

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Alex Maskey (Chair)
Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chair)

- (1) Mr Tom Buchanan
Ms Mary McKee
Leslie Cree
Mr David Rose
- (2) Mr Suneil Sharma

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (3) Chief Superintendent Brian Maguire,
Criminal Justice
- (5) 5 PSNI Representatives

KPMG IN ATTENDANCE:

- (4) 2 Representatives KPMG

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (5) Dr Debbie Donnelly, A/Chief Executive
4 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 – 7
- (2) Item numbers 1 – 6
- (3) Item numbers 5, 6 & 7
- (4) Item number 5 and 6
- (5) Item number 11

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28 AUGUST 2008

It was:

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement meeting held on 28 August 2008 be agreed, subject to an amendment at Item No. 7 which should read:

It was:

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board agree to publish the revised Board's Community Engagement Strategy.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28 AUGUST 2008

3.1 Revised Community Engagement Strategy (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the revised Community Engagement Strategy had been published. NOTED.

3.2 Future Arrangements For District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) And Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that this item would be dealt with under agenda item 11.

3.2 District Policing Partnership Members' Attendance Policy And Proposed Management Policy (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that authority had been delegated to the Director of Community Engagement to consider whether individual cases require referral to the Committee. NOTED.

3.4 District Policing Partnership Annual Conference – 18 November 2008 (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that Members would be provided with a more detailed programme of the Annual Conference. NOTED.

3.5 Belfast District Policing Partnership Effectiveness Framework 2008/2011 (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

After discussion, it was:

AGREED:

That the Belfast District Policing Partnership Effectiveness Framework would be brought to a future Committee meeting.

Officials would look at the structure of the Dublin Joint Policing Committee (JPC).

3.6 Performance Appraisal Of District Policing Partnership Independent Members (Item 13 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that their recommendations had been made to the Board.

3.7 Proposed “Seeing is Believing” Visits (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that “Seeing is Believing” visits would be held on 4 November 2008 and officials would agree a protocol with PSNI for these visits. Officials would also consider alternative arrangements for fulfilling the purpose of “See is Believing”. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS

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

4.1 Northern Ireland Policing Board Public Engagement Meeting – 18 September 2008

The Chair sought the Committee's view on the Public Engagement meeting held on 18 September 2008. Members agreed that it had been a successful meeting and well attended. Issues raised for considering future meetings included:

- Themed meetings or issue based discussion;
- Evaluations placed on seats for participants to feedback comments;
- Process for managing questions.

The Chair congratulated Board officials on the arrangements for the meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

- Officials to produce a summary of the Public Engagement meeting to circulate to Press and DPPs;
- That Officials would prepare a paper for the next Committee meeting on the Proposals for a future Public Engagement Committee.

4.2 Local Government Authority (LGA) Conference – 14th and 15th October 2008

The Committee was advised of the above conference. Any Members wishing to attend were asked to contact Secretariat. NOTED.

4.3 Vice Chair's Meeting With Representatives Of Banbridge District Policing Partnership (DPP) On 18 September 2008

The Vice Chair updated the Committee on a meeting with representatives of Banbridge DPP that he attended with the Board Chair.

Banbridge DPP requested a meeting to discuss;

- Changes to local Policing Structures in E district, and
- The arrangements for Banbridge and Armagh to share an Area Commander the DPP noted concern at being kept informed of decisions taken at a local level.
- The issue of the Board members link with DPPS was also addressed and it was Banbridge DPP's view that this had been useful in the past.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chairman would write to ACC Gillespie raising the concerns of Banbridge DPP.

5. INDEPENDENT RESEARCH INTO CRIMES AGAINST BUSINESSES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Chair welcomed the two representatives from KPMG to the meeting.

The Committee received a presentation on KPMG's research into crimes against businesses in Northern Ireland. With the aid of slides, the Committee was briefed on the research:-

- terms of reference;
- methodology;
- findings; and
- recommendations.

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

Following the presentation:-

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board publish on its website the research carried out by KPMG.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that officials would provide the Committee with details of the combined cost of this report and the Best Value reports carried out by KPMG;
- that officials would look into the system of how the Board commissions reports.

The Chair thanked the KMPG representatives for their presentation.

6. PSNI BUSINESS CRIME STRATEGY

The Chair welcomed Chief Superintendent Maguire and his colleagues to the meeting and invited them to present the PSNI Business Crime Strategy. This arose from a target in Part 3 of the 2007 - 2010 Policing Plan to develop a Business Crime Strategy.

With the aid of slides, Chief Superintendent Maguire briefed the Committee on the Business Crime Strategy and on how it had been developed. He concluded the presentation with an outline of how the strategy would be implemented during 2008/09.

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

The Committee raised questions around the following:-

- KPMG's research recommendations and holding PSNI to account for these recommendations;

- cost of business crime in Northern Ireland and whether the costs would increase due to the credit crunch;
- media campaign surrounding the PSNI Business Crime Strategy.

Following a discussion, it was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the PSNI publish on its website, the PSNI Business Crime Strategy.

Following the presentation the KPMG Representatives left the meeting.

7. PSNI REPORT TO THE BOARD ON POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING FRAMEWORK

Chief Superintendent Maguire and his colleagues presented the update on the Neighbourhood Policing Framework to the Committee. With the aid of slides the Committee was briefed on:-

- background to the Neighbourhood Policing Framework;
- central themes of framework;
- governance structure;
- recommendations.

Members raised questions in relation to:-

- disparity in the number of neighbourhoods across districts, and
- the disparity in the number of Police Officers Part Time (POPTs) in Area Command Units;
- Developing the Board's Framework for measuring neighbourhood policing and policing with the community.

Following a discussion, it was:-

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AGREED:

- to revisit the Lunney Framework and develop with PSNI;
- to ask PSNI to follow up on the issue of disparity over the POPTs and neighbourhoods;
- as part of 'Seeing is believing' to consider selecting a neighbourhood and applying the framework to that neighbourhood;
- to draft questions for the Chief Constable on:-
 - Policing with the Community; and
 - Neighbourhood policing.

8. REQUEST FOR FUNDING RAINBOW PROJECT

The Committee considered a request from the Rainbow Project for a contribution towards a study visit to research and discuss sections of data collected on homophobic hate crime.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To recommend that the Board support this request for a financial contribution of £600.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Rainbow Project should prepare a short report for the Board following this study visit.

9. POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY – PSNI KNOWLEDGE SHARING DAY

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of a PSNI ‘Policing with the Community Knowledge Sharing Day’ on 26 November 2008. The Committee was asked to nominate two Members for this event.

It was:-

AGREED:

To nominate Mr Suneil Sharma and Mrs Mary McKee for this event.

10. POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY – PROPOSED STUDY VISIT

The Committee considered a paper which provided details of a proposed study visit to observe methods for implementation and monitoring of policing with the community and neighbourhood policing within another police force and Police Authority.

Following discussion:-

It was:-

AGREED:

To proceed with a study visit and for Officials to liaise with Members on dates.

11. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS (CPSs) MINISTERIAL REVIEW

The Committee considered a paper which set out issues to be considered in developing the Board’s view on the future arrangements for DPPs.

The Acting Chief Executive updated Members on the current position. The Committee was advised that the NIO had accepted the proposal to setup a small working group of key stakeholders. This work is ongoing and the paper set put some of the key issues that the Board needs to consider.

Following discussion:-

It was:-

AGREED:

- That the Board agree to recommend to the NIO to integrate some of the current functions where there is an overlap between DPPs and CSPs;
- that officials liaise with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee regarding the Board's position.

12. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

The Committee considered a paper which advised of the absence of a member of Armagh DPP and 2 members from Newtownabbey DPP.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

- to write to the Armagh DPP Member advising that their attendance is considered below the acceptable standard and provide them with an opportunity to give an explanation as to their continuing absence;
- that no further action be taken in the two cases of two Newtownabbey DPP Members.

13. INFORMATION PAPERS

There were no matters arising.

14. SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS

The Committee noted the schedule of presentations for 2008.

15. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials would draft questions for the Chief Constable on the following:-

- Policing with the Community;
- Neighbourhood Policing.

16. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

It was:-

AGREED:

To issue a press release relating to the public engagement meeting held on 19 September 2008.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 Community Engagement Strategy

It was:-

AGREED:

That an Implementation Plan be brought forward on the Community Engagement Strategy, in particular the planning and resources for development of engagement with working class communities.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 23 October 2008 at 5:00pm.

(Meeting closed at 16:50pm).

Secretariat

September 2008

Chair