

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 27 JULY 2011 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

MEMBERS: Mr Gerry Kelly (Chairperson)
Ms Deborah Watters (Vice
Chairperson)
Mr Trevor Lunn

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Edgar Jardine, Interim Chief
Executive
Mr David Jackson, Director of
Community Engagement
7 Board Officials

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Conall McDevitt and Mr Pat Sheehan.
NOTED.

The Chairman asked Members to declare any conflicts of interest arising from the agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
24 MARCH 2011**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 24 March 2011 and approved by the Board on 7 April 2011.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

3.1 Meeting With ACC Criminal Justice On 25 July 2011

The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson briefed Members on their meeting with Mr Kerr, ACC Criminal Justice. Members were advised that ACC Kerr is the lead officer within

PSNI for the Community Engagement Committee. Members were provided with a briefing pack prepared by ACC Kerr.

The Committee agreed that officials should invite ACC Kerr to a future Committee meeting where Members can set out the Committee's agenda and work programme to ACC Kerr.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Committee would prioritise its key issues and following this, invite ACC Kerr to a future meeting of the Community Engagement Committee.

4. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE COMMITTEE

The Director of Community Engagement introduced staff members to the Committee and briefly outlined their roles.

The Committee considered a paper containing proposals in relation to the role of the Committee, its function and future development including a programme of work and development plan to March 2012.

Members were advised of the Committee's 3 key areas of work:-

- Community Engagement – building confidence on Policing;
- Monitoring Police performance – Policing With the Community;
- Partnership work;

The overarching strategy being Policing with the Community (PwC).

Members discussed possible overlaps and duplication between the various organisations that the Board and the Police engage with, for example, District Policing Partnerships (DPPs), Reference Groups and the Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs).

The Director of Community Engagement advised members that work was ongoing with PSNI to reduce duplication and where possible to align activities.

Members discussed having a mapping exercise completed which would identify the overlaps and duplications.

It was:-

AGREED:

To undertake a mapping exercise to identify the range of organisations who engage with the community with regard to policing and to identify any overlaps between the various organisations and issue to all Committee Members.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Committee considered the draft Community Engagement Strategy 2011-14.

Members were briefed by Officials on the background to the draft strategy and were advised that there has been preliminary discussion with interested community groups and that the draft strategy reflects the issues that have been raised.

Members asked about the timeframe and were advised that the timescale was not critical, but it was expected to be completed by mid October 2011.

The Committee was asked to nominate Members to work with officials on the draft Strategy.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson should take forward the draft Strategy with officials and keep the Committee updated on its progress.

6. POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS - DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CONSULTATION ON IMPLEMENTATION

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members initial views on a general consultation on the implementation of Police Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs). Members were advised that the timescale for response was 13 September 2011.

Members were aware of the series of complex issues in the consultation and the need to ensure that learning from the operation of DPPs and CSPs was captured in any new guidance framework.

The issue of Members allowances was discussed. Members had the view that independent Members should be paid an allowance to encourage applications and also to create some degree of obligation to undertake the required duties.

Members also raised the issue of attendances and felt that this should be more closely monitored.

Members also felt that the effectiveness of meetings needed to be considered and in particular, the public meetings.

Members raised the issue of not being able to fill vacancies during a transitional period and that this should be raised with the Minister.

Following discussion, Members felt that the current timescale of 13 September 2011 did not give sufficient time for consideration discussion given the fact that this is now a new Board and a consultation over the summer months.

It was:-

AGREED:

To write to the Minister of Justice:-

- Requesting an extension for the Board to respond to the consultation period in relation to establishing Policing Community Safety Partnerships;
- Informing the Minister of the difficulties arising from not filling vacancies in District Policing Partnerships during an extended transition phase; and
- Requesting that an allowance is paid to PCSP independent members, both to encourage applications and to create some degree of obligation to undertake the required duties.

7. POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE OPERATION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

The Committee considered a paper on a draft Memorandum of Understanding for the operation of the Joint Committee and were asked to make a recommendation to the Board on the membership of this Committee.

Under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, a Joint Committee is to be established, with representatives from the Department of Justice and the Policing Board overseeing the work of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships.

The overall aim of the Joint Committee is to enable PCSPs to operate effectively. The Committee will provide strategic direction to partnerships, agree funding, assess their effectiveness and support the Partnerships when assistance is required.

The Policing Board will maintain sole responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of PCSPs in relation to policing matters.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board accept Option 2 – “The Board representatives on the Joint Committee are a combination of Board members and officials – the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Community Engagement Committee and one Board official”.

8. POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS - FUNDING MODEL

The views of the Committee were sought on a funding model for PCSPs.

The Justice Act 2011 requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Board to provide funding to councils for the work of the PCSPs as agreed by the Joint Committee.

The Board's view has been that there should be a single funding stream to councils for PCSPs and that this should be through the Policing Board. This would involve the Board administering all the funding to the partnerships and invoicing DOJ for its contribution.

The Boards Internal Auditor PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) supported this proposal as satisfying the requirements of good governance and reducing administrative and operational costs of the Department, Board and councils.

Members considered correspondence from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and from the Board's internal auditors, PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC).

Following discussion, it was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board continue to support a single funding stream for PCSPs.

9. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY (PWC) 2020 STRATEGY

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members views on an approach to monitor progress on the Policing with the Community 2020 Strategy.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- That officials would develop proposals for a themed scrutiny approach; and
- To recommend to the Corporate Policy, Planning & Performance Committee, the development of a monitoring programme based on an overarching framework of PwC.

10. INFORMATION PAPERS

10.1 PSNI Policing With The Community Bi-Monthly Progress Report For Part 3 Of the Policing Plan 2011 – 2014

10.2 Funding – Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

NOTED.

11. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

There were no matters to raise with the Chief Constable.

12. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

It was:-

AGREED:

That a news release should be issued highlighting that Policing with the Community would be the focus of the new Committee.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- That the next meeting of the Community Engagement Committee would be Thursday, 22 September 2011 at 10:00am;
- To e-mail Members of the Committee asking if they agree to all future meetings commencing at 10:00am.

(Meeting closed 12:30pm).

Secretariat

July 2011

Chairperson