

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 44th CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 2005 AT 10:00 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman)
- (1)** Mr Alex Attwood
- (2)** Mr Fred Cobain
- Mr Brian Dougherty
- Mrs Pauline McCabe
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- (3)** Mr Sammy Wilson

PART TIME RESERVE IN ATTENDANCE:

- (4)** Mr Ross Hussey

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
Mr Peter Holt (Director of Communications)
Mr David Jackson (Director of Community
Affairs)
Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate
Services)
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
Four Board Officials

- (1) Item number 3.14 to 7 and Item 9 to close**
- (2) Item numbers 1 - part of item 3 and Item 8**
- (3) Item numbers 1 to 3.1 and 8**
- (4) Part of Item number 7**

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman) and Mr Eddie McGrady. NOTED.

The Committee noted that Mr McGrady had nominated Mr Attwood as his substitute for the meeting. NOTED.

The Vice-Chairman congratulated those Members who had been successful in the recent General and Council elections and commiserated with those who were unsuccessful.

2. MINUTES OF THE 43rd CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2005

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:

AGREED

That the minutes of the Corporate Policy Committee meeting held on 21 April 2005 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 43rd MEETING

Conference On Night-Time Economy And Licensing Act (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted details of progress which had been made concerning a conference which would be held in the City Hotel, Derry / Londonderry on 7 June 2005 to discuss the problems of night time economy in Northern Ireland.

NOTED.

The Committee discussed the invitation list for the conference.

It was:

AGREED

That officials should review the invitation list on the basis of the discussion.

Duty Payment For Part-Time Reserve Officers (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 7.

Full-Time Reserve Retraining Scheme (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the Human Resources Committee had received a presentation at its April meeting from the Police Rehabilitation and Re-Training Trust on the re-training for Full-Time Reserve officers and phasing out plans. The Human Resources Committee was content with the retraining and phasing out arrangements.

3.4 HMIC Baseline Assessment Of PSNI – Refresh Report (Items 3.4 And 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that areas of concern in the HMIC Baseline Assessment of PSNI Refresh report would be considered by the relevant Committees. NOTED.

3.5 Meeting With Police Ombudsman - Searches (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that:

- The Chief Constable's letter and a response to Ms Kathryn Johnston and Mr Liam Clarke had been referred to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee for consideration at its April meeting. This meeting had been cancelled and the matter would be considered at the Committee's next meeting on 10 June 2005. NOTED
- A letter had been sent to the Deputy Chief Constable asking what action had been taken against senior officers as a result of the recommendations which had been made by the Police Ombudsman. NOTED

3.6 PSNI Senior Civilian Staff – Pay And Allowances (Items 3.6 And 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that:

- The Secretary of State's endorsement had been sought to the proposals regarding the terms and conditions for the PSNI senior civilian staff posts. NOTED
- Work was being undertaken in conjunction with the Deputy Chief Constable regarding assimilation into the new arrangements. NOTED

3.7 APA Assessment And Improvement Framework (Items 3.7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive updated the Committee on progress which had been made regarding the establishment of a specifically appointed group to assess the Board's performance. NOTED.

3.8 Chief Constable – Performance Development Review And Performance Related Pay (Item 3.8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that:-

- The Chairman had met the Chief Constable recently and had discussed the 12 month review of performance under his Performance and Development Review and Performance Related Pay. NOTED
- The Chairman had discussed the Chief Constable's review of performance with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). HMIC would provide a report on the matter. NOTED
- A report on the issue would be presented to the Committee at a future meeting. NOTED

3.9 Visits To Boston / Chicago / Washington – Feedback (Item 3.9 Of Minutes Refers)

A summary paper of issues arising and learning points from visits to the USA would be presented to the May 2005 Community Involvement Committee meeting. NOTED.

3.10 Report Of The NIAC Into The Functions Of The NIPB (Item 3.10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that a number of issues in the NIAC Report would be considered at the June Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee meeting. A paper would be brought to the next Committee meeting. NOTED.

3.11 Communications Strategy (Item 3.13 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee were advised that in view of the recent elections, it had not been possible to discuss the Communications Strategy with all members of the Press and Public Relations Committee. The matter would be progressed within the next few weeks. NOTED.

It was:

AGREED

That with regard to the Policing Board's Annual Report for 2004 / 2005, a review document should be inserted in the Belfast Telegraph, News Letter and Irish News.

3.12 NIAC Report – Ways Of Dealing With The Past (Item 4.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that:-

- A response to the NIAC report on ways of dealing with Northern Ireland's past would be considered by the group which was considering the future role of the Board. The matter would be considered by the Committee at a future meeting. NOTED.
- Questions had been drafted to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting regarding the PSNI's responses to the NIAC reports on Dealing with the Past and Hate Crime in Northern Ireland. NOTED

3.13 Meeting With Independent Monitoring Commission (Item 4.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that:-

- The organisation of a workshop to discuss issues around organised crime would be discussed with PSNI. NOTED
- The Community Involvement Committee would consider inviting a local police officer to discuss policing in Crossmaglen. NOTED

3.14 Review Of Board Organisation Structures (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that a paper would be provided for consideration at the next meeting regarding a review of Board organisational structures. NOTED.

3.15 Freedom Of Information Requests (Item 5.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that a paper on protocols for Members to obtain information would be provided for consideration at the next meeting. NOTED.

3.16 Review Of Committee Structures (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 8.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman had undertaken the following engagements:-

- Policing with the Community Awards – Reception – 25 April 2005. NOTED
- Meeting on Targeting Hard to Reach Groups – 4 May 2005. NOTED
- Meeting with representatives of the Parades Commission – 4 May 2005. NOTED
- Dinner with Superintendents Association – 4 May 2005. NOTED
- Europe Day – 9 May 2005. NOTED
- Meeting with Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary. NOTED

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that the media would be briefed that day on the launch of the recruitment campaign to appoint Independent Members of DPPs.

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that the Chairman of the Parades Commission had offered to brief Members on issues relating to forthcoming parades. The Commission would give a presentation on the subject to Members of DPPs on 26 May 2005.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

- That representatives from the Parades Commission should be invited to give a presentation to Members on forthcoming parades.
- That further information regarding relations between the PSNI and the Parades Commission should be obtained before the next Board meeting.

It was also:

AGREED

That the Committee should be provided with details of the date that the Order-In-Council relating to supporters of parades would come into effect.

The Committee noted that HMIC was carrying out a review of PSNI Firearms Training. A Member requested information about reports which had been prepared by PSNI in relation to firearms training.

The Committee noted that the new Security Minister would be meeting with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman on 13 May 2005.

4.2 Publications

The following publications had been placed in the library:-

- The Spec – Newsletter of Criminal Justice Inspection – April 2005.
- NOTED

- Police Federation for Northern Ireland – Annual Report 2004.
NOTED

4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman had received the following correspondence:-

- Letter from the Police Ombudsman enclosing an amended report regarding a regulation 20 report in respect of the discharge of a firearm at Markethill Road, Armagh on 11 March 2001. NOTED
- Letter from Centre for Public Policy Seminars regarding the Chairman's attendance at a Police / Community Relations event on 22 April 2005. NOTED
- Letter from NIO regarding a presentation which had been made to the London Diplomatic Corps on 20 April 2005. NOTED
- Letter from the Police Ombudsman enclosing reports on the discharge of incapacitant spray. NOTED
- Letter from the Lord Chief Justice's office regarding comments which had been made by Mr Justice Weir in a recent case in which the Belfast Harbour Authority had sought an injunction against travellers. NOTED
- Letter from the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána regarding a joint PSNI / Garda briefing to the Board. NOTED

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Threat Against DPP Member

The Chief Executive advised the Committee about an attack on the home of a DPP member. NOTED.

5.2 Correspondence

The Chief Executive advised the Committee about correspondence which had been received. NOTED.

5.3 Effective Local Policing: What Research Tells Us

The Chief Executive drew the attention of Members to a conference entitled "Effective Local Policing: What Research Tells Us" which would be held in Stratford Upon Avon on 7 and 8 June 2005. Mr Sam Foster would be representing the Board at the conference. NOTED.

5.4 Turning Young People Away From Crime

The Chief Executive drew the attention of members to a conference entitled "Turning Young People Away From Crime" which would be held in London on 21 June 2005. NOTED

5.5 ILEF Conference

The Chief Executive drew the attention of Members to an International Law Enforcement conference which would be held in Ottawa, Canada on 21-23 June 2005.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

- That a Member and an Officer from the Board should attend the conference.

- That the NIO should be requested to consider inviting representatives from NGOs to attend the conference.

5.6 Venue For September 2005 Board Meeting

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that it had not been possible to get a suitable venue in Fermanagh to hold a Board meeting on 1 September 2005.

It was:

AGREED

That the Chairman and Chief Executive should consider alternative locations for the September Board meeting.

5.7 Code Of Conduct For Board Members

The Chief Executive advised the Committee about advice which had been received from the Equality Commission regarding the Code of Conduct for Board Members.

It was:

AGREED

That account should be taken of correspondence from the Equality Commission concerning the Board's obligations under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 when revising the Code of Conduct for Board Members.

5.8 Re-Constitution Of The Board

The Chief Executive updated the Committee on issues regarding the reconstitution of the Board.

6. PSNI CONSULTATION PAPER ON SECTION 75 SCREENING

The Committee considered a paper concerning a PSNI consultation paper in relation to screening for the purposes of section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The paper asked the Committee to note the information contained in the paper and to consider a proposed response to the PSNI.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the draft response to the PSNI section 75 screening document be approved and issued by the Board.

7. GRATUITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PART-TIME RESERVE

The Committee noted the content of a document which had been submitted by Mr Ross Hussey regarding the payment of a gratuity for Members of the Part-Time Reserve.

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Mr Ross Hussey to the meeting.

Mr Hussey gave the Committee a short presentation regarding proposals for the introduction of a gratuity for Part-Time Reserve officers. He highlighted the following:-

- The tremendous contribution which Part-Time Reserve Officers had made to Policing in Northern Ireland.

- One in 6 of police officers who were killed as a result of terrorism in Northern Ireland were Part-Time Reserve officers.
- Details of the rate of pay which Part-Time Reserve officers had been paid.
- The duties which were undertaken by the officers and the risks that they were prepared to take.
- Details of Police Reserve officers being intimidated from their homes.

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed:

- The proposed rates of the gratuity to Part-Time Reserve officers.
- The number of hours duty which Part-Time officers worked during 1970-1990.
- The terrorists threats, intimidation etc which Part-Time Reserve officers received.
- The Police Federation's position regarding a payment of a gratuity to Part-Time Reserve officers.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Mr Hussey for his presentation and he left the meeting.

The Committee discussed the payment of a gratuity to Part-Time Reserve officers.

It was:

AGREED

That a question should be drafted to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting regarding recognition of the service of Part-Time Reserve Officers including his views on payment of a gratuity.

8. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

The Committee considered a paper concerning the Committee structures of the Board. The paper asked the Committee to consider structures for the Board and recommend a proposed Committee structure for adoption by the Board.

The Committee discussed the paper.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the proposals outlined in the paper should be adopted by the Board.

9. NIPB BUSINESS PLAN – 2005 / 06

The Committee considered a paper concerning the Board's Business Plan for 2005 / 2006.

It was:

AGREED

That a Member would provide the Chief Executive with comments for inclusion in the Plan.

Subject to the above comments:

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the contents of the Business Plan be approved by the Board.

10. ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AUTHORITIES (APA) POLICY GROUPS

The Committee considered a paper concerning correspondence from the APA in relation to the re-configuration of APA Policy Groups and the extension of Policy Group membership. The paper asked the Committee to consider nominating representatives to the following additional Policy Groups and suggested nominations should be:-

Race and Diversity	Vice Chairman, Community Involvement Committee
Financial Resources	Chairman, Finance and General Purposes Committee
Science & Technology	Vice Chairman, Finance & General Purposes Committee

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the Board should approve the additional Policy Group representation from the Board.

11. CHIEF OFFICERS ALLOWANCES

The Committee considered a paper in relation to a request from the PSNI CPOSA representative regarding the telephone allowance for PSNI Chief Officers and seeking confirmation of the policy on air travel. The paper asked the Committee to consider the matters raised by the CPOSA representative. The Committee discussed the paper.

It was:

AGREED

- That the current policy on air travel be confirmed.
- That further information should be sought from the PSNI regarding the use of Broadband and air travel arrangements.

12. REPORT FROM THE McCONVILLE FAMILY AND RELATIVES FOR JUSTICE

The Committee considered the content of a report which had been received from the McConville family and Relatives for Justice on the PSNI killing of Neil McConville on 29 April 2003.

It was:

AGREED

That a meeting be arranged with the Police Ombudsman to discuss the report and further consideration be given at the next meeting of the Committee.

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

It was:

AGREED

That questions should be drafted to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting regarding:-

- A recent incident at Violet Street, Londonderry / Derry.
- The abduction of Gareth O'Connor

14. PRESS ISSUES

It was:-

AGREED

That there were no issues arising from the meeting that should be included in a news release

15. INFORMATION PAPERS

15.1 Criminal Justice Act 2003: New Provisions

The Committee noted the content of a paper which outlined details of new provisions which were contained in the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was conducted.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 16 June 2005 at 10:00am.

(Meeting closed 1:00pm).

Secretariat

May 2005

CHAIRMAN