

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 5:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

- Mr Alex Maskey (Chair)
- Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chair)
- (1)** Mr Tom Buchanan
- Mr Jeffrey Donaldson
- Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
- Mr David Rose
- Mr Suneil Sharma

#### **PSNI IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (2)** Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice Department)
- 1 PSNI representative

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Dr Debbie Donnelly, Deputy Chief Executive
- Mr David Jackson,
- 6 Board Officials

- (1)** Item numbers 5 – 15
- (2)** Item number 9 only

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Leslie Cree and Ms Mary McKee. NOTED.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 AUGUST 2007**

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee held on 16 August 2007 be agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 AUGUST 2007**

**3.1 Allowances For Members Of Belfast District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) And Belfast District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) Sub Groups (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)**

Members decided at its August 2007 meeting that the Board would agree a framework for the structure of DPP allowances. The Board resolved the framework for Belfast Allowances at its meeting in September 2007. NOTED.

**3.2 District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) Members' Attendance (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)**

At its August 2007 Committee meeting, Members requested a full analysis of where DPP members have hit trigger points. Members were advised that this would be presented at the October 2007 Committee meeting. NOTED.

**3.3.1 Proposed Briefing For District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) On The Work Of The Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) (Item 13 Of Minutes Refers)**

Members were provided with costs relating to the OCTF briefing for DPPs. A Member expressed concern that the cost was expensive and not value for money and asked for the NIO to be informed of this concern. NOTED.

**3.4 Northern Ireland Office (NIO) Community Safety Unit Older Persons Strategy (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)**

Members were advised, that a draft response to the NIO would be drafted by officials and presented at the October 2007 Committee meeting. NOTED.

## **4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Introduction For New Political Members Of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)**

The Chair advised Members of 2 evening briefings for all new political members to DPPs. These briefings will provide an opportunity to meet with Board Members and will focus on the roles and responsibilities of DPPs and an overview of PSNI.

The dates and venues are:-

26 November 2007	Hilton Hotel, Belfast
29 November 2007	Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown

Nominations were sought from Members to attend these briefing sessions. NOTED.

## **5. REVIEW OF BOARD'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members to agree:-

- to review the Community Engagement Strategy;
- to consider the attached revised draft for consultation; and
- to consider the key stakeholders to be consulted.

Members discussed the strategy in depth and the following points were raised:-

- that it was an appropriate time to refresh the Community Engagement Strategy;
- Members acknowledged the progress that has been made to date;
- Members recognised that the Board was now in a position where it should establish an evaluative framework for the Strategy;
- Members were content that the reference groups should be the main mechanism by which the Board engages with the community;

- Members agreed that the membership of the Reference Groups should be as inclusive as possible.
- Members agreed that a Reference Group should be established that would include a range of representative groups dealing with disability.
- one of the key roles of the Board through the work of the reference groups, is the facilitation of the relationship between the Board, Police and Community in order to enhance the capacity of the Board to hold the Chief Constable to account;
- Members also agreed that the Strategy should reflect clearly the difference the role of the Board from that of PSNI and DPP in regard to community engagement.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- To revise the draft to reflect the amendments Members agreed ,
- To Issue to the Reference Groups, for their views prior to issue for consultation, to the stakeholders.

**6. DEFINING CRITERIA FOR EXISTING DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RE-APPOINTMENT**

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members to determine the qualifying criteria which would allow existing DPP Independent Members to be considered for the fast track process for nominations to the Board.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

- That a satisfactory performance appraisal would be required

- That in some cases particularly in relation to Vice Chairs a performance appraisal would not be available. In such cases attendance at 75% of meetings between appointment date and 4 September 2007 (Commencement Date) would be eligible for the fast track process
- Members who have refused to have a performance appraisal completed will not be eligible for this fast track process, but could re apply through the open competition.

## **7. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE**

The Committee considered a paper which updated Members on the attendance record of 5 DPP members and Members agreed a course of action.

It was:-

### **RESOLVED:**

**Member 1** - that a letter be issued to Member 1 re attendance and a review to be undertaken in 3 months time;

**Member 2** – no further action at this time;

**Member 3** – a letter to be issued re attendance and a review to be undertaken in 3 months time;

**Member 4** – No further action;

**Member 5** – a final warning letter to be issued with a review in 3 months time

## **8. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) RECONSTITUTION – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS – OUTREACH**

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members to agree an approach to a programme of outreach relating to the appointment of Independent Members to DPPs.

Members recognised the opportunity the appointment of Independent Members to the DPPs provided, in reflecting the diversity within Northern Ireland society.

Members also accepted that the Board should address any barriers to potential applicants. In this regard they agreed a programme of outreach which would include a comprehensive communications strategy and work with the Board's Reference Groups. Members recognised that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should have a lead role in this process.

Members acknowledged the need to target particular groups who were significantly under represented in DPPs, i.e. women, young people and ethnic minorities. It was recognised the important role that DPPs had to play in encouraging a diverse range of applicants.

Following the discussion:-

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- the outreach approach as part of the appointment process for independent Members to DPPs; and
- to consider the Board's approach to encourage people from republican and loyalist areas to apply for DPP membership.

It was also:

**AGREED:**

That officials would seek further advice from the Equality Commission on the methods they use to reach disengaged groups.

## **9. BRIEFING – PSNI REPORT ON HATE CRIME IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

ACC Criminal Justice delivered a presentation on vulnerable groups and hate crime. With the aid of slides he briefed Members on the following:-

- types of hate crime and statistics surrounding hate crime;
- the Independent Advisory Groups which influence the policy and practice;
- various events organised with various groups, i.e. Belfast Mela, Polish Picnic;
- Policy and training;
- CJI Thematic Report.

Following the presentation, a discussion with Members and ACC Criminal Justice followed on the subject of hate crime. Members were clear that addressing hate crime is and will continue to be a priority for the Board. Members are keen to ensure that Part 2 of the Policing Plan reflects this priority.

Members reflected concerns that the current PSNI strategy to address hate crime was not fully effective. In particular, Members raised concerns around the:-

- Call Management process;
- Clearance rates for hate crime; and
- extent to which training is (not completed in notes)

Following the discussion, Members thanked ACC Criminal Justice for his full and honest discussion, and it was:-

**AGREED:**

- That the Committee would be updated on the progress of 2 specific cases which Members referred to during the discussion.
- That hate crime targets should be included in part 2 of the Annual Policing Plan.

**10. PROGRAMME OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2008**

The Committee considered a paper outlining Committee dates for 2008.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the 2008 Committee meetings will be held on the following dates:-

Thursday	24 January	2PM
Thursday	21 February	5PM
Thursday	27 March	2PM
Thursday	24 April	5PM
Thursday	22 May	2PM
Thursday	26 June	5PM
Thursday	28 August	5PM
Thursday	25 September	2PM
Thursday	23 October	5PM
Thursday	27 November	2PM

**11. SCHEDULE OF BRIEFINGS / REPORTS 2007**

The Committee NOTED the Schedule of Briefings for the remainder of 2007.

**12. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

There were no matters arising.

**13. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES**

There were no matters arising.

## **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **14.1 Review Of District Policing partnerships (DPPs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)**

The Deputy Chief Executive updated Members on her involvement with the NIO group that is reviewing the future of DPPs and CSPs. She explained that the work of the group up to this point was gathering factual information.

She advised Members that the Terms of Reference for the group had been explained and would be circulated to Members.

Members were advised that the group would be starting work on the development of options and models for the future of DPPs and CSPs.

Members were advised that she had reflected to the Group the need for the Board to be kept informed of the details and to be involved in the development of the models. The Deputy Chief Executive agreed to further update the Committee at its next meeting.

## **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 25 October 2007 at 2:00pm.

(Meeting closed at 8.00pm)

**Secretariat**

**September 2007**

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**Chairman**