

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 25th MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 12 JANUARY 2006 AT 10:00 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Denis Bradley
Mr Joe Byrne
Mr Alex Attwood
Mr Brian Dougherty
Mr Alan McFarland
Mr Willie Hay
Mr Ian Paisley Jnr

PSNI OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

- (1) Mr Paul Leighton, Deputy Chief Constable
- (1) 1 PSNI Operations
- (1) 1 PSNI Official, Human Resources
- (2) 2 PSNI Officials (Central Statistics Unit)

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (3) Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Affairs)
- (4) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
Nine Board Officials

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORS:

- (5) Ms Jane Gordon (Human Rights Advisor)

- (1) Item 2,3&9
- (2) Item 3
- (3) Item 2
- (4) Item 3 onwards
- (5) Item 12

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Foster and Mr Sharma.

2. PRESENTATION – POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Chairman welcomed the Deputy Chief Constable (DCC), Mr Paul Leighton and his colleagues to the meeting of the Community Involvement Committee.

The DCC began his presentation by outlining eight areas for progressing Policing with the Community (PwC).

- Performance and Accountability
- National Intelligence Model
- Call Handling
- Partnerships
- THE PwC Fund
- Knowledge sharing on PwC
- Recruitment and selection
- Training

He talked about these areas in detail and gave a summary of the Training Recommendations.

The DCC then spoke about a number of Best Value recommendations and in particular recommendations 1 and 3.

- 1. the renaming of all units involved in community policing to 'Neighbourhood Policing Teams'
- 3. To ensure that policing with the Community is the core function of the PSNI, which will lead to improved service delivery.

Following this the DCC spoke about the purpose of the policing with the community fund and how it is to help create and encourage a visible commitments

to an enhanced Policing with the Community ethos in partnership with the police service and other interested groups.

The DCC advised the Committee that the Fund had Resources of £1million per year and that 3 years funding had been secured. There are three funding rounds per year and the maximum grant is £50k per project/year.

An Arbitration Panel meets 3 times per year to consider applications. The panel consist of the DCC, and officials from Operations, Finance, Community Safety (PSNI) and Community Safety (NIO).

The DCC then provided statistics showing the number of successful applications against the number of unsuccessful and a breakdown by DCUs.

He also advised Members on the criteria which make a good application and what makes an application unsuccessful.

He concluded his presentation by giving examples of successful applications and examples of projects funded.

- Message in a bottle
- Outdoor challenge
- Community Safety wardens for the Holyland
- Safe Bus scheme
- Racial diversity 'A Programme for Change'

After the presentation, Members sought further information about the following issues;

- Majority of allocation of funds was Youth focused
- That there did not appear to be sufficient opportunity for DPPs to link into Community Policing Fund.
- Funding for Community Safety Wardens in Holyland area
- Call handling
- The opportunity for the Board to participate on the arbitration panel for the Fund

Following this the Chairman thanked the Deputy Chief Constable and his colleagues for the presentation and invited them to stay for the next presentation,

3. PRESENTATION – QUALITY OF SERVICE SURVEY

The Chairman welcomed the two PSNI representatives, from Central Statistics Unit.

One of the PSNI representatives gave the presentation. He started by giving a background to the Quality of Services Survey. He explained that PSNI and the Board have jointly conducted an ongoing quality of services survey, with victims of violent crime, vehicle crime, domestic burglary, racist incidents and road traffic collision casualties, since the first quarter of 2004/05. This was conducted in line with the Home Office approach adopted in 2004.

He then spoke about the methodology used;

- Postal Surveys of victims
- Details randomly selected from PSNI systems
- Conducted quarterly
- Key findings reported quarterly
- More detailed report to follow
- 11,124 questionnaires sent out – 2,972 returned
- Overall response = 26.7%

He proceeded to talk about the results of the Core Satisfaction Questions and presented these in the form of graph. He compared the figures to various other Police Services and presented the national average and showed the PSNI as being above average in most areas.

He concluded his presentation by advising Members;

- That in terms of overall satisfaction , PSNI finished in top 12 out of 44 forces

- That the overall level of satisfaction was higher among females, those aged 35 and over and those from the rural policing area.
- That there was room for improvement in all areas, however the 'keeping victims informed of progress' was the area that recorded the lowest level of satisfaction.

Following the presentation Members acknowledged a very satisfactory survey and presentation. Members asked questions on:

- Keeping people advised on the progress of their cases, and
- Follow up action on incidents.

The Chairman thanked the PSNI representatives from Central Statistics Unit for their presentation and also the Deputy Chief Constable for his presentation and the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the report on the Quality of Service Survey should be published on the Board and PSNI websites.

4. MINUTES OF THE 24th COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2005

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:

AGREED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Involvement Committee held on 10 November 2005 be agreed.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

5.1 Research By The Institute For Conflict Research (ICR) With The Black And Minority Ethnic And Lesbian, Gay And Bi-Sexual Populations

(Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

At November's meeting Officials agreed to draw up an action plan to address the recommendations made in each report. The Committee considered a paper detailing proposals for future action.

It was:

RESOLVED

That the report would be released with a proviso that 'not all the views expressed are views agreed by all Board Members.

5.2 CUSTODY VISITORS STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER 2005 (Item 6 of Minutes Refers)

At the November meeting of the Committee further information was requested in respect of the number of unsatisfactory visits. The Committee considered a paper detailing statistics regarding unsatisfactory visits over the periods 2003/04, 2004/05 and up to 30 November 05. NOTED

5.3 UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO THE DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (Item 10 of Minutes refers)

At the November meeting of the Community Involvement Committee, the Committee was to consider a proposal from the University of Ulster for the provision of training and development for the DPPs. In the absence of the Chairman, Members considered it appropriate to defer this item.

It was proposed that a pilot scheme should be carried out with one DPP and that the Chairman should lead this pilot scheme, assess its progress and report back to the Committee.

It was:

RESOLVED

That the Committee be updated on the progress that is made in the design and delivery of a pilot scheme.

6. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

7. CUSTODY VISITORS STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2005

The Committee considered a paper summarising the key points contained in the statistical summary of Custody visits carried out during October and November 2005. NOTED

8. PERFORMANCE MONITORING OF THE 2005-2006 NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING PLAN AGAINST;

- (i) QUALITATIVE TARGETS FOR ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN PART TWO OF THE PLAN**
- (ii) THE NORTHERN IRELAND DRUGS STRATEGY IN PART THREE OF THE PLAN**

The Committee considered a paper which provided a six monthly written report from the PSNI on progress towards meeting the qualitative targets in part two of the 2005 – 2006 Policing Plan in respect of anti-social behaviour. The paper also provided a PSNI progress report on the police contribution in relation to implementing the Northern Ireland Drugs Strategy. NOTED

9. 'SOMETHING TO SAY!' – THE INHERITORS PROJECT

The Committee considered a paper which provided information on a youth initiative hosted by Derry Youth and Community Workshop between April 2003 and December 2005. The project was initially entitled the Inheritors Project and the Northern Ireland Policing Board had contributed £6,000 to the research project, honouring the original commitment made by the former Police Authority in May 2001.

It was:

AGREED

That Members should receive background information on the Derry Youth and Community Workshop, and that all Members should receive a copy of the full report.

10. IMPROVING THE CARE FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Committee considered a paper from PSNI in respect of taking forward the recommendations on the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) Report.

It was:

AGREED

That the Committee should invite ACC Criminal Justice to provide a briefing on the CJINI report.

11. IMPACT OF REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (RPA) ON DPPs AND PSNI DCUs

The Committee considered a paper detailing possible structures for DPPs and local consultative Forums in the light of RPA recommendations.

It was:

AGREED

That the Committee should invite PSNI to update the Board on their current thinking in regard to DCU Structures in light of RPA.

12. CONSIDERATION OF DPP MEMBER UNDER THE BOARD POLICY FOR THE REMOVAL OF A DPP MEMBER FROM OFFICE

The Committee considered a paper which brought to their attention comments alleged to have been made by Councillor Maurice Mills, a political member of Ballymena DPP.

Members discussed the background to the case, a statement issued by Ballymena DPP and correspondence received from a member of the public.

Following discussion it was:

RECOMMENDED

- The Board should not progress the case as a matter for the removal of a DPP Member from office.
- That the Human Rights Advisor assists in drafting a statement to be issued, which would clearly show that the Board did not share the views of Councillor Mills.
- That the Board write to all DPP members reminding them of their responsibilities as Members of a Public Authority not to do or say

anything which would be seen as being detrimental to promoting equality.

13. COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVES' REMUNERATION IN RELATION TO WORK IN ESTABLISHING DPPs

The Committee considered a paper and correspondence from the Staff side of the Chief Executive's Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) which provided an update on the progress of a claim by Council Chief Executives for financial recognition in relation to work in establishing the DPPs. The Committee reiterated its position that it did not support the claim from Council Chief Executives.

The Committee considered the matter, following discussion it was;

RECOMMENDED

That the Board note the correspondence from the Staff side of the JNC and take no further action on this matter.

14. ACCEPTABILITY OF DPP MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

The Committee considered a paper regarding the level of attendance of DPP Members at DPP meetings. The Committee considered what level of absence by DPP Members at DPP meetings both public and private should be deemed unsatisfactory, before the Board might consider whether the removal of a DPP Member from office would be appropriate.

It was:

AGREED

That notification of absences by a DPP Member at 2 public meetings and 2 private meetings of the DPP within any six month period should be referred

to the Board for consideration of any further action.

A discussion took place on the position regarding the Belfast DPP, where Unionist Members remain 'withdrawn'.

It was:

AGREED

That the Board be updated on the current position in Belfast DPP and the outcome of meetings that had taken place in relation to this matter.

15. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) DURING THE YEAR 2004/05

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with information to enable the Policing Board to fulfil its responsibilities as set out at paragraph 3(3) (d) (iii) of the Police Act Northern Ireland 2000, regarding the assessment of the effectiveness of DPPs.

It was:

AGREED

To provide feedback to DPPs on an individual basis through the form of a letter from the Chair of this Committee to the Chairman of each DPP, giving the DPP an overview of the general findings in relation to its performance.

16. IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)

The Committee considered the December quarterly progress report showing progress against each of the recommendations and actions arising from the review of the DPPs.

NOTED.

17. SURVEY ON BOARD SUPPORT FOR DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) 2005

The Committee considered a paper which presented the findings of the 2005 survey on Policing Board support for DPPs, and a comparison with 2004 findings.

NOTED.

18. POLICING BOARD APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)

The Committee considered a paper which provided an update on the recently completed task of appointing Independent Members to the DPPs.

NOTED.

19. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPPs) MEMBERS TRAINING PROGRAMME 2006

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with the annual DPP training programme for January to December 2006.

NOTED.

20. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE OUTREACH

It was:

AGREED

That, due to pressure of time, this paper be brought back to a future meeting of Community Involvement Committee.

21. DONATION TO NEELB FOR CALENDARS TO BE GIVEN TO POST PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN OUTLINING THE DANGERS OF ALCOHOL

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of a request from North East Education and Library Board (NEELB) to fund a calendar targeting post primary young people, highlighting the dangers of alcohol.

It was;

RESOLVED

That the Committee should not approve funding of £3000 to the NEELB.

22. SECOND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY POLICING CONFERENCE – BOGOTA - 1-3 NOVEMBER 2005

The Committee considered a paper which detailed the content of the Second International Policing Conference held in Bogota, Columbia on 1 – 3 November 2005. One Board Member and an official attended this conference.

NOTED.

**23. FEEDBACK ON DPP INTERACTIVE SESSIONS HELD AT BOARD
OUTREACH MEETINGS**

The Committee considered a paper which detailed the feedback received from DPP Members on the Policing Board's outreach meetings.

NOTED.

**24. CONSULTATION ON 'DRUGS THRESHOLD' UNDER THE DRUGS ACT
2005**

The Committee considered a paper outlining the consultation to make Members aware of the consultation being undertaken by the NI, in conjunction with the Home Office, to establish the quantity of a controlled drug which a person may hold above which the court will presume that it was held with the intent to supply others.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the Board response should be 'No Comment'

**25. REQUEST FROM PSNI FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR POLICING
WITH THE COMMUNITY AWARDS**

Members considered a letter from the Deputy Chief Constable seeking financial support for the 2006 Policing with the Community Awards.

It was;

RESOLVED

That the Committee should contribute financial support of £12,000 in

support of Policing with the Community Awards.

26. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman advised the Committee that he had received an invitation from Banbridge DPP for the Chairman and two Board Members to attend a conference on 'Town Centre Business Crime'.

NOTED.

27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 8 February 2006.

SECRETARIAT

January 2006

CHAIRMAN