

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2011 AT 3:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **MEMBERS:**

#### **PRESENT:**

Mr Gearóid Ó hEára (Chairperson)  
Mr Brian Rea (Vice Chairperson)  
Mrs Anne Connolly  
Mr Jonathan Craig  
Mr Gerry Kelly  
Mr Trevor Lunn  
Mr Stuart MacDonnell  
Mr Conall McDevitt  
Mrs Joan O'Hagan  
Mr Michael Wardlow  
Ms Deborah Watters

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Edgar Jardine, Interim Chief Executive  
Mr David Jackson, Director of Planning, Performance & Partnerships  
Mr Peter Gilleece, Director of Policy  
3 Board Officials

#### **1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Ryan Feeney, Mr Ross Hussey, Mr Ian McCrea, Mr Robin Newton, Mr Brian Rowntree, Mr Caitríona Ruane, and Mr Pat Sheehan.

NOTED.

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

## **2. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **2.1 Meeting Held On 20 October 2011**

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

To approve the draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 20 October 2011.

### **2.2 Meeting Held On 16 November 2011**

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

To approve the draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 16 November 2011.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING**

### **3.1 Meeting Held On 20 October 2011**

#### **3.1.1 PSNI Programme Boards (Item 3.4 of Minutes Refers)**

The Interim Chief Executive advised that a response was awaited from PSNI in relation to the Board's request for access to the minutes of all Programme Board meetings and undertook to follow-up the matter with PSNI. NOTED.

### **3.1.2 Overview Of Organised Crime (Item 3.7 of Minutes Refers)**

The Interim Chief Executive advised that it had been anticipated that the Minister of Justice would meet with Members at the January 2012 meeting to provide an overview on organised crime. However, the Minister had just advised that he was no longer available. It was proposed that he be invited to meet with the Board on 2 February 2012 and that the Committee meeting revert to the usual meeting time of 2.00pm. NOTED.

### **3.1.3 Briefing On Forensic Science Northern Ireland (Item 3.9 of Minutes Refers)**

Officials advised that arrangements were in place for the Committee to meet with the Director of Forensic Science Northern Ireland at the meeting on 16 February 2012. Representatives from PSNI, CJINI and the new Director of the Public Prosecution Service (PPS), would also be invited to attend. NOTED.

### **3.1.4 Destruction Of Material At Gough Barracks (Item 3.11 of Minutes Refers)**

A response was awaited from PSNI in relation to a request for information regarding policies in respect of asbestos and the disposal of contaminated documents. NOTED.

### **3.1.5 Appointment Panel – Chief Executive (Item 9 of Minutes Refers)**

The Interim Chief Executive advised that the next meeting of the Appointment Panel had been arranged for 20 December 2011. Subject to discussion at the Panel meeting, it was anticipated that advertising for the post would commence in early January 2012. NOTED.

## **3.2 Meeting Held On 16 November 2011**

### **3.2.1 Strategic Direction Of Policing Board**

The Chairperson of the Committee advised that this matter would be considered further at item 7 of the agenda.

## **4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Engagements**

There were no matters arising.

### **4.2 Correspondence**

The Chairperson highlighted the following correspondence received by the Board.

- Letter dated 4 November 2011 from PSNI regarding Coroner's inquests into the deaths of McKerr and others:-  
A Member requested details of all outstanding inquests that are still to be heard. Officials undertook provide the information.
- Classified letter dated 30 November 2011 from PSNI regarding Policing Board and National Security Matters.  
A Member sought further information about the formal status an attachment to the letter.

### **4.3. Children's Law Centre – Response To PSNI Consultation On Its Service Procedures On Speedy Justice**

The Chairperson referred the Committee to correspondence which had been sent electronically to all Members prior to the meeting in relation to a response by the Children's Law Centre dated November 2011 to the PSNI's consultation on its Service Procedures on Speedy Justice.

The Committee discussed the documentation and following discussion, it was:-

#### **AGREED:**

- To write to PSNI for further information about the consultation process with the Board regarding the Speedy Justice process.

- To submit the Childrens Law Centre's response to PSNI and request feedback from PSNI while reserving the right to make a further submission to the consultation.

## **5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Training For Members**

The Interim Chief Executive advised of his intention to prepare a paper for the January 2012 Committee meeting to highlight learning points from the Chairperson's training session on 7 December 2011. A number of Members who attended the training indicated that they had found it useful. The Interim Chief Executive proposed that he circulate the document to Members who had been unavailable to attend with a view to arranging a re-run of the training.

The Committee also discussed the merits in re-running governance training for those Members who were not available to attend and the Interim Chief Executive agreed to write to Members to ascertain interest/availability.

### **5.2 Meeting Between Independent Members And The Minister**

The Interim Chief Executive informed the Committee that the Minister of Justice had indicated his intention to meet with the Independent Members on the Board in the near future, and that he would write to each Independent Member with proposals for a mutually suitable date.

## **6. MANAGEMENT OF BOARD BUSINESS**

The Committee considered a paper containing a number of proposals for revising the arrangements for the format of Board and Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meetings. Members discussed a number of proposals in the paper and there was general agreement that:-

- The public meeting should be held on a separate day from the monthly Board meeting;
- That a programme of public meetings should be agreed by the Board and managed by the Planning, Partnership and Performance Directorate, under the direction of the Community Engagement Committee;
- That the current arrangements for putting questions to the Chief Constable should be revised and that written questions should be sent to the Chief Constable well in advance of the monthly meeting, and that Members should receive written responses from PSNI for consideration prior to the monthly meeting; Members would then be in a position to ask supplementary oral questions at the meeting;
- A balance should be struck between oral questions on policy/strategic matters and issues of topical interest;
- That draft minutes of Committee meetings should be circulated as part of the monthly Board papers and the Chairperson of each Committee should highlight key issues based on a speaking note prepared by officials;
- That the agenda and programme for the Board meeting should be revised to take account of the proposals;
- That the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee should set the strategic direction for the Board;
- That a further Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee “Away Day” should be held to consider strategic priorities.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee’s views should be conveyed to the Chief Constable with a view to implementing the new arrangements as soon as practicable.

It was anticipated that the revised format would result in Board business being more manageable, with appropriate and time and effort allocated to holding the PSNI to account and to consideration of Committee business. The revisions would also result in the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee having a clearer role in

setting the strategic direction for the Board and on ensuring that agreed high level themes are properly managed.

## **7. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ON 16 NOVEMBER 2011**

The Committee considered a paper which summarised discussion at the Committee meeting held on 16 November 2011 at which the strategic direction of the Board was considered. The paper contained a number of proposals for further consideration.

The Committee reviewed the themes that had been raised at the meeting. A Member suggested that in addition, provision should be made for the inclusion of the monitoring of risk as part of the Committee's core business. Members discussed the next steps that the Committee should take.

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That a further "Away Day" should be arranged for the Committee, which should include input from a facilitator with management consultancy expertise.

## **8. SPECIAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered a paper which provided information on the legislative basis and purpose of a Special Purposes Committee.

Members discussed the future use of the Special Purposes Committee and the need for the Board to clarify its purpose with the Chief Constable.

The Committee discussed the membership of the Special Purposes Committee and its representativeness of the Board as a whole. Officials reminded Members that at its July meeting, the Board had resolved that the Special Purposes Committee should comprise the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board and one representative from each of

the political parties. The Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Féin had yet to nominate their Members.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That a date for a meeting of the Special Purposes Committee should be arranged in the New Year.

**9. BRIEFING ON PROPOSED CJINI INVESTIGATION INTO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE OMBUDSMAN AND PSNI**

The Committee considered a paper which provided an overview of a proposed inspection to be carried out by Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) into the relationship between the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPONI) and the PSNI.

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to 4 bullet points contained in a letter from the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland, dated 5 December 2011, which proposed that the Board might wish to assure itself on a number of areas. In addition, he referred Members to Annex 'B' of the paper which set out a number of questions to be addressed in the proposed CJINI inspection.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

- To amend the proposed questions to take account of Members comments and that subject to these amendments, to submit a proposal for inspection to CJINI as outlined in the paper;
- To write to British/Irish Rights Watch and the Pat Finucane Centre to advise them of the proposed course of action.

**10. BRIEFING PAPER ON THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION NORTHERN IRELAND REPORT ON THE TREATMENT OF VICTIMS AND WITNESSES**

The Committee considered a paper which provided an overview of the CJINI report on “The Care and Treatment of Victims and Witness in the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland”, published on 8 December 2011. NOTED.

Officials advised that arrangements were being made to invite the Chief Inspector to the January 2012 Committee meeting to discuss the content of the report.

**11. MINISTER OF JUSTICE’S DRAFT LONG TERM OBJECTIVES FOR POLICING**

The Committee considered a paper which set out the Minister of Justice’s draft long term objectives for policing.

Members discussed the objectives and a number of Members expressed concern at the wording of bullet point 4 of Objective 5 which stated, “that the Police Service continues to be .....accountable to the public through the Policing Board, the Department and the Assembly for the use of public money”, suggesting that it did not adequately reflect the independence of the Policing Board and could be interpreted in a number of ways.

Officials reminded Members that the Board had formally agreed the objectives, which had also been agreed by the Justice Committee.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To respond to the Minister advising that the Board overall was content with the objectives, but that Members had expressed concern regarding bullet point 4 of Objective 5.

## **12. REVISED DRAFT OF THE CORPORATE PLAN 2011 - 2014**

The Committee considered a schedule which provided an early indication of the work that is underway to revise the Corporate Plan 2011 – 2014, with the aim of producing a new Corporate/Business Plan by the end of March 2012, simultaneously to the launch of the 2012 – 2015 Policing Plan.

Members were advised that the Lead Member, together with Board officials had developed proposals to revise objectives contained within the Corporate Plan 2011 – 2014 and that the total number of objectives had been reduced from 11 to 9.

Members discussed a proposed revised Corporate Plan Objective 2.3 – “to ensure PSNI and Board compliance with human rights and equality legislation”, and it was:-

### **AGREED:**

To obtain advice regarding the Board’s responsibilities in ensuring PSNI compliance with equality legislation.

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

Following discussion, it was:-

### **AGREED:**

That questions should be drafted asking the Chief Constable to comment on how employment vetting is carried out in the context of recent cases; the outworkings of the OPONI report into the fatal shooting of Mr Steven Colwell; and other on-going OPONI cases.

## **14. INFORMATION PAPERS**

### **14.1 Board Communication Strategy**

### **14.2 PSNI Community Strategy**

### **14.3 Patten Recommendation 65**

NOTED.

## **15. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

There were no matters arising.

## **16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

## **17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 19 January 2012 at 2.00pm

(Meeting closed 5:30pm).

## **Member Services**

**December 2011**

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**Chairperson**