

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 16 AUGUST 2007 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Alex Maskey (Chair)
Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chair)
Mr Leslie Cree
Ms Mary McKee
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
Mr David Rose

PSNI IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice
Department)
3 PSNI representatives

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Dr Debbie Donnelly, Deputy Chief
Executive
6 Board Officials

(1) Item number 16

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Tom Buchanan, Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson and Mr Suneil Sharma. NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 14 JUNE 2007**

It was:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee held on 14 June 2007 be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 JUNE 2007

3.1 Board Members Support For District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) (Item 4.3 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 12.

3.2 First Day Briefing Paper (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that all recommended changes to the Standing Orders would be considered by the Board in the autumn.

The Committee also noted a paper which provided Members with a full list of all the groups that the Board had engaged with.

3.3 Progress Report On Implementation Of The Board's Community Engagement Strategy (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee agreed to consider a draft revision to the Community Engagement Strategy at its September meeting.

3.4 Tender Specification For The Appointment Of Consultants To Assist With The Advertising Campaign And Identification Of Candidates For Appointment As Independent Members Of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with comparative costs for public appointments. The most comparable was the Lay Magistrate Recruitment Campaign in 2004/05. Members were advised of the cost of this scheme and the cost of the appointment of DPP independent members. NOTED.

3.5 Hate Crime – PSNI Response And Recommendations Contained In The Criminal Justice Inspectorate Report (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that PSNI would report to the Committee at its September 2007 meeting. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS

4.1 Citizenship And Community Engagement Conference

4.2 ACPO Youth Justice Conference

4.3 Conference – Managing Child Sex Offenders In The Community

The Committee was advised of the above conferences. Members were asked to contact Secretariat Branch if they were interested in attending.

It was:-

AGREED:

That Secretariat Branch would advise the Chair of the Committee when any Member attends a conference. The Chair would also be advised of Members comments regarding any such conferences.

5. RESPONSE TO NIO DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE APPOINTMENT FOR INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) AND BELFAST DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) SUB-GROUPS

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members to recommend a draft response to the NIO's consultation on the Code of Practice on the appointment of independent members to DPPs and Belfast Sub-Groups.

Members were advised that the appointment of independent Members was a 2 stage process involving both the councils who determine the candidate's suitability, and the Policing Board, who determine the overall representativeness of the DPP.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board send a response to the Minister of State.

6. REVISED CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) AND BELFAST DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) SUB-GROUPS

The Committee considered a paper which updated Members on the revisions that had been made to the Code of Practice on the functions and responsibilities of the DPPs.

Following a discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

To recommend to the Board that the draft code of practice is issued for consultation and to change the wording in paragraph 5.3 to reflect the wording in paragraph 6.4 of the previous version.

7. ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF BELFAST DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) AND BELFAST DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) SUB-GROUPS

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members to consider and recommend to the Board a revision of the allowances for members of Belfast DPP and its Sub-Groups.

Following a discussion, Members decided on a revision of the allowance payable to Members of the Belfast DPP. This revision would be kept under review.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials would develop a model based on three principles:

- There should be a presumption that all DPP Members receive the same allowance.
- That it is desirable that members of the Belfast DPP also sit on a sub group
- That the allowance for Belfast DPP Members should be enhanced if they also sit on a sub group

8. APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR TO ADMINISTER THE PROCESS FOR THE SELECTION OF DPP INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members to resolve the approach to the process for assessing the tenders who bid for the communication support and administration of the process for selecting DPP independent members.

Members considered 3 options and following the discussion, it was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That option 3 should be taken forward, that is;

Officials undertake this role and on awarding the contract, arrange for the preferred contractor to provide an overview of their proposals to the Committee and consider Members views

9. REMUNERATION FOR POLITICAL MEMBERS PARTICIPATING ON DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) MEMBER SELECTION PANELS

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members to resolve to remunerate DPP political members participating in the forthcoming DPP independent member selection panels.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To remunerate DPP political members at the rate established in 2005 for members and a higher rate for Chairs of panels.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That all panel members must complete the appropriate training before they can be part of the selection process.

10. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

The Committee was provided with details of the level of attendance of DPP members at public and private DPP meetings during the financial year 2006/07.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- To write to DPP Managers reminding them of advising on the policy of members' attendance, i.e. that they should notify the Board of absences and to provide an explanation as to why the Board was not notified when certain Members hit the trigger point.
- To provide Members with a full analysis of where DPP members have hit trigger points and the Board has not been notified.

11. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) ATTENDANCE – BALLYMONEY DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of two Ballymoney DPP members absence from meetings within a 6 month period.

It was:-

AGREED:

That no further action would be taken at this time and that both cases would be reviewed in 3 months time.

12. BOARD MEMBERS' LINKS WITH DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with details of the allocation of Board Members to the individual DPPs and Belfast DPP Sub –Groups.

Following a discussion, Members:-

AGREED:

- Officials would revisit the allocations with regard to amending some of the allocations;
- A paper would be brought to the Board with the amended allocations;
- A briefing would be provided for Board Members on their roles within the assigned DPPs.

13. PROPOSED BRIEFING FOR DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANISED CRIME TASK FORCE (OCTF)

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members agreement to financially support OCTF briefing for DPPs in the North West of the province.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- That the Board provide a financial contribution towards the overall costs;
- That Members be provided with a breakdown of the costs.

14. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP EFFECTIVENESS – KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with draft DPP Key Performance Indicators. Members were asked to RESOLVE to undertake a targeted consultation with the stakeholders.

Following a discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That amendments should be made to the Key Performance Indicators as agreed between Members and officials.

15. NIO COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT OLDER PERSON'S STRATEGY

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with information on the NIO's community safety proposals for the 'Safety of Older People' which is currently out for consultation.

Members were advised that the Board will be consulting with the Older People's Reference Group and have arranged a series of workshops to discuss views on the strategy.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That this approach would be accepted; and
- Officials would, on the basis of its consultation with the Older Persons Reference Group, draft a response for Committee Members to consider in October 2007.

16. POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY – PSNI PROGRESS REPORT

The Chairman welcomed ACC Harris and his colleagues to the meeting and invited them to present their progress report on neighbourhood policing.

The presentation began with an overview of neighbourhood policing. He advised Members of the proposed neighbourhood policing framework and gave examples of how Neighbourhood Policing Teams in Derry/Londonderry and Holywood are giving people access to policing services through named points of contact.

He then spoke on the PSNI framework for neighbourhood policing and the central themes of the framework.

Members were talked through each of the 25 recommendations.

The presentation concluded with the PSNI “next steps” strategy.

- Develop a framework for monitoring performance;
- Involve partners;
- Policing with the Community Comes First.

A copy of the slides used in the presentation is attached at appendix ‘A’

Members acknowledged and welcomed the report. Following discussion Members raised various questions and concerns which centred on the following themes:

- The expectation that all Police officers should view themselves as part of neighbourhood policing,
- Members recognised the challenge to the culture of policing.
- The need to ensure that there was a shared view between NIPB and neighbourhood policing.
- The number of PSNI officers currently involved in neighbourhood policing.
- That neighbourhood policing should be at the forefront of the approach to reduce and prevent crime.
- That partnerships between the police and people who live in neighbourhoods will be the most effective means of dealing with tough issues.
- The need for engagement with all sections of society, especially those who have disengaged.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a question would be drafted from the Committee for the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting regarding PWC.

17. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of an update on current Community Engagement activities.

Members noted the update and considered the progress on this strategy to date.
NOTED.

18. REQUEST FOR FUNDING TOWARDS A FIREWORK SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN 2007

The Committee were asked to consider a request from the NIO for the Board to provide financial support towards a proposed firework safety awareness campaign. However, due to time restraints, there was not an opportunity for officials to discuss this request with Members.

It was:-

AGREED:

To recommend to the Board that it should consider the NIO's request for a financial contribution for a fireworks safety awareness campaign.

19. SCHEDULE OF BRIEFINGS / REPORTS 2007

The Committee NOTED the schedule of briefings.

20. INFORMATION PAPERS

There were no information papers.

21. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials would draft a question for the Chief Constable following the presentation on Policing with the Community.

22. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 27 September 2007 at 5:00pm. Members were advised that this meeting will be held in the First Floor Conference Room.

(Meeting closed 6:00pm).

Secretariat

August 2007

Chairman