

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 47th CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2005 AT 10:00 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- Mr Denis Bradley (Vice Chairman)
- (2) Mr Alex Attwood
- (2) Viscount Brookeborough
- (2) Mr Joe Byrne
- (2) Mr Fred Cobain
- Mr Brian Dougherty
- (2) Mr Barry Gilligan
- (2) Mr Willie Hay
- (2) Mr Alan McFarland
- Mr Eddie McGrady
- (1) Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- (2) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- (2) Mr Suneil Sharma

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (2) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (2) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)
- (3) Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Criminal Justice)
- (2) Ms Sinead McSweeney (Director of Media)

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

- (1) **Item number 3.12 to close**
- (2) **Item number 20 only**
- (3) **Item number 18 only**
- (4) **Except item number 20**

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mrs Pauline McCabe and Mr Sammy Wilson. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE 46th CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 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 July 2005 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 46th MEETING

PSNI Senior Civilian Staff – Pay And Allowances (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that discussions were ongoing with PSNI regarding assimilation into the new arrangements. NOTED.

Independent Assessment Of Board Performance (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive updated the Committee on the work being undertaken by the Independent Assessment Panel. The Panel had now concluded their meetings with stakeholders. It was originally anticipated that the Panel's

report would be made available to Members at the October 2005 Board meeting, however, it was clear that due to the additional stakeholder meetings, this could not now be achieved and the report would be brought to the October Corporate Policy Committee meeting with all Members invited to attend.

In view of this, he recommended to the Committee that the introduction of the new Committee structure, due to commence in October 2005, should be deferred for one month until the Independent Assessment Panel's report was received and considered.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the introduction of the new Committee structure be deferred until November so that the report of the Independent Assessment Panel can be considered.

Independent Monitoring Commission (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was reminded that a meeting with the Independent Monitoring Commission had been arranged for 12 October 2005 and that all Board Members had been invited to attend. NOTED.

The Chairman also reminded Members that the Committee had discussed an issue concerning the turnover of clubs at the June Committee meeting. He referred Members to correspondence from PSNI, detailing the turnover of a number of clubs in Belfast DCUs. NOTED.

3.4 Review Of Board Organisation Structures (Items 3.7 And 11 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that the Independent Assessment Panel may well comment on the Board's organisation structures and that he would await that report before bringing a paper to the Committee. NOTED.

3.5 ILEF Conference (Items 3.9 Of Minutes Refers)

There were no matters arising.

3.6 Chief Officers Allowances (Items 3.10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a letter dated 28 July 2005 from the PSNI CPOSA representative providing further information regarding a proposal to increase the telephone allowance paid to PSNI senior officers, to install Internet / Broadband facilities at their homes.

The Committee considered the additional information.

It was:

RESOLVED

That the request from CPOSA be facilitated and the telephone allowance of the chief officers in PSNI be increased to provide for the installation of Internet / Broadband facilities at their homes.

3.7 DPP Interactive Sessions (Items 3.11 Of Minutes Refers)

There were no matters arising.

3.8 13th Report Of The Oversight Commissioner – Workshop (Item 3.13 Of Minutes Refers)

With regard to the organisation of a workshop for Board Members, to consider the “Top Ten” before the Board/PSNI strategy event in October 2005, the Chief Executive recommended that in view of the heavy schedule of meetings already arranged that this workshop should be deferred.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the workshop for Board Members to consider the issues raised in the Oversight Commissioner’s Report should be deferred until after the Board/PSNI strategy event in October 2005.

A paper on the “Top Ten” issues for the Board to focus on over the next 3 to 5 years was considered at item 7.

3.9 Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Report “The Challenge Of Diversity: Hate Crime In Northern Ireland (Item 3.14 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman reminded Members that the Committee had sought further information from PSNI on the role and duties of PSNI Minority Liaison Officers. A paper containing further information was included in the papers at item 14.1. NOTED.

3.10 New Police College (Item 5.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive updated the Committee on recent meetings of the Police Buildings Steering Committee and the New Police College Project Board. A revised Outline Business Case (OBC) will be brought to the next Project

Board meeting on 11 October 2005 and to a subsequent Board meeting. The Chief Executive advised that a meeting of the Board's Working Group on the Police College will be arranged to consider the revised OBC before it is brought to the Board. The Chief Executive advised that future funding for the project will be an issue that the Board would need to consider carefully.
NOTED.

3.11 Appointment Of Assistant Chief Constable (Item 5.3 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 8.

3.12 Conference On Policing With The Community - Colombia (Item 5.7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a letter from the British Council in Bogota dated 30 August 2005, inviting a Board representative to participate in the Regional Community Policing Seminar in Bogota, Colombia, 1-3 November 2005. To date, one Member had indicated an interest in participating. The Committee discussed the invitation and whether it would be possible to send two Members of the Board to participate.

It was:

AGREED

That two Members attend and that Mr McGrady explore the possibility of representation from the SDLP group.

3.13 PSNI Draft Policy Directive On Political Activity (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 18.

3.14 Implementation Of Recommendations In The Bichard Report (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:

AGREED

That the PSNI should be asked to give a briefing to the Committee regarding progress on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Bichard Report within PSNI, at the November or December Corporate Policy Committee meeting. All Members of the Board should be invited to attend the presentation.

3.15 Police Authority Of Northern Ireland Debtor (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised Members that payment of the amount owed to the Board by a Police Authority debtor had now been received. NOTED.

It was:

AGREED

To write to the RUC George Cross Foundation to ascertain if there was a specific project which the monies could assist in funding.

3.16 Chief Constable's Performance And Development Review And Performance Related Pay Objectives 2005-06 (Item 16 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 17.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Correspondence

The Chairman reminded Members that he had written to the NIO in July regarding the review of the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF). He advised that in a letter dated 6 September 2005 from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the Board had been invited to nominate 2 Members to sit on the Stakeholder Group of the OCTF. The Chairman advised that the Vice-Chairman, Chief Executive and he had subsequently met with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and requested that the level of representation be further reviewed. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State had advised that he would reconsider Board representation on the OCTF. NOTED.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Format And Programming Of Board Meetings

The Chief Executive reminded Members of the lengthy programmes for the June and September 2005 Board meetings. Members discussed the programme and it was suggested that the DPP Interactive Sessions could be dealt out-with the regular monthly Board meeting, perhaps on a geographic basis.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That feedback information from DPPs should be considered at the Community Involvement Committee and that the suggestion to hold the DPP Interactive sessions out-with monthly Board meetings should also be considered by the Committee.

5.2 Annual Chief Officers Pay Review

The Chief Executive informed Members that the Annual Chief Officers Pay Review had been concluded and that a 3% increase had been agreed with effect from 1 September 2005. NOTED.

5.3 Members Training Programme

The Chief Executive informed the Committee of a number of training updates which were required to assist Members in carrying out their responsibilities as Members of the Board. He sought guidance on the most appropriate programming for the training.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That one day should be set aside for Members to receive the necessary training.

5.4 Policing Board Accounts 2004/05

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that, as would shortly be reported to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Audit Committee, the Board's 2004/05 accounts may be qualified. The proposed qualification related to an overdraft on a bank account, relating to the drawing down of funds for PSNI. The proposed qualification was a technical / administrative issue. Discussions were ongoing with NIAO and NIO. NOTED

5.5 Request For Release Of Papers

A request had been received from the Rosemary Nelson and Billy Wright Inquiry Teams for an HMIC Report on Special Branch. Following legal advice, officials released the Report to the Inquiry Teams for their use only. NOTED.

5.6 Education Action Zone

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that a request had been received for support for the Education Action Zone from the North Eastern Education and Library Board and that a response giving the Board's support had been issued. NOTED.

5.7 Presentation To October Corporate Policy Committee Meeting

It was:

AGREED

That the October Corporate Policy Committee should receive a presentation on a new single non-emergency number and call management arrangements.

5.8 Conferences

The Chief Executive informed Members about the following conferences:

- Hate Crime – Belfast - 27 October 2005.
- Policing Multi Ethnic Societies – Dublin – 10 October 2005.

6. DEFINING THE ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Committee considered a paper containing recommendations flowing from discussion papers prepared by Mr Peter Smyth QC on Defining the Role of the Board. The key themes on the paper were:-

- (a) The potential role of the Board in conducting research into “policing techniques”.
- (b) The statutory role of the Board to make arrangements for their securing the co-operation of the public in the prevention of crime.
- (c) The potential role of the Board on the Organised Crime Task Force.
- (b) The interface between DPPs and CSPs and the need for the duplication of issues to be resolved.

The Committee discussed the issues raised in the paper. Members were mindful of the need to await the outcome of discussion on the “Top Ten” Agenda issues (see Item 7), the joint PSNI / NIPB Strategy Day and the Independent Assessment Panel’s Report.

With regard to (a):-

It was:

AGREED

- That the Board should consult with the Chief Constable to agree areas where research would be of mutual benefit.
- To explore funding for research with NIO.

With regard to (b):-

It was:-

AGREED

That officials should formulate 2 or 3 specific proposals for the Committee to consider further.

With regard to (b) and (c), the Committee noted the ongoing efforts around the DPP / CSP interface and around the role of the Board on the Organised Crime Task Force.

7. IDENTIFYING STRATEGIC ISSUES – TOP TEN AGENDA

The Committee considered a paper highlighting ten key strategic issues on which the Board might focus, in order to drive forward the development of an effective and efficient Police Service for Northern Ireland.

It was:-

AGREED

That a questionnaire should be designed and issued to all Members requesting that they prioritise at least 3 of the Top Ten agenda items identified and that the results be brought back to the Committee.

8. SENIOR OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

The Committee considered a paper and a letter from the Chief Constable regarding the appointment process to fill the Assistant Chief Constable post that will become vacant in April 2005.

It was:-

RESOLVED

That in view of the current candidate pool, it would not be necessary run a pre-assessment centre in relation to the forthcoming ACC vacancy.

It was further:-

AGREED

That officials should bring a paper to a future Committee meeting regarding the competitiveness of the remuneration package to be offered to senior officers appointed to the PSNI.

9. GRATUITY PAYMENT FOR PART-TIME RESERVE

The Committee considered a paper regarding recent correspondence received by the Board relating to a proposal for a gratuity payment for members of the Part-Time Reserve.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED

To forward the correspondence to the Chief Constable for his comments on the proposed payment criteria prior to reaching a corporate view on the proposal.

10. HANDLING OF LEAKED DOCUMENTS

The Committee considered a paper on:-

- Whether the Board should develop a policy on the Handling of Leaked Documents; and
- Whether the Board should ask PSNI to investigate the leaks of internal PSNI documents about the Human Resources and Training and Education departments in PSNI.

It was:-

AGREED

That officials should carry out further research into the matter and prepare another paper for the Committee's consideration.

11. THREATS TO A LOCATION

The Committee considered a draft PSNI policy relating to protocols for dealing with threats received by the Service in relation to a location.

It was:-

RESOLVED

To reply to PSNI that whilst Members were not best placed to comment on internal procedures within PSNI, they were satisfied that the proposed policy addressed a number of very genuine issues that came to light in terms of the events leading up to and subsequent of the Omagh bomb.

12. RELEASE OF PERSONS DETAINED ON LICENCE

Officials reminded the Committee that the issue of the release of persons detained on licence had been discussed at the September Board meeting. It had been agreed by the Board that the Corporate Policy Committee should consider the matter further.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the provisions of the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998.

It was:-

AGREED

That a further paper be prepared on the release of Persons Detained on Licence for consideration at a future Committee meeting.

13. COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY

The Committee considered a paper which provided:

- An update on recent communication activity; and
- An indication of forthcoming activity planned. NOTED.

The Committee discussed the 4th anniversary of the establishment of the Board and whether this anniversary should be a focus for communication activity.

It was:

AGREED

That the Chairman refer to the 4th anniversary of the establishment of the Board in his opening remarks at the November Board meeting.

14. INFORMATION PAPERS

14.1 PSNI Minority Liaison Officers

The Committee considered a response from PSNI to a number of queries raised by Members on the role and responsibilities of PSNI Minority Liaison Officers. NOTED.

14.2 The 4th Report Of The Justice Oversight Commissioner

The Committee considered a paper summarising the content of the 4th Report of The Justice Oversight Commissioner on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Review of the Criminal Justice System in

Northern Ireland, relating to the period from December 2004 to June 2005.
NOTED.

14.3 Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2005

The Committee noted the provisions of a proposed Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2005. NOTED.

14.4 Northern Ireland Crime Statistics: Comparisons with England and Wales

The Committee considered a Summary Report which provided figures for crimes and clearances recorded in Northern Ireland compared to Home Office recorded crime figures for England and Wales.

The Summary Report showed that in 2004/05 the rate of overall crime recorded per 10,000 population was lower in Northern Ireland than in England Wales. In the same year, the rate of each offence type recorded per 10,000 population was also lower in Northern Ireland than in England and Wales.
NOTED.

It was:-

RESOLVED

That a news release, highlighting the positive comparisons presented in the Summary Report should be issued at an appropriate time, to be decided by the Chairman.

14.5 HMIC Baseline Assessment Refresh Report

The Committee considered a composite paper on issues identified in the last HMIC Baseline Assessment Refresh Report and subsequent Committee action. NOTED.

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

There were no matters arising.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 Conference On Policing

The Committee discussed recent comments on a proposal that a conference on policing should be held. The Chairman advised that this had been raised by the Minister at a recent meeting and that the Minister had been asked to write to the Board setting out his proposals. The Chairman also suggested to the Minister that Board Members should be involved in the planning team for the conference. Members discussed the background to the proposals and the concerns expressed about its purpose and timing.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED

That the proposed conference on policing should be further discussed at the October Board meeting.

16.2 Restorative Justice

The Committee discussed the current NIO policy and procedures regarding Community Restorative Justice.

It was:-

AGREED

That the NIO should be requested to provide a copy of the Codes of Practice for Restorative Justice to the Community Involvement Committee.

17. CHIEF CONSTABLE - PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW OBJECTIVES 2005-06

The Committee considered a confidential paper containing draft objectives for the Chief Constable under the Performance and Development Review system for 2005-06.

It was:-

RESOLVED

To endorse the draft objectives for the Chief Constable under the Performance and Development Review system for 2005-06.

18. PSNI DRAFT POLICY DIRECTIVE ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY

The Chairman welcomed ACC Gillespie to the meeting. ACC Gillespie gave a presentation on the PSNI Draft Policy Directive on Political Activity, a copy of the slides used in the presentation is attached at Annex 'A'.

ACC Gillespie reminded the Committee that police officers are currently obliged to refrain from taking "any active part in politics" under Article 16 of the PSNI Code of Ethics. The Draft Policy Directive was aimed at providing more clarity for officers as to what would constitute "an active part in politics". The document attempted to balance a desire for police officers to take part in the community in which they serve and acknowledge that there are activities which it would be inappropriate for a police officer to participate in under any circumstances.

The Committee discussed a number of issues arising from the draft document including:-

- Comparative approaches in England, Wales and the Republic of Ireland.
- The introduction of a blanket ban on membership of the British National Party in England and Wales.
- The legal advice concerning the adoption of a similar blanket ban in Northern Ireland.
- Membership of "discredited" organisations.

The Committee requested that PSNI reflect further on the current legal advice received by the Service in respect of a "blanket ban" on the British National Party.

It was:-

AGREED

That when further information was received from PSNI regarding the legal position, that the Draft Policy Directive should be considered by the Board at a future meeting.

Following this discussion, ACC Gillespie left the meeting.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 20 October 2005 at 10:00am.

It was:

AGREED

That the date of the November Committee meeting be changed from Thursday 17 to Wednesday 16 November 2005.

20. PRESENTATION BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE ON THE POLICING OF THE WHITEROCK PARADE AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable and Assistant Chief Constable Urban Region to the meeting.

The Chairman indicated that it was likely that a number of matters considered at the meeting would be confidential and he sought and received the agreement of all Members to preserve the confidentiality of any such information.

The PSNI representatives outlined the planning made by police prior to parade. With the aid of a video they described the progress of the parade, how the parade breached the Parade Commission determination, and the sequence of subsequent disorder. The Committee was provided with details of the level of violence directed against the security forces during the disturbances and the injuries sustained by police. The PSNI representatives detailed the response made by the police and army to the violence, including the number of arrests. The Committee was advised about further incidents of disorder outside the Belfast area.

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed a number of issues with the PSNI representatives.

Following the discussion, the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

Following further discussion:-

It was:-

AGREED

That a news release should not be issued by the Chairman but that the Chairman should be available for interview.

(Meeting closed 4:00 pm).

Secretariat

September 2005

CHAIRMAN

