

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2007 AT 2PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mr Alex Maskey (Chair)
- (1) Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chair)
- (1) Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson
Ms Mary McKee
- (2) Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
Mr David Rose
Mr Suneil Sharma

**INDEPENDENT
CONSULTANT IN
ATTENDANCE:**

- (1) Mr Bob Lunney

**PRICEWATERHOUSE
COOPER IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (3) 4 Representatives

**NORTHERN IRELAND
ALTERNATIVES IN
ATTENDANCE:**

2 Representatives

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

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

- (1) Item number 7
- (2) Item numbers 3, 4.1 & 7
- (3) Item number 15.2
- (4) Item number 15.3

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Leslie Cree. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2007

It was:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee held on 27 September 2007 be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2007

3.1 Community Engagement Strategy (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

Members were advised that the draft strategy has now been reviewed in light of amendments suggested by Members at the September 2007 meeting.

Members were also advised, that the formal launch of the strategy for public consultation would take place at the Public Engagement meeting on 27 November 2007.

3.2 District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) Members Attendance (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 5.

3.3 District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) Reconstitution (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised Members that they had written to the Equality Commission seeking guidance in relation to best practice in reaching out to engage the community.

Members were advised that a reply was still awaited.

3.4 Briefing – PSNI Report On Hate Crime In Northern Ireland (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the Director of Community Engagement had written to ACC Criminal Justice for an update on two specific cases which were referred to at a previous meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS

4.1 Update Round Table Discussion – Monday 15 October 2007

Members and officials discussed the round table discussion and agreed that it had been a very useful and positive meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

That details of the meeting would be included with the Community Engagement update.

5. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) ATTENDANCE

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with details of attendance levels for DPP Members at public and private DPP meetings.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board write to the DPP Members referred to and advise them that their attendance will be monitored over the next six months.

6. MONITORING OF OUTSTANDING PATTEN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members to agree a process for the Committee's oversight and monitoring of the implementation of the outstanding Patten recommendations.

It was:-

AGREED:

To accept the recommended approaches outlined in the appendix to the paper for future monitoring of each of the recommendations.

7. BRIEFING – POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY – MONITORING FRAMEWORK

The Chairman welcomed Mr Bob Lunney, an Independent Consultant to the Committee. Mr Lunney briefed the Committee on his report for developing a monitoring framework in relation to Policing with the Community.

Mr Lunney began by saying how unique the monitoring framework is and that it is only in Northern Ireland that he would attempt to develop a monitoring framework for Policing with the Community and because of the unique circumstances in Northern Ireland, this framework would work.

Mr Lunney proceeded to speak on the following key points:-

- to ensure that monitoring is embedded in the Policing Plan;
- targets to be realistic, should be more aspirational;
- definition of neighbourhood boundaries should be confirmed in consultation with other key agencies;
- To encourage “seeing is believing” visits and would encourage Members to use a formalised process and to report back on these visits.

- Consideration on alternative use of local surveys

Following Mr Lunney's presentation, Members raised various questions and issues, some of these included:-

- Organisational commitment and a motivated workforce; reduction in bureaucracy.
- timescales for the rollout;
- results – Members felt intelligence led policing had quick win results but Policing with the Community would enable long term results;
- the changing ethos of policing;
- reduction in numbers of Full-Time Reserve and the implications for neighbourhood policing;
- how to measure the integration of neighbourhood and response policing;
- Training and the importance of ensuring officers have the necessary skills.
- Apparent gap between policy and current practice.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that a copy of Inspector Henderson's discussion paper, "Identifying Neighbourhoods", should be distributed to Members;
- that round table discussions will be arranged with the Deputy Chief Constable and ACC Criminal Justice regarding the Policing with the Community monitoring Framework;
- To take forward the "seeing is believing" visits.

8. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of the progress made in implementing the Board's Community Engagement Strategy. NOTED.

9. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DDP) RECONSTITUTION PROGRESS UPDATE

The Committee received a paper which provided Members with an update on progress for the reconstitution of DDPs and Belfast Sub-Groups.

The paper set out the current position on political appointments to DPPs that is underway and due to be completed by 7 December 2007. Officials were advised that Price Water House Cooper have been identified as the main contractor to manage the process. NOTED.

10. RESPONSE TO NIO COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT OLDER PERSONS STRATEGY

The Committee was asked to agree the basis of the Board's response to the NIO Community Safety Units' draft "proposal for the safety of older people".

It was:-

AGREED:

That the points set out in the paper should form the basis of the Board's response to the NIO on the consultation document.

11. FUTURE OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS (CSPs)

The Committee were asked to consider the background information on the consideration for the future arrangements for District Policing Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships. Following discussion, Members noted the background papers on the Board's work to date and the Terms of Reference, and some of the points raised by Members were:-

- the need to ensure the future role of DPPs continues to reflect their unique role in policing;
- the Board needs to ensure that DPPs work effectively and properly reflect the views of the community;
- DPPs and CSPs should be streamlined with the Board continuing to have a significant role in monitoring effectiveness and funding
- Members also asked that any developing models considered by the Ministerial Review Group should be considered by the Board.

12. SCHEDULE OF BRIEFINGS / REPORTS 2007

The Committee noted the Schedule of Briefings. NOTED

13. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

That questions would be drafted for the Chief Constable surrounding Policing with the Community.

14. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Joint District Policing Partnerships (DPPs), Community And PSNI Problem Solving Funded By The International Fund For Ireland (IFI)

The Director of Community Engagement updated Members on the position with regard to the funding for the International Fund for Ireland (IFI). Members were advised that bids had been received from four organisations. NOTED.

15.2 Presentation – PriceWaterHouse Cooper

The Chair welcomed representatives from PriceWaterHouse Cooper (PWC) and AV Browne to the meeting. PWC have very recently been awarded the contract to manage the recruitment of Independent Members for appointment to the Belfast DPPs and to the Sub-Groups.

PWC gave a short presentation on how they will take forward the advertising and selection exercise. With the aid of slides, they set out:-

- the proposed approach
- the challenges:-
 - proposed launch date
 - Belfast DPP and Sub-Groups
 - targeting
 - incomplete application forms
 - training
 - candidate information sessions
- the project wide challenges
 - stakeholder management

- Public interest/scrutiny

The proposed timetable was highlighted to Members. A copy of the slides used in the presentation is attached at Appendix 'A'.

15.3 Northern Ireland Alternatives

Two representatives from Northern Ireland Alternatives presented a case to the Committee regarding funding. They advised Members of the financial crisis they were facing and if not addressed, they would be forced to close down within six to eight weeks.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 22 November 2007 at 5:00pm.

(Meeting closed at 6:00pm)

Secretariat

October 2007

Chairman