

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

MEMBERS:

- Mr Gerry Kelly (Chairperson)
- (1) Ms Deborah Watters (Vice Chairperson)
- (1) Mr Ryan Feeney
- Mr Trevor Lunn
- (2) Mr Ian McCrea
- Mr David McIlveen
- Mr Pat Sheehan

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Edgar Jardine, Interim Chief Executive
- Mr David Jackson, Director of Planning, Performance & Partnership
- Two Board Officials

- (1) **Part Item 2 to close**
- (2) **Item 1 and Part Item 2**

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Conall McDevitt. NOTED.

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

2. DISCUSSION AND FOCUS OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Chairperson referred Members to papers prepared by officials in relation to the purpose and focus of the Committee following the discussion at the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting on 16 November 2011, and taking into account the issues discussed at the Board / PSNI Change and Challenge Conference on 17/18 November 2011. He suggested that Members may wish to consider how

effective the contribution is that the Committee makes to the Board's duty to hold the Chief Constable to account and what success would look like for the Committee at the end of the current term of office.

The Chairperson outlined the following three main areas of work that the Committee should focus on:-

- Community Engagement;
- District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) and the development of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs);
- Policing with the Community.

Members discussed:-

- The setting up of PCSPs, the need for the Partnerships to be central to the delivery of an agency approach to deal with crime and the strategic direction of the Partnership;
- Gaining community confidence in policing;
- Anti-social behaviour, low level crime in certain areas of the Province and police responses to calls for assistance;
- Recruitment to the PSNI which needed to be representative of all parts of the community;
- The need for the Committee to hold meetings in areas where a particular issue was of concern to the community;
- The difference between alienation from the police and loss of confidence in policing;
- The work of the Upper Springfield Community Safety Forum and suggested that the Committee meet with representatives of the Forum to receive an overview of the work of the Forum;
- Policing with the Community;
- Closure of police stations;

- Call Handling by the PSNI;
- The Regulation of Investigative Power Act (RIPA);

It was:-

AGREED:

That Officials should provide the Committee with information on call handling and RIPA legislation.

The Chairperson then updated the Committee on the following issues arising from the implementation of PCSPs:-

- Role and status of designated organisations which should have compulsory designation on PCSPs;
- Disqualification from being an Independent Member of PCSPs;
- Payment of expenses to all Members of PCSPs;
- The model for Belfast PCSPs – the Vice Chairperson gave a report to the Committee on a meeting which had been held earlier that day with Belfast DPP regarding the issue;
- Political Members appointments to PCSPs;
- The role of the Policing Committee. .

It was:-

AGREED:

That the process for the setting up of the PCSPs in Belfast and the role of the Policing Committee should be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Officials advised members that it was planned to launch the recruitment of Independent Members to PCSPs in the New Year in order to have them in post for 1 April 2012.

Following further discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- That the strategic focus for the Committee in the year ahead should be on Service Delivery by PSNI especially, but not exclusively, as it impacts on Republican and Loyalist communities and young people within those communities;
- That meetings should be arranged with key community groups as part of the Committee's Programme of Work and held at locations outside of the Board's Offices;
- That the Community Engagement Committee should lead on public meetings of the Board.
- That the Committee should focus on Service delivery as highlighted by PSNI in their Policing with the Community 2020 Strategy.

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

A Member indicated that he wished to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting for information regarding arrangements for Road Safety over the Christmas period.

(Meeting closed: 1:05pm).

Member Services
December 2011

Chairperson