

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 MAY 2008 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- (1)** Mr Alex Maskey (Chair)
Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chair)
Mr Tom Buchanan
Mr Leslie Cree
- (1)** Ms Mary McKee
Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
Mr David Rose
Mr Suneil Sharma

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (2)** Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)
- (2)** 1 PSNI Representative, Urban Region

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

- (1)** Item numbers 1 – 6
- (2)** Item number 5

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Gearóid Ó hEára. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 APRIL 2008

It was:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee held on 24 April 2008 be agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 APRIL 2008**

**3.1 Members Links With The Community Engagement Reference Groups (Item
3.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that a detailed schedule of meetings with Reference Groups had been sent to Members. NOTED.

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

It was noted that PSNI had submitted a bid to the Policing with the Community Fund in relation to this anti drugs campaign. The bid was unsuccessful in securing funding and as such funding from the Board would not be allocated. NOTED,

**3.3 District Policing Partnerships (DPP) Members' Attendance (Item 6 Of
Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that a letter had been issued to the DPP Members regarding their attendance. NOTED.

**3.4 Future Arrangements For District Policing Partnerships (Item 7 Of Minutes
Refers)**

The Committee was advised that a question had been drafted for the Chief Constable at the May 2008 Board meeting. A written response which had been received will be issued to all Committee Members. NOTED.

**3.5 Arrangements For Community Engagement Public Meetings (Item 8 Of
Minutes Refers)**

This matter was dealt with under item number 7.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

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

4.1 Community Policing Seminar – Monaghan – 29 May 2008

The Committee was advised that invitations to this event had been sent to all Board Members.

4.2 District Policing Partnership (DPP) Briefings On Human Rights

The Committee was advised that all Members had been invited to attend the following DPP briefings which are being held in:-

- the ECOS Centre, Ballymena – 5 June 2008;
- the Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh – 17 June 2008.

It was:-

AGREED:

That Officials would explore the style of these briefings for the DPPs.

The Committee was also advised of an event entitled "Safer and Stronger Communities in Northern Ireland" which will be held in The Stormont Hotel on 4 July 2008.

It was:-

AGREED:

That David Rose would attend this event.

5. ALCOHOL AND THE FEAR OF CRIME - PRESENTATION

The Committee welcomed ACC McCausland, Urban Region and his colleague to the meeting. ACC McCausland began his presentation on Alcohol and the fear of Crime by speaking about the four pillars of change, namely:-

- education;
- treatment;
- enforcement;
- re-offending.

ACC McCausland then provided some statistics on what the public felt were the biggest policing problems in their areas, and these were:-

- domestic burglary / under age drinking – 42%;
- young people causing annoyance / vandalism – 39%.

ACC McCausland then spoke on the Alcohol Action Plan, which is a plan involving the Department of Education, Department of Health, PSNI, Probation and Prison Service.

ACC McCausland then outlined the following issues of the Communication Strategy:-

- a planned 2 year campaign;
- working with key partners to reach target audience;
- concentrate their efforts during the summer, Halloween and Christmas.

Following this he spoke about some of the legislation which may be introduced in relation to Alcohol and Young People.

- test purchasing;
- drinking in public places.

A copy of the slides used in the presentation are attached at Appendix 'A'.

Following the presentation, Members had a discussion with ACC McCausland about this subject and some of the issues raised are as follows:-

- the accessibility of alcohol by young people;
- alcohol and anti social behaviour;
- some Members felt that PSNI were not doing enough;
- the role of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams;
- the role of the DPPs in developing local Alcohol Action Plans.

Following discussion, Members were in agreement that there was a need:-

- to reassure the public that police are using their enforcement powers;
- to ensure DPPs have a central role;
- to ensure that there is a clear message that there will be a less tolerant approach to drinking and anti social behaviour;
- to ensure that this is anchored within the Neighbourhood Policing Model.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that officials would write to ACC McCausland requesting details of the legislative changes referred to in his presentation;
- to update DPP Managers on the proposals;
- that the Board should consider, for the next Omnibus Survey, the issue of alcohol and people's perception of the affect of alcohol in communities;
- that the Deputy Chief Executive would liaise with ACC McCausland regarding a conference being held in September 2008.

6. PROGRESS REPORT FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BRANCH

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members on the progress of the implementation of the Board's Community Engagement Strategy. NOTED.

7. PROPOSAL FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Committee considered how the first public meeting should be conducted. Following discussion, it was:-

RECOMMENDED:

- that the first meeting would be held on 25 September 2008 in the evening subject to suitable accommodation and availability of Chief Constable;
- that it would be a meeting led by the Policing Board, with PSNI in attendance to answer questions;
- further details on the arrangements for the meeting to be brought to the next Committee meeting.

8. BEST VALUE REVIEW (BVR) OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Committee was to consider the BVR Report of Community Engagement, but it was agreed that this should be deferred until the June 2008 Committee meeting when the responses to the consultation on the Community Engagement Strategy would be considered.

It was:-

AGREED:

To defer the report until the June 2008 Committee meeting and that it should be brought back along with the analysis of the consultation of the Community Engagement Strategy and the implications for the Strategy.

9. BALLYMENA DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DDP) INDEPENDENT MEMBER VACANCY

The Committee considered a paper which sought their approval to appoint consultants to manage the recruitment process to fill an independent member vacancy within Ballymena DPP.

It was:-

AGREED:

To tender for a more competitive contract that will include filling vacancies over the current term of office of all DPPs.

10. MINISTERIAL REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS AND DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS

The Committee considered a paper which updated Members on the Ministerial Review of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and District Policing Partnerships (DPPs).

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board should be kept informed and consulted as the work progresses.

11. INFORMATION PAPERS

11.1 Internal Audit Of External Relations Directorate

The Committee was provided with information on the recent Internal Audit Report on the External Relations Directorate.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials would ascertain when the follow-up is being carried out.

11.2 West Belfast Community Safety Forum

The Vice-Chairman updated the Committee on a meeting that he attended with the Deputy Chief Executive on proposals for a Community Safety Forum in West Belfast. The Committee were advised that he had proposed that the West Belfast Community Safety Forum would be steered jointly by Belfast DPP and CSP. NOTED.

11.3 Audit Inspection Of The District Policing Partnership (DPP) IFI Project

NOTED.

12. SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS

The Committee considered a schedule of presentations to be made to the Committee. NOTED.

The Deputy Chief Executive asked if it would be practicable to hold a Committee meeting in either July and August 2008.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials would contact Committee Members to ascertain their preference for a meeting in July or August 2008.

13. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

That questions would be drafted for the Chief Constable on the following:-

- the PSNI definition of community engagement;
- Review of Public Administration (RPA) and structures of the District Command Units (DCUs)

14. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising, but the Committee noted there would be future communication issues on:-

- the Alcohol Strategy;
- the Community Engagement public meeting.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 26 June 2008 at 5:00pm.

(Meeting closed at 16:45pm).

Secretariat

May 2008

Chair