NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2008 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:		Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
		Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
	(1)	Mr Alex Maskey
		Mr Basil McCrea
		Mr Daithí McKay
	(2)	Mrs Dolores Kelly
		Mrs Rosaleen Moore
	(3)	Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
		Mr Brian Rea
		Mr Trevor Ringland
		Mr Jimmy Spratt
POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:	**(1)**	Mr Drew Harris (ACC Crime Operations)
SECURITY SERVICE IN ATTENDANCE:	**(1)**	Northern Ireland Director
OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:		Dr Debbie Donnelly (A/Chief Executive)
	(5)	Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
	(4)	Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
	(4)	Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
	(5)	Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
	(5)	2 Board Officials

(1) Item number 13 only
(2) Except part item number 13
(3) Item numbers 1 - 8 and 13
(4) Except item numbers 5.1, 5.2 & 13
(5) Except item numbers 5.1 & 5.2

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Ms Mary McKee. NOTED.

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

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

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

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

- National Policing Improvement Agency Annual Dinner – London – 4 November 2008;
- Reception in recognition of the Policing Family – Hillsborough – 8 November 2008;
- Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Sir John Hermon – Groomsport – 9 November 2008;
- DPP Conference – Armagh – 18 November 2008;

- Innovation Workshop entitled “How to become a 21st Century Organisation” – Newry – 19 November 2008.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

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

- Children’s Law Society Annual Lecture 2008;
- 20th Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission – November 2008.

NOTED.

4.3 Correspondence

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

- letter and report (Reg 20) from Police Ombudsman dated 5 November 2008 regarding drowning at Carlingford on 15 May 2005;
- letter from NIO dated 6 November 2008 regarding joint visit to see Craigavon CSP/DPP Partnership;
- letter from Chief Constable dated 12 November 2008 regarding NIPB/PSNI Strategy Event.

NOTED.

4.4 News Releases

There were no matters arising.

NOTED.

4.5 999 Charity Ball

The Chairman gave details of 2 charity events on 6 December 2008 being held by the PSNI. All monies raised are in aid of the 999 Partnership Fund for the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children. He advised that further details of the events were available from officials. NOTED.

4.6 Estate Strategy – Special Board Meeting

The Chairman proposed that a special Policing Board meeting, should be arranged to consider the PSNI Estate Strategy.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That a special Board meeting be arranged for 11:00am on Thursday, 15 January 2009 to consider the PSNI Estate Strategy.

4.7 Appointment Of Chief Executive

The Chairman advised Members that he had hoped to be in a position to inform the Committee of the decision of the selection panel dealing with the appointment of the Chief Executive regarding the proposed remuneration package and terms and conditions of employment for the new appointee. Unfortunately, the full selection panel was unable to reconvene until after the Committee meeting was concluded. NOTED.

4.8 Devolution Of Policing And Justice

The Chairman welcomed the recent announcement in relation to arrangements being initiated for the discharge of policing and justice functions by the Assembly. NOTED.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Chief Constable's Performance Development Review

The Chairman reported on the in-year assessment of the Chief Constable's Performance and Development Review. Confidential minute at Appendix A refers.

5.2 PSNI – Chief Officers

The Committee considered a paper which set out the current known position in relation to the views of the Chief Constable on those Chief Officers eligible for severance.

It was:

AGREED:

To write to the Chief Constable about the composition of his senior management team over the next couple of years and identify any risks that changes brought about by severance would have to the delivery of policing.

5.3 Conferences

5.3.1 Transnational Policing Programme – Boston/Arizona – January 2009

The Committee was advised that 2 Members had indicated their interest in attending the Transnational Policing Programme in Boston/Arizona in January 2009. The A/Chief Executive reminded Members that the closing date for nominees was 21 November 2008.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the 2 Members interested in attending the conference should decide who will attend and inform the A/Chief Executive accordingly.

6. MONITORING OUTSTANDING PATTEN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee considered a paper containing proposals to take forward the Board's monitoring of outstanding Patten recommendations.

It had previously been agreed by the Committee that an expert advisor could be appointed to consider the continued relevance of the performance indicators and devise a future monitoring framework. Within such a framework, officials working with expert consultants employed by the Board would be tasked with assessing the progress of the outstanding recommendations in their particular area of responsibility.

The Committee considered the assignment responsibility for the outstanding recommendations and a proposed programme of work.

It was:

RESOLVED:

- to adopt the approach proposed in the paper;
- that an expert advisor should be appointed by single tender action, due to the nature of the work and the limited timeframe;
- that an assessment should be made of the impact of budgetary constraints on the implementation of outstanding recommendations.

7. PUBLIC SESSION OF BOARD MEETING

In March 2008, the Board agreed a pilot approach to questions to the Chief Constable in the private session and the public session of Board meetings; the revised approach had been piloted for 9 Board meetings. The Committee considered how the pilot had worked and what measures could be taken to further enhance the effectiveness of questions to the Chief Constable at Board meetings.

Following discussion, it was:-

RECOMMENDED:

- that the Board delegate greater authority to the Chairman and Vice Chairman to exercise further discretion over the choice and wording of questions at the Board meeting in public, to give priority to strategic and policy issues.

8. DRAFT PART 2 OF THE 2009 – 2012 POLICING PLAN

The Committee considered a further draft of Part 2 of the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2009/2012 following the PSNI's Strategic Conference on 12 November 2008. The Committee considered each objective, performance indicator and target.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials should convey Members' views to PSNI on a number of performance indicators/targets namely; targets 1.8.1 and 2.3.1 and performance indicators 2.4; 3.1 and 4.1 – 4.4.

9. CJINI/HMIC REPORT ON ROADS POLICING

The CJINI/HMIC Report on Roads Policing was considered by the Committee in September 2008 when Members asked the PSNI for a substantive response in relation to the actions being taken to address the recommendations relevant to PSNI. The Committee considered a written response from the PSNI on progress towards the implementation of the recommendations.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That questions should be put to the Chief Constable at the next Policing Board meeting in relation to:-

  - the location of and revenue obtained from safety cameras;
  - the review of the Fixed Penalty Processing Centre.

- that the Board should receive a report on Roads Policing at its next meeting in public.

10. RESEARCH WITH WORKING CLASS COMMUNITIES

Further to discussions at the July 2008 Board meeting and the Policing Plan Strategy Event in October 2008, the Committee considered a paper on conducting research with working class communities throughout Northern Ireland in order to:-

- better understand their views of the police and police organisations;
- discover what their level of interaction with the police and police organisations is, and the nature of such interactions;
- discover their levels of under-reporting of crimes and incidents and
- identify any problems that could be addressed.

The Committee was advised that the Community Engagement Committee had been considering extending outreach to loyalist and republican working class communities and alternatives on how this could best be taken forward.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That the Community Engagement Committee should further consider the matter and that the outcome would be brought to a future Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee or Board meeting for consideration.

11. THE POLICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES – STRIKING THE BALANCE BETWEEN OPERATIONS AND HEALTH AND SAFETY DUTIES

The Committee considered correspondence received from the Health and Safety Executive seeking comments on a draft statement – the Police and Fire and Rescue Services: Striking the Balance Between Operations and Health and Safety Duties.

Noting that the deadline for a response was 28 November 2008, it was:-

AGREED:

To give delegated authority to the Chairman and Vice Chairman to reply on behalf of the Board.

12. INFORMATION PAPERS

The Committee noted the following information papers:-

12.1 Tribunal Cases

12.2 Chief Officers' Pay Claim 2007 and 2008/10 Police Pay Award

12.3 Qualitative Reports On The Police Contribution To The Delivery Of The Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy

NOTED.

13. BRIEFING REGARDING NATIONAL SECURITY

The Chairman welcomed ACC Crime Operations and the Northern Ireland Director of the Security Service to the meeting.

The Committee received a confidential briefing in relation to liaison between PSNI and the Security Service, following the transfer of national security matters from PSNI to the Security Service. A confidential note on the briefing is attached at Appendix 'A'.

Following the briefing, the Chairman thanked the representatives from the PSNI and Security Service for their contribution and they left the meeting.

14. MATTERS TO BE RAISED WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

There were no matters arising.

15. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 TASER – Judicial Review

All Board Members were advised on 11 November 2008 that the Board had received notice that the applicant in the judicial review of the Chief Constable's decision to introduce TASER sought to join the Board as a respondent. The Committee considered a paper, tabled at the meeting, containing legal advice regarding the matter.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- to approve the legal advice that the Board did not oppose the grant of leave that the Board be joined; and

- assuming leave is granted, that an affidavit be prepared in the name of the Chairman and Vice Chairman on behalf of the Board.

16.2 Meeting With The Minister Of State

The Chairman informed Members that, following the special Policing Board meeting on 20 November 2008, at which the PSNI budget had been considered, officials had sought a meeting with the Minister of State to discuss the PSNI budget. The Chairman gave details of proposed arrangements for the meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that representatives from the Board should meet with the Minister of State on 25 November 2008 at 11:00am to discuss the PSNI budget;
- that the Board delegation should comprise the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board, the Vice Chairperson of the Resources and Improvement Committee and one representative from each of the political parties represented on the Board.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee was scheduled for Thursday, 11 December 2008, at 10:00am in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 5:10pm).

Secretariat
November 2008

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Chairman