

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 MAY 2008 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

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

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (5) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (5) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)
- (6) Ms Liz Young (Head of Media & Public Relations)
- (5) T/Chief Superintendent Peter Farrar, CORE Project
- (5) 1 PSNI Officer

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
- Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)
- Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
- (7) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
- (4) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- 3 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 – 7 and part 15
- (2) Part item number 4.5 to close
- (3) Item numbers 1 – 7, 15 and part 16
- (4) Item numbers 1 - 7
- (5) Item number 16 only
- (6) Item number 15 only
- (7) Except item numbers 15 and 16

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Ian Paisley Jnr. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 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 16 April 2008 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2008

3.1 Serious And Organised Crime Agency (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 14.1.

3.2 Management Of Members' Time/Availability (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

A paper regarding this matter was included on the agenda at item 6.

3.3 National Policing Board (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised that a substantive reply had not yet been received from the NIO on the issue of local representation on the National Policing Board. NOTED.

3.4 Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Recruitment Procedures (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Corporate Services updated the Committee about a meeting of the Appointment Panel held earlier in the day to consider Assistant Chief Constable recruitment procedures. The Committee was advised of details of the timetable that had been agreed for the forthcoming appointment process. NOTED.

3.5 Role Of The Policing Board In Strategic Issues Raised Through District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Deputy Chief Executive informed the Committee that a meeting between the Board Chairman and 2 representatives of Belfast DPP had now been arranged for 18 June 2008. NOTED.

3.6 Interim Scheme For A Research Allowance To Support Political Members Of The Board (Item 13 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 9.

3.7 Recruitment And Selection Policy (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

A Member enquired if there had been any response to date from the Equality Commission concerning the Board's Recruitment and Selection Policy. Officials advised that a response had not yet been received. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

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

- Reception – HMS Bulwark, Belfast – 2 May 2008;
- Official Opening of the Battle of the Boyne Site – Drogheda – 6 May 2008;
- Delegation from the Royal College of Defence Studies – Buffet Supper - Belfast – 6 May 2008;
- Seminar on Policing Effectiveness Partnerships and Accountability – London – 9 May 2008;
- Briefing on Case Settlement – Belfast – 13 May 2008;
- Tackling Crimes Affecting Business: Partnership Seminar – Belfast – 14 May 2008.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

The following publications had been received:-

- 18th Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission – May 2008;
- The Local Government Staff Commission Corporate Plan 2009 - 10 and Business Plan 2008.

NOTED.

4.3 Correspondence

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

- letter from Police Ombudsman dated 28 April 2008 regarding discharge of CS Incapacitant Spray at High Street/Church Street, Enniskillen on 22 November 2004;
- letter from Brian Cowan dated 6 May 2008 regarding election as Leader of Fianna Fail;

- letter from Chief Constable dated 7 May 2008 regarding article in Police Professional – 17 April 2008; officials undertook to circulate a copy of the correspondence to all Committee Members;
- letter from Minister of Environment dated 30 April 2008 regarding the Executive's decisions on the future shape of Local Government;
- letter from Minister dated 1 May 2008 regarding a request for a briefing to the Board from the NIO on the progress of his Review of the future arrangements for DPPs and CSPs.

The Chairman summarised the Ministerial response to the Board's request. He advised that the Community Engagement Committee would receive a full briefing on the response at its next meeting on 15 May 2008.

- Letter from Chief Constable dated 7 May 2008 regarding PERF 2008 Leadership Award.

NOTED.

4.4 News Release

The Chairman highlighted the following new release:-

- Northern Ireland Affairs Committee – Policing and Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland Evidence Session – 13 May 2008.

NOTED.

4.5 West Belfast Community Safety Forum

The Chairman informed the Committee of an initiative by the Minister of State, Mr Paul Goggins, aiming to improve community safety in West Belfast. A new partnership was to be established - the West Belfast Community Safety Forum. It was anticipated that it would draw its membership from statutory agencies, non-statutory organisations, community groups and political representatives.

Following a telephone discussion between the Chairman and the Minister, it was anticipated that a letter would shortly be received from the Minister inviting a nominee from the Policing Board to discuss the proposals at a meeting on 19 May 2008. It was also understood that NIO would provide additional resources to fund a Development Officer post to support community safety work in Belfast.

The Committee discussed the initiative. While welcoming any initiative by Government to combat crime and anti social behaviour, some Members expressed concern that this appeared to be an ad hoc approach to dealing with the problem. Members also expressed concern and disappointment that the Board had not been made aware of the initiative at an earlier stage.

Members discussed the participation of a Board representative at the meeting on 19 May 2008 and the role that a representative would undertake. Members also discussed the involvement of the West Belfast DPP Sub Group in the Forum and the relationship between DPPs and CSPs.

Following further discussion, a motion was put *“that the Board be represented at the meeting of representatives of key statutory agencies arranged for 19 May 2008 to discuss the arrangements for the creation of the partnership that will report to the Belfast Community Safety Partnership”*.

Following a show of hands, it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Board should be represented at the meeting on 19 May 2008.

(Subsequent to this decision, a letter, dated 15 May 2008 was received from the Minister later in the meeting, inviting the Board to send a representative to the meeting on 19 May 2008.)

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Planned Extension Of The Remit Of The Security Industry Authority To Northern Ireland

The Chief Executive referred Members to a letter dated 24 April 2008 from ACC Criminal Justice informing the Board about the planned extension of the remit of the Security Industry Authority (SIA) to Northern Ireland.

It was:-

AGREED:

That ACC Criminal Justice should be asked to provide a briefing paper for the Committee.

5.2 Report On 5 Sided Meeting - North/South Co-Operation

The Chief Executive informed Members that a "5 Sided Meeting", comprising officials from the NIO, PSNI, Department of Justice, An Garda Siochana and the Board had been held on 28 April 2008. The Director of Corporate Services had attended the meeting on behalf of the Chief Executive. NOTED.

5.3 Desertcreat College Steering Group

The Vice Chairman informed Members that he had attended the first meeting of the Desertcreat College Steering Group, held on 13 May 2008, accompanied by the Director of Planning. The Vice Chairman updated Members about the main subject matters that had been discussed. NOTED.

5.4 Board Staffing And Recruitment

The Chief Executive updated Members on current pressures relating to Board staffing and recruitment, including the Director of Policy post, ongoing recruitment exercises, vacancies/maternity leaves etc. NOTED.

5.5 LINKS Project

The Chief Executive drew the attention of Members to 2 issues arising from the LINKS Project which directly related to the Board:-

- the Board's role in the future industrial relations and collective bargaining framework for PSNI civilian staff;
- the terms and conditions of senior civilian staff appointed by the Board.

These issues would be taken forward by officials and papers presented to future meetings of the Committee. NOTED.

5.6 Community Policing Seminar

Members were reminded of the Community Policing Seminar being jointly held for DPPs and JPCs on 29 May 2008 in Monaghan. Any Member wishing to attend was asked to contact Secretariat. NOTED.

5.7 Consultative Group In The Past

The Chief Executive informed Members of a keynote address by the Co-Chairs of the Consultative Group on the Past on 29 May 2008. NOTED.

6. MEMBERS' TIME/AVAILABILITY

The Chief Executive drew the attention of Members to a paper summarising the outcomes arising from meetings held with Members regarding their time/availability pressures.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the paper concerning Members' Time/Availability should be deferred to the next meeting.

7. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

The Committee considered a paper setting out proposed revisions to the Board's Standing Orders. The current version of Standing Orders had been approved by the Board in March 2006 and had now been reviewed, in accordance with the Standing Order No 26, after a period of 2 years. The review included proposed revisions to the roles of Committees and the Members' Code of Conduct.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that the use of gender neutral language, in line with the policy agreed by the Board, should also be reflected in the use of the term he/she;
- that the proposed amendment to Standing Order 15(c) be deferred for further consideration at the Board meeting.

Subject to the above, it was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the proposed revisions to the Board's Standing Orders be approved by the Board.

8. HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY (HMIC) REPORT ON PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IN PSNI

The Committee considered a report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) on Performance Management in PSNI, which was published in mid April 2008. The Committee considered whether it wished to ask the Chief Constable to detail the actions he would taking to address the 8 areas for improvement listed in the report. The areas related to:-

- the annual performance review mechanism;
- section 78 meetings;
- performance management and accountability of HQ Departments;
- direct linkage to iQuanta;
- PSNI contribution to the national performance database (iQuanta);
- the organisational structure/responsibility for inspection, audit and business improvement;
- the resource allocation model;
- performance monitoring regime/systems.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Constable should be asked to detail the actions he is taking to address the 8 areas for improvement.

9. INTERIM SCHEME FOR A RESEARCH ALLOWANCE TO SUPPORT POLITICAL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD – REVISED PROPOSALS

The Committee considered a paper containing revised proposals for an interim research allowance for political Members of the Board. The Chief Executive advised that following discussions with the group leaders of the political parties on the Board, it was proposed that a researcher, to assist the Members of each political party be funded from Policing Board resources with a sum of £20,000 per annum payable to support each party group on a pro rata basis to all Members, or to an agreed lead Member, for each political party. The total cost of the funding to the Board would be £80,000 per annum.

Appendix 1 of the paper detailed the proposed arrangements for access to information by researchers.

The political Members of the Committee welcomed the proposals. A number of the independent Members expressed concern regarding the proposed amount of funding and the lack of research assistance available to independent Members.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the revised proposals including the arrangements detailed in Appendix 1 be considered by the Board.

10. BOARD'S COMMUNICATION STRATEGY: PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered an activity report on progress against the objectives set in the Board's Communication Strategy, during the period 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2008. NOTED.

During discussion, a Member emphasised the need for the Board to be proactive in terms of its communication with the media.

11. PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL REPORT 1 APRIL 2007 – 31 MARCH 2008

The Committee considered a paper detailing the arrangements for the publication of the Board's Annual Report for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. In accordance with paragraph 12(3)(b) of Schedule 2 of the Police (NI) Act 2000, the Board's Annual Report and Accounts are required to be laid before Parliament. The draft report contained information on the Board role and work, membership, a remuneration report and financial statements. NOTED.

As the end year crime figures are not due to be published until 16 May 2008, it was proposed that an assessment of police performance would be inserted prior to publication, as required by section 3(b)(iii) of the Police (NI) Act 2000. It was planned that the report would be sent to the Northern Ireland Audit Office on 12 June 2008 and laid in Parliament before the summer recess on 22 July 2008. NOTED.

It was:-

AGREED:

That in order to meet the production timetable, the Committee should give delegated authority to the Board Chairman for the final sign off on the text.

Any Member wishing to comment further on the content or wording of the report was asked to contact the Chief Executive.

12. QUALITATIVE REPORTS ON ROAD SAFETY, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OUTLINED IN PART 3 OF 2007 – 2010 POLICING PLAN

The Committee considered end of year Qualitative Reports in relation to targets contained in Part 3 of the 2007/2010 Policing Plan, relating to the PSNI's contribution to the Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy, the Northern Ireland Community Safety Strategy and Domestic Abuse. NOTED.

With regard to the PSNI's contribution to the Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy, a Member referred to the verbal, confidential, advanced briefing on the report of the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland on the Cross Border Inspection of Roads Policing and enquired when this report was likely to be published. The Member suggested that the recommendations contained in both reports would need to be taken forward in tandem. Officials undertook to obtain further details about the planned date of publication of the CJINI report.

13. CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION NORTHERN IRELAND (CJINI) REPORT ON BELFAST HARBOUR POLICE

The Committee considered a report, published on 7 May 2008 by CJINI on the Belfast Harbour Police. The Committee noted that while the Belfast Harbour Police are not part of PSNI, and the Board therefore has no role in the accountability arrangements, there were 2 recommendations which related to PSNI:-

- *that Belfast Harbour Police continues its work to develop a protocol with PSNI. The protocol should be finalised at ACPO level within 6 months of publication of the report;*
- *that establishing effective communications between Belfast Harbour Police and PSNI should be pursued as part of an agreed protocol.*

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Constable should be asked for his views on the recommendations which relate to PSNI, contained in the CJINI report on the Belfast Harbour Police.

14. INFORMATION PAPERS

The Committee considered the following information papers:-

14.1 Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) – Arrangements Within Scotland

The Committee requested a paper setting out recent criticisms of SOCA.

NOTED.

15. BRIEFING FROM THE PSNI REGARDING THE PSNI COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The Committee considered a report from the PSNI Head of Media and Public Relations on progress with implementation of the PSNI Communications Strategy, covering specifically the effectiveness of PSNI advertising campaigns and the evaluation of the impact of such campaigns.

The Chairman welcomed the Head of Media and Public Relations for PSNI to the meeting. He reminded Members that the Director was newly appointed to PSNI and had taken up her post in March 2008. The report was due to be considered in March 2008, however, as the March Committee meeting was cancelled, the report had been deferred to the May 2008 meeting.

Ms Young outlined the structure of the Department, its key objectives and strategic aims, and the key messages which the Department delivered. A copy of the slides used during the presentation is attached at Appendix 1.

During discussion, Members sought and received further information regarding:-

- media training for officers;
- the detail of information that could be given to public representatives and to Board Members seeking information on criminal or other incidents;
- future interaction with the media in respect of historic enquiries;
- pro-active measures that could be undertaken regarding the fear of crime.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Media and Public Relations for her contribution and she left the meeting.

16. BRIEFING FROM PSNI REGARDING THE CORE PROJECT

The Committee considered a paper setting out the background to the CORE (Corporate Opportunity for Resilience and Efficiency) Project within the PSNI. In February 2008, the Chief Constable and his Senior Management Team agreed a 2 phase approach on the Review of Headquarters, Phase 1 considering the operational aspects and Phase 2 focusing on the non-operational aspects of Headquarters Departments.

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

The PSNI representatives delivered a presentation which detailed the CORE Project's strategic assumptions; the Phase 1 and Phase 2 decisions taken in February 2008; and the timetable for Phase 1 and Phase 2. A copy of the slides used during the presentation is attached at Appendix 2.

During discussion, Members sought further information about:-

- the amalgamation of level 2 surveillance and level 2 CID to become one investigative arm under the new territorial ACC by 2010;
- the deployment of Tactical Support Group (TSG) by District Commanders, particularly in relation to policing anti social behaviour;
- abstraction rates and redeployment of TSGs by Headquarters in relation to major incidents;
- the further reviews to be undertaken in respect of dog handlers and PSNI boats;
- PSNI planning for the establishment of 11 councils and co-terminosity with District Command areas;
- the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 and future financial constraints on the efficiency targets within the CORE Project.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chief Constable should update the Committee in September 2008 about further progress.

The Chairman thanked the PSNI 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, 19 June 2008 at 2:00pm in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 5.35pm).

Secretariat

May 2008

Chairman