listened to the Impartial Assessor and considered the Report, the Committee had agreed to recommend that the Board accept the Report and publish it on the Board's website.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- to accept the Report of the Impartial Assessors;
- to publish the Impartial Assessors Report on the Board's website.

7.1.2 Future Of DPPs

Following the announcement by Assembly Minister, Arlene Foster on the future shape of local Government in the context of the Review of Public Administration, the Committee had considered the future of DPPs. It was the Committee's view that there should be a coming together of the functions of DPPs and CSPs within a community planning framework. This view was supported by earlier consultation undertaken by the Board. The Committee sought the Board's endorsement of its views as to the future of DPPs.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Board supported the Committee's recommendation that there should be a coming together of the functions of DPPs and CSPs within a community planning framework.

The Chairman advised that he anticipated that there should be progress on this matter within the near future and if suitable progress was not made, that he would seek a meeting with the relevant Minister. NOTED.

A question on this issue had been included in the list of questions for the Chief Constable. NOTED.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 10 April 2008

The Chair of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

8.1.1 Monitoring Of Recruitment And Selection Of Police Trainees (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

In relation to PSNI recruitment and selection, a Member sought further information regarding the failure rate of female candidates during the selection process. Officials undertook to obtain the necessary information and advise the Member concerned.

8.1.2 PSNI Human Resources Strategic Monitoring Framework (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.3 Police Workforce Modelling Gender And Ethnicity Tool/Home Office Police Employment Target Report (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 10 April 2008.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

9.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Held On 9 April 2008

The Chair of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

9.1.1 McCord Report Update (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.2 TASER Update (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.3 PSNI Human Rights Programme Of Action Update (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

A Member referred to a recent judgement relating to a case involving the use of CS Incapacitant Spray. Officials undertook to obtain further information about the judgement and bring the matter to the next Committee meeting.

9.1.4 Parades Commission (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.5 Equality Commission (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.6 PSNI Suspended Or Repositioned Officers July 2007 – March 2008 (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee held on 9 April 2008.

10. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

10.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Meeting Held On 18 April 2008

The Chair of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

10.1.1 PSNI Report On Expenditure To March 2008 (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

10.1.2 PSNI Impact Assessment Of Cost Reductions Over CSR07 Period (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 18 April 2008.

11. NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD LANGUAGES POLICY

The Board considered the content of an additional submission made by an independent Board Member in relation to the Board's Minority Languages Policy.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That the Vice Chairman of the Board should chair a small working group to further consider the Board's languages policy and make recommendation to the Board.

12. INFORMATION PAPERS

12.1 DPP Appointments Process

The Board was provided with summary details of offers of appointment made for independent membership to the District Policing Partnerships (DPPs). NOTED.

13. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

14. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable and other PSNI representatives to the meeting.

The Board received further information in relation to:-

- the review of the Close Protection Service provided by the PSNI;
- the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 settlement on the development of the Public Service College at Desertcreat;
- PSNI expenditure in respect of overtime during the 2007/08 financial year;
- the number of officers currently on suspension for over 12 months, and the review process for officers on suspension;
- the provision of information by PSNI to the Billy Wright Inquiry;
- sectarian and racist attacks in the Ballymena area.

The Board then moved into public session and following the Board meeting in public, the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 5 June 2008 at Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 12:20pm).

**Secretariat
May 2008**

Chairman