

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 17th MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2005 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS

- (1) Mr Denis Bradley (Chairman)
- Mr Alex Attwood
- Mr Brian Dougherty
- Mr Sam Foster
- Mr William Hay
- Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- Mr Suneil Sharma

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (2) Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
- Mr Peter Holt (Director of Communications)
- Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Affairs)
- (3) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- Four Board Officials

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND (PSNI) IN ATTENDANCE:

- (4) Police Officer

DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs):

- (4) Independent Member

- (1) From part item 2 onwards
- (2) Item numbers 1 – 3
- (3) Item numbers 5 - 15
- (4) Item number 16

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Viscount Brookeborough (Vice-Chairman).

2. REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPS)

The Chief Executive presented a paper to the Committee on the review of DPPs, during which he outlined details of the methodology, findings and recommendations which were contained in the report.

During discussion of the report Members outlined their views in relation to the following:-

- The duplication between DPPs and Community Safety Partnerships.
- Liaison between DPPs and Community Police Liaison Committees.
- Increasing awareness within the PSNI regarding the role of DPPs.
- The relationship between DPPs and the Board.
- The Board making presentations to DPPs on strategic issues.
- The make-up of DPPs following the local government elections.
- Training needs of DPP Members.

It was:

AGREED

- That the report on the review of DPPs should be circulated to DPPs for comment.
- That a letter of thanks should be sent to those people who had been involved in the review of DPPs.
- Political representatives on the Board should consider the implications of the draft DPP (NI) Order 2005 on the political representation of DPPs following the forthcoming local government elections.

3. CONSULTATION ON THE REVISED DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE ON FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DPPs

The Committee considered the contents of a draft Code of Practice on the functions and responsibilities of DPPs under the provisions of section 19 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000.

It was:

AGREED

That the formal consultation process on the revised draft Code of Practice should commence.

4. MINUTES OF THE 16TH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 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 9 February 2005 be agreed.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

5.1 Vacancies On DPPs (Item 4.2 of Minutes refers)

The Board's appointment panel would be meeting at 1:00pm to appoint an independent member to Banbridge DPP. NOTED.

5.2 DPP Role In Public Consultation On Proposed Station Closures (Item 4.3 of Minutes refers)

Officials would be meeting with the Assistant Chief Constables for Urban and Rural Regions on 7 April 2005 to discuss the process for consulting with DPPs regarding station closures. NOTED.

5.3 Update On DPP Recruitment Process (Item 4.4 of Minutes refers)

The Committee noted:-

- An advertisement inviting tenders to undertake the recruitment process to appoint independent members of DPPs had been sent to the Central Procurement Unit and would be inserted in the press during the following week. NOTED.
- A process had been set up to enable consideration of the re-appointment of all independent members of DPPs who were willing to continue in office, subject to their satisfactory performance and the Board's ability to achieve representative DPPs. NOTED.
- Details of the DPP recruitment process which would commence after the local government election. NOTED.

5.4 Chairman's Business (Item 5 of Minutes Refers)

There was nothing to report on a proposal to develop a reflective learning model for DPPs. NOTED.

6. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Mr Dougherty briefed Members on a visit which he had undertaken to Boston and Chicago with Board Members, Officials, DPP Members and PSNI Officers during March 2005.

The Committee considered the allowance which had been given to DPP Members to cover incidental expenses during the visit.

It was:

AGREED

That the possibility of reimbursing additional incidental expenses to DPP Members should be explored.

Mr Paisley referred to his recent visit to USA and outlined details of initiatives which were being undertaken by Police in Chicago.

It was:

AGREED

That a copy of the report on the initiatives should be circulated to Members of the Committee.

The Chairman advised Members of details of meetings which he had held during his recent visit to Washington and Boston. NOTED.

The Committee discussed the need for the Board to draw up a communications strategy in order to disseminate information to the USA.

**7. REQUEST FROM PSNI FOR SUPPORT IN RELATION TO THE
POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY AWARDS**

The Committee considered the content of a paper which outlined details of a request which had been received from the PSNI in respect of funding for the 2005 Police Officer of the Year Awards.

It was:

AGREED

That additional information should be obtained from the PSNI in relation to funding for the awards.

8. INVITATION TO BOARD TO VIEW PSNI CALL MANAGEMENT PILOT SITES

The Committee considered the content of a paper which outlined details of an invitation which had been received from the PSNI for Members to view any of the Call Management Pilot Sites.

It was:

AGREED

That Members should accept the invitation to visit a Call Management Pilot Site.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Committee considered the content of a paper in relation to the provision of funding for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

It was:

AGREED

That additional information regarding funding for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme should be provided to the Committee.

10. HOME OFFICE CONFERENCE – EFFECTIVE LOCAL POLICING

The Committee considered the content of a paper which outlined details of a conference which would be held in Stratford-Upon-Avon on 7 and 8 June 2005 entitled “Effective Local Policing”.

It was:

AGREED

That Members who wished to attend the conference should indicate their availability to Officials.

An Official would also attend the conference. NOTED.

11. CUSTODY VISITORS STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 2005

The Committee considered the content of a paper which provided information on visits which had been carried out by custody visitors during January 2005.

NOTED.

Officials advised Members that the Custody Visitors Annual General Meeting would be held on 25 April 2005. Any Member who was interested in addressing the meeting was asked to advise Officials. NOTED.

The Committee referred to the lack of visits which were being undertaken by custody visitors to detainees at weekends and noted that the issue would be addressed with the relevant Custody Visiting Panels. NOTED.

12. PSNI RECRUITMENT COMPETITION 8 – THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY OBSERVERS

The Committee considered the content of a paper in relation to the work which had been carried out by the independent community observers during the eighth PSNI recruitment campaign and their findings. NOTED.

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

It was:

AGREED

- That the Committee had no issues to raise with the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting.
- That the PSNI should be invited to give a presentation to the Committee in relation to the work which the PSNI is undertaking to combat incidents of domestic violence.

14. PRESS ISSUES

It was:

AGREED

That there were no issues arising from the meeting that should be released to the press.

15. INFORMATION PAPER

The Committee considered the contents of a letter from the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments regarding the report of the Impartial Assessor on the appointment of independent members to Dungannon and South Tyrone DPP. NOTED.

16. PRESENTATION IN RELATION TO CANADIAN TRAINING WORKSHOP

The Chairman welcomed a PSNI Officer and a DPP Member to the meeting and invited them to brief the Committee on the three day problem solving programme which they had recently attended.

In response the PSNI Officer and the DPP Member outlined details of the problem solving programme which had been delivered by staff from Queen's College, Kingston, Ontario and the benefits which they had accrued through attending the programme. NOTED.

During a subsequent discussion the following issues were discussed:-

- The problem solving model which had been used by the staff from Queen's College, Kingston.
- The importance of identifying stakeholders in order to solve problems.

It was:

AGREED

That a letter should be sent to the Chief Constable regarding the problem solving model which had been used by the staff from Queen's College.

The Chairman thanked the representative from the PSNI and the DPP Member for attending the meeting.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 Conference On Tackling Prostitution

The Committee received details of a conference which would be held in Liverpool on 20 April 2005 regarding tackling prostitution. NOTED.

17.2 Police Accountability Project

Officials advised Members about a project on police accountability which was being sponsored by the United Nations and Brazilian Ministry. The consultant who was working on the project would be visiting Northern Ireland during the period 3 – 6 April 2005 and would be interested in meeting representatives from the Board and DPPs. Officials would check Members availability during this period.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 13 April 2005 at 10:00 am in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed at 13:00 hours).

SECRETARIAT

March 2005

CHAIRMAN