

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
14 JANUARY 2004 AT 9.30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Viscount Alan Brookeborough
(Vice-Chairman)
Mr Brian Dougherty
Mr Sam Foster
(1) Mr William Hay
Mr Suneil Sharma

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

(2) Director of Policy & Accountability
Director of Community Affairs
Four Board Officials

PSNI

(3) Mr Duncan McCausland – Assistant
Chief Constable
(4) Five Police Officers
(5) Superintendent, Community Safety Unit
(5) One Police Officer

RESEARCHER

(6) Dr Neil Jarman

- (1) From part of item number 2 onwards
- (2) From item number 3 onwards
- (3) Item numbers 1 – 3
- (4) Item numbers 1 – 2
- (5) Part of item number 2 – item number 3
- (6) Part of item number 3 – item number 4

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Denis Bradley (Chairman), Mr Joe Byrne and Mr Ian Paisley Jnr.

2. PRESENTATION ON PEACEBUILDERS PROGRAMME

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Assistant Chief Constable McCausland and his colleagues to the meeting and invited them to give a presentation to the Committee on the Peacebuilders Programme.

The representatives from PSNI then gave a presentation during which they highlighted:-

- The need for the Peacebuilders Programme.
- The key objectives of the programme.
- The structure of the programme.
- The benefits of the programme to the community.
- The oversight and accountability of the programme.

Three PSNI Officers outlined details of their participation in the Peacebuilders Programme and the benefits of the programme to the PSNI and the community.

A copy of the slides which were used during the presentation is attached at Annex "A".

During a subsequent discussion on the Peacebuilders Programme the following issues were covered:-

- The oversight of the Peacebuilders Project.
- The involvement of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) in selecting Police Officers to participate in future programmes.
- The funding arrangements for the programme.
- The selection of community representatives to participate in the programme.

The Vice-Chairman thanked ACC McCausland and his Officers for their presentation.

In response to questions from the Committee, ACC McCausland briefed Members on an attack which had taken place on the previous evening in Tandragee on a car belonging to a Member of a DPP.

3. PRESENTATION ON PROPOSALS TO DEFINE, MONITOR AND RECORD SECTARIAN INCIDENTS

The Vice-Chairman welcomed the Superintendent, PSNI Community Safety Branch and his colleague to the meeting and invited them to give a presentation to the Committee on proposals to define, monitor and record sectarian incidents.

The Superintendent gave a presentation in relation to the subject. A copy of the slides which were used during the presentation is attached at Annex "B".

During a subsequent discussion on the monitoring and recording of sectarian incident the following issues were covered:-

- The length of time which it takes from a person is arrested for a sectarian incidents until the Court proceedings takes place.
- The number of racial incidents which had occurred in South Belfast DCU during 2003.
- The perception which people from outside the Province get of Northern Ireland when they hear of attacks on ethnic minority groups.
- The number of racial incidents and arrests which had taken place together with the outcome of the cases The Superintendent undertook to provide the Committee with additional information on this matter.
- A presentation being given to a public meeting of the Board regarding the work which the PSNI was carrying out to combat racial attacks.
- A multi-agency approach being taken to address sectarian incidents.

The Vice-Chairman thanked the Superintendent and his colleague for attending the meeting.

Officials referred to a letter which the Board had received from the Travellers' Movement which asked for support to oppose legislation to remove travellers from certain areas of Northern Ireland. In response the C/Inspector, Community Safety Branch outlined the PSNI's view on the introduction of such legislation.

4. RESEARCH INTO PUBLIC ORDER DURING THE SUMMER 2003

The Committee noted the contents of a report which had been prepared by Dr Jarman on the research which he had carried out into public order during the Summer of 2003.

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Dr Jarman to the meeting and invited him to address the Committee on research which he had carried out into public order.

Dr Jarman then addressed the Committee on the research which he had carried out, during which he highlighted:-

- The methodology which had been used to carry out the research.
- The results and conclusions of the research.
- The recommendations for improvements which were contained in the report on the research.

During a subsequent discussion the following issues were covered:-

- The work which was being carried out in interface areas between the PSNI and the community.
- The work which was being carried out to make loyal parades more family friendly.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Dr Jarman for attending the meeting and he left.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2003

The minutes of the Community Involvement Committee meeting held on 11 December 2003 were agreed and signed.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Discussion with the Police Ombudsman (Item 2 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that ACC McCausland and the District Commander for North Belfast had been invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to discuss policing in North Belfast.

Members referred to a report on research which had been carried out by the Police Ombudsman's Office regarding Police Officers attitudes to her Office. Officials explained that they expect this report to be published in due course.

6.2 Career Structure PSNI Analysis Centre (Item 6 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the Director of Policy and Accountability would be discussing with the PSNI Director of Analytical Services the extent of his proposals regarding a career structure for Analysts and how far they met his Department's needs. The discussion would also cover the educational standard of NVQ level 3 in intelligence analysis which would be included in the continuous professional development programme.

Members discussed the career structure for the PSNI and an issue regarding Police Officers acting up to higher positions for considerable periods of time. It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Human Resources Committee for consideration.

6.3 Custody Visiting Statistics for September and October 2003 (Item 9 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the condition of the police estate would be discussed at the next Police Buildings Tripartite Meeting.

6.4 Correspondence regarding Briefing Document for DPPs (Item 13.4 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that a letter had been sent to PSNI regarding the quality of the information which was contained in the briefing document for DPPs. The issue would be considered at the next DPP Tripartite Meeting.

7. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Vice- Chairman advised Members that the Chairman had attended a meeting recently with Lisburn DPP.

8. CUSTODY VISITING STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER 2003

The Committee noted the contents of a paper which provided information on visits which had been carried out by Custody Visitors to detainees during November 2003.

9. PUBLIC CONSULTATION – PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO BE LAY MAGISTRATES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Committee considered:-

- A paper which sought Members views on the eligibility to become a lay magistrate in Northern Ireland and an exclusion which would be placed on Members of the Board and DPPs.

- A draft letter from the Chairman of the Committee to the Northern Ireland Court Service regarding the exclusion of Members of DPPs from becoming lay magistrates.

The Committee discussed the exclusion which would be placed on Members of the Board and DPPs on becoming lay magistrates and agreed that the issue should be referred to the Board for discussion at its next meeting.

10. BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDANCE AT DPP MEETINGS

The Committee considered a paper which outlined details of a request which had been made from DPPs to have representatives of the Policing Board at some of their future meetings.

The Committee discussed the matter and agreed that:-

- Members should be provided with a programme of DPP meetings for the next six months in order that they could decide if they wished to attend any of the meetings.
- Members should advise the DPP Manager if they were planning to attend any of the meetings.

11. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) – REPORTS OF MEETINGS IN PUBLIC

The Committee noted summary information regarding DPP meetings which had been held in public, the proceedings of the meetings and salient points arising,

12. PERFORMANCE MONITORING AGAINST THE 2003 – 2004 POLICING PLAN – BRIEFINGS ON ROAD SAFETY, COMMUNITY SAFETY ORGANISED CRIME AND DRUGS FOR PERIOD APRIL – NOVEMBER 2003

The Committee considered the contents of written briefings which had been received from the PSNI on progress which had been made towards meeting the qualitative aspects of the objectives and targets set out in the 2003 – 2004 Policing Plan on road safety, community safety, organised crime and drugs for the period April – November 2003 – 2004.

The Committee noted that a joint presentation would be given to the Board by the Director of the Assets Recovery Agency and Assistant Chief Constable, Crime in relation to organised crime.

13. INFORMATION PAPERS

13.1 PSNI Care Unit – The Duties and Powers of the Police under the Child Care Act 1989

The Committee noted the contents of a paper regarding recommendations which were contained in a Home Office Circular on “The duties and powers of the Police under the Child Care Act 1989”.

The Committee had a discussion in relation to arranging meetings with Outside Organisations to discuss issues in relation to policing and agreed that the mechanism for these meetings should be raised at the next meeting of the Board.

13.2 Complaint regarding the appointment process for the Lisburn DPP

The Committee noted correspondence between the Board and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments regarding a complaint in relation to the appointment process for Lisburn DPP.

The Committee noted a letter dated 12 January 2004 from the Secretary of State regarding the setting up of a DPP for Dungannon and South Tyrone. ‘
The Director of Community Affairs explained that the Corporate Policy Committee had endorsed the decision to set up the DPP at its meeting on the previous day.

The Committee agreed that:-

- The letter from the Commissioner for Public Appointments regarding Lisburn DPP should be circulated to all Members of the Board together with a letter which had been received from the Commissioner regarding a complaint in relation to the appointment process for Newtownabbey DPP.
- The letter from the Secretary of State in connection with the establishment of a DPP for Dungannon and South Tyrone should also be circulated to Members of the Board.

13.3 Two consultation documents from the Northern Ireland Prison Service – (1) Location of Male Immigration Detainees, and (2) Compact for Separated Prisoners and Arrangements for Temporary Release

The Committee noted that the following consultation documents had been received from the Northern Ireland Prison Service:-

- Location of Male Immigration Detainees.
- Compact for Separated Prisoners and Arrangements for Temporary Release.

Officials explained that comments on the documents should be sent to the Prison Service by 20 January 2004.

13.4 Recommendations contained in the Publication “Policing Accountability and Young People

The Committee noted the contents of feedback which had been received from PSNI on recommendations which had been made in respect of PSNI in the publication entitled “Policing Accountability and Young People”.

The Committee considered a paper regarding a request which had been received from the PSNI that flowing from this publication the Police Service were co-ordinating four regional conferences for young people and had requested a contribution from the Board towards the cost of the conferences.

The Committee discussed the matter and agreed in principle that the Board should provide a contribution towards the cost of the conference. Before reaching a decision on what extent the contribution should be, Members asked to be provided with additional information on the format of the conferences.

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

The Committee agreed that a question should be formulated to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting in relation to the length of time it takes from a person is arrested by the PSNI until he/she appears in Court.

The Committee agreed that the PSNI should be asked to give a presentation at a future public meeting of the Board in relation to the work which the Police are carrying out to address attacks on ethnic minority groups.

15. PRESS ISSUES

The Committee agreed that a news release should be issued to the media in relation to recent attacks on ethnic minority groups.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 Proposed Board Visit by Members to Merseyside

The Committee considered a paper regarding a proposed visit by the Board to the Safer Merseyside Partnership to look at security measures in housing developments and alleygating schemes in Liverpool.

The Committee agreed that details of the proposed visit should be issued to all Members of the Board to ascertain which Members would be interested in visiting the Partnership.

16.2 Foyle Youth Group

The Committee considered a request which had been received from Foyle Youth Group for funding for a laptop computer.

The Committee discussed the matter and agreed that the PSNI should be asked to consider arranging for the Chairperson's Forum to seek funding for the laptop. The computer could then be loaned out to the Foyle Youth Group.

16.3 Letter from the Travellers' Movement

The Committee considered a letter which had been received from the Travellers' Movement which sought the Board's support to oppose legislation regarding the removal of travellers from sites throughout Northern Ireland.

The Committee agreed that a response should be sent to the Traveller's movement supporting the PSNI's view regarding the proposed legislation on unauthorised encampments but commented that the timescale for the Department's five year accommodation plan should dovetail with the timescale for the proposed legislation.

16.4 Review of public order during the Summer 2003

The Committee agreed that the Chief Constable's comments should be obtained in relation to the recommendations which are contained in the report on the research into public order during the summer 2003.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 12 February 2004 at 9.30am.

(Meeting closed at 13:15 hours)

SECRETARIAT

January 2004

CHAIRMAN

While the following does not form part of the official Minute, in line with the Policing Board's Freedom of Information commitments, outlined in its Publication Scheme, the following are the reports and background papers that Members received.

REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

ITEM NUMBER

- | | |
|------|---|
| 4 | Report by Dr Neil Jarman entitled "Research into Public Order during the Summer 2003". |
| 9 | Consultation document from the Northern Ireland Court Service regarding Persons Eligible to be Lay Magistrates in Northern Ireland. |
| 13.1 | Home Office Circular on "The duties and powers of the Police under the Child Care Act 1989" |

- 13.3 Consultation document from the Northern Ireland Prison Service on the Location of Male Immigration Detainees.**
- 13.3 Consultation document from the Northern Ireland Prison Service on a Compact for Separated Prisoners and Arrangements for Temporary Release.**
- 13.4 Publication by Dr Neil Jarman entitled “Policing Accountability and Young People”.**