NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 39th CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2004 AT 10:00 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:		Professor Desmond Rea (Chairman)
		Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman)
	(1)	Mr Joe Byrne
	(2)	Mr Fred Cobain
	(3)	Mr Brian Dougherty
		Mrs Pauline McCabe
	(4)	Mr Alan McFarland
	(5)	Mr Eddie McGrady
		Mrs Rosaleen Moore
POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE	**(4)**	Mr Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
	(4)	Mr Roy Toner (Assistant Chief Constable, Corporate Development and Change Management)
	(4)	Chief Inspector (Corporate Development and Change Management)
HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTOR OF CONSTABULARY IN ATTENDANCE	**(4)**	Mr Ken Williams (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary)
	(4)	Two Officials
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)
		Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)
		Three Board Officials

(1) Part of item number 8
(2) Item number 1 – part of item number 8
(3) From item number 3.8 to close
(4) Item number 8
(5) From part of item number 3.8 to close

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. MINUTES OF THE 38TH CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2004

The minutes of the Corporate Policy Committee meeting held on 18 November 2004 were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

3.1.1 Dungannon And South Tyrone DPP

The Committee noted that:-

- the Board's Appointment Panel had appointed independent members to serve on Dungannon and South Tyrone DPP; and
- training would be organised for the new DPP Members.

3.1.2 Threats Against DPPs

The Committee noted details of a threat against Strabane DPP.

3.1.3 Discussion Regarding The Work Of The Board And DPPs

The Committee noted details of a discussion which Officials had had recently with the Lord Mayor and Councillors from Dublin regarding the work which was being carried out by the Board and DPPs.

3.1.4 Association Of Police Authorities (APA) Conference

The Committee noted that Officials had attended an APA Conference in London on 10 December 2004 regarding community engagement.

3.1.5 Review Of DPPs

The Committee noted that the review of the work of DPPs during their first year in office had almost been completed. Before the report on the outcomes of this review were published three consultation events would be held for DPP Members. All Members of the Board would be invited to attend these events.

The Chief Executive outlined some of the issues beginning to emerge from the review.

3.2 Association Of Police Authorities (APA) (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that:-

- a date for a meeting between the Board and the Chief Executive of APA had yet to be agreed by APA; and
- the APA had agreed to hold their Annual Conference in Northern Ireland in November 2005.

The Committee agreed that consideration should be given to arranging an event hosted by the Board and the PSNI following the APA Annual Conference to which representatives from APA could be invited to attend.

3.3 Review Of Police Fund (Item 3.4, 10 And 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that Mr John Steele had been invited to attend the January or February 2005 Committee meeting to discuss his report on the Review of the Northern Ireland Police Fund. A response was awaited.

3.4 Proposed Closure And Disposal Of Police Stations (Item 3.6 And 14 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted:-

- that the Board's approval to close Andersonstown PSNI Station had been conveyed to the PSNI;
- the content of a letter which the Chairman had sent to the Chief Constable regarding the proposed closure of Moy, Caledon and Ballygawley PSNI Stations;
- the content of a letter which the Chief Executive had received from the Deputy Chief Constable concerning the framework for closure of PSNI Stations; and
- that the PSNI were currently involved in a consultation process with the community in Carryduff regarding the possible closure of Carryduff PSNI Station.

3.5 Informal Meeting With Student Officers (Item 3.7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that a response was awaited to a letter which Officials had sent to PSNI concerning the review of student officer meetings. Officials would raise the issue at a meeting on 17 December 2004 with the PSNI Director of Training.

3.6 Security Vetting Policy (Item 3.8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that:-

- the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive had received a briefing from the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) on the security vetting policy;
- details of the Appeals Mechanism and the Chairman's suggestion at the briefing with the NIO that there should be a local Appeals System. The NIO had undertaken to consider the issue.

The Committee agreed that:-

- consideration should be given to arranging for the Board to receive a presentation from NIO in relation to the policy.

3.7 Conference On Night-Time Economy And Licensing Act (Item 3.9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted the content of a report which had been provided by Mr Sammy Wilson on a conference which he had attended in London on 9 November 2004 on the Night-Time Economy and Licensing Act.

The Committee discussed the problems of night-time economy in Northern Ireland and suggested that the Board should host a conference to discuss the issue. It was agreed that the Vice-Chairman, Mrs Moore and Mr Wilson should meet to discuss the matter further.

3.8 Northern Ireland Affairs Committee – Inquiry Into The Functions Of The Policing Board (Item 3.10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted details of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive's attendance at the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee's Inquiry in London on 8 December 2004.

3.9 Defining The Role Of The Board (Item 3.12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that:-

- the political parties represented on the Board had nominated their representatives to participate in the Working Group to prepare a paper which would seek to define the role of the Board within the policing architecture; and
- the first meeting of the Working Group comprising the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Mr Attwood, Mr Cobain and Mr Wilson would take place in the New Year.

3.10 Business And Decision-Making Processes (Item 3.13 And 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that:-

- a revised paper regarding issues within the business and decision-making processes of the Board, including the review of standing orders would be brought to the February Board meeting for approval; and
- the Chief Executive had discussed the proposed revision to the role of the Audit and Best Value Committee with the Chairman of the Committee who supported the proposals.

3.11 Association Of Police Authorities (APA) Policy Groups And Networks (Item 3.14 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered the content of a paper regarding the involvement of Members and Officials in APA Policy Groups and Networks.

The Committee agreed that the Board could be involved initially with the following Groups and Networks:-

- Performance Management Group
- Community Leadership Policy Group
- Personnel and Human Resources Policy Group
- Training, Liaison Network
- Efficiency Network
- Bureaucracy and Information Management Network

The Committee was mindful of the time commitment that would be required by participants. The Committee agreed that it would be appropriate for the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the relevant Board Committee to represent the Board on the APA Policy Groups / Networks.

3.12 Registration Of Notifiable Memberships (Item 3.16 Of Minutes Refers)

Mr McGrady outlined details of a presentation which had been given by PSNI to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee on 14 December 2004 regarding progress in relation to the notifiable membership process.

3.13 Medal And Duty Payment For Part-Time Reserve Officers (Item 4.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted the content of a paper regarding proposals from a Board Member seeking Board consideration of:-

- a medal to recognise the efforts of Part-Time Reserve Officers; and
- a duty payment to Part-Time Reserve Officers.

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item until the next meeting and to invite the Member to attend the meeting to discuss his proposals.

3.14 Draft Annual Policing Plan For 2005 – 2006 (Item 5.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a revised draft Policing Plan for 2005 – 2006.

Members suggested a few amendments to the plan and agreed that Officials should discuss the proposals further with the PSNI.

The Committee agreed that:-

- members should forward any further amendments to the Director of Planning by 21 December 2004; and
- the final draft of the 2005 / 2006 Policing Plan would be provided for the January 2005 meeting.

3.15 Union Representation – PSNI Civilian Staff (Item 5.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that information was being sought in relation to Trade Unions who represented PSNI Civilian Staff in order to consider arrangements for attendance at the Board meeting in public.

3.16 Third Report Of The Independent Monitoring Commission (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the Community Involvement Committee was considering issues in relation to restorative justice.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Committee noted the following engagements which the Chairman had undertaken on behalf of the Board:-

- Reception at Hillsborough Castle on 7 December 2004;
- Re-opening of Aughnacloy PSNI Station on 7 December 2004;
- British-Irish Intergovernmental Secretariat Reception on 9 December 2004;
- Parades Commission Reception on 9 December 2004;
- Northern Ireland Court Service Reception on 10 December 2004; and
- Graduations Dinner at the University of Ulster on 14 December 2004.

4.2 Publications

The Committee noted that the following publications had been placed in the library:-

- Criminal Cases Review Commission Annual Report – 2003 – 2004; and
- Irish Probation Journal – September 2004

4.3 Correspondence

The Committee noted that the Chairman had received the following correspondence:-

- a letter from Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary regarding the Chief Constable's PDP and PRP objectives 2004 – 2005 four month review;
- a letter of thanks from Mr David Watkins for the gift which the Board had presented to him to mark his retirement from the NIO;
- a letter of thanks from Mr Robin Masefield for the gift which the Board had presented to him to mark his transfer from Police Division, NIO to the Northern Ireland Prison Service; and
- a letter of thanks from the Police Federation for Northern Ireland following a meeting and lunch with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive.

4.4 Assessment Of Performance

The Committee considered a paper concerning the assessment of Board performance.

The Committee agreed that Officials should provide a paper for consideration at the February 2005 Committee meeting in relation to an APA Self Assessment Framework regarding the performance of the Board.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 NISRA Omnibus Survey – October 2004

The Committee noted the contents of a paper which outlined details of the main findings from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's October 2004 Omnibus Survey**.**

The Committee asked to be provided with comparative data relating to public satisfaction with other Public Authorities and Police Services.

5.2 Survey Of Board Members

The Committee noted that the Chief Executive would be meeting Members informally to obtain their views in relation to the training needs and support services which were provided for Board Members and other related issues.

5.3 Senior Staff Structure – Deputising Role For Chief Executive

The Committee noted that Mrs Simpson (Director of Policy) would carry out the deputising role for Chief Executive. The issue would be reviewed in 12 months time.

5.4 Attendance Of Observers At Private Meetings Of The Board

The Committee agreed that no further action should be taken at present regarding the attendance of observers at private meetings of the Board.

5.5 Membership Of The Athletic Association

The Chief Executive briefed Members on the opportunity for Board staff to take up membership of the Police Athletic Association.

5.6 Freedom Of Information Legislation

The Chief Executive referred to the Freedom of Information Legislation which would come into effect from 1 January 2005 and advised that the minutes of Board and Committees meetings from November 2001 would be placed on the Board's website. The Committee noted that any personal notes and papers held by Board Members in relation to Board business may also be subject to the legislation. Guidance for Members is being drafted and would be issued in due course.

5.7 Legal Actions - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Case

The Committee noted the current position regarding legal actions concerning post traumatic stress disorder.

5.8 North / South Exchanges

The Committee noted that protocols would be agreed within the next few weeks regarding North / South exchanges of police personnel.

5.9 12th Report Of The Oversight Commissioner

The Committee noted that issues in the 12th Report of the Oversight Commissioner would be considered by the relevant Board Committee**.**

6. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2005 – 2008

The Committee considered the content of a paper on the Board's draft Corporate Plan for 2005 – 2008.

The Committee outlined details of a few minor changes to the draft Plan and agreed to forward any other changes to the Director of Corporate Services by 21 December 2004**.**

The Committee agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman could finalise the Corporate Plan document for presentation to the Board.

7. REVIEW OF APPOINTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORS

The Committee considered the content of a paper regarding the review of the appointment of the Board's Human Rights Advisors.

The Committee agreed that the Board's Human Rights Advisors appointments should continue and be reviewed in six months time.

8. HMIC BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF PSNI – APRIL 2004

The Chairman welcomed Mr Ken Williams, HMIC, the Chief Constable and other PSNI representatives to the meeting.

HMIC gave a short presentation on his baseline assessment of PSNI performance up to December 2003. He highlighted to Members that this first baseline report represented the baseline against which the Service's improvement will be monitored in future years.

HMIC identified the main features of the new approach viz:-

- assessment is structured around frameworks of issues / core questions with descriptions of good performance;
- more use is made of self-assessment and the views of other regulators and partners; and
- a tailored programme of inspection for the Service driven by the assessment but integrated within the strategic development plan.

HMIC reminded Members of the appointment and role of the Chief Inspector of the Criminal Justice System (CICJS) and the need to integrate the inspection activity of both HMIC and CICJS. He confirmed that appropriate discussions had taken place between the two organisations.

Three overarching areas of activity had been identified for initial assessment:-

- Operational Performance
- Leadership and Corporate Governance; and
- Partnership and Community Engagement.

HMIC identified the key strengths and areas for improvement in each of the following sub areas:-

Operational Performance

- Tackling Level 2 Criminality
- Volume Crime
- Hate Crime
- Reassurance
- Call Handling
- Roads Policing
- Critical Incidents
- Forensic Management
- National Crime Recording Standard
- Prisoner Handling
- Science and Technology Management

Leadership And Corporate Governance

- Leadership and Direction
- Strategic Management
- Performance Management
- Human Resources Management

- Professional Standards
- Race and Diversity
- Health and Safety
- Best Value
- Resource Management

Partnership And Community Engagement

- Community Safety Partnerships
- Criminal Justice
- Consultation and Community Consultation

The Chief Constable responded to the report highlighting measures that had been put in place to improve and maintain performance.

HMIC and the Chief Constable responded to a number of comments / requests for clarification from Members on a diverse range of issues including:-

- the level of commitment throughout the Service to raising standards and recognising wider issues and overall targets;
- the need to improve critical IT systems;
- the perception that Headquarters is still “top heavy”;
- the meaningful involvement of staff associations within the Best Value review process;
- the current arrangements for the provision of forensic services;
- the improvement of communication concerning the Change Management Programme, internal promotions and other issues;
- initiatives to create “front line” capacity;
- effective roads policing;
- the constitutional positioning of DPPs; and
- the influence of the baseline report within NIO.

The Committee noted the Board has a legislative requirement to publish the Chief Constable's response to HMIC's report, together with the Board's comments.

The Committee agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should "sign off" the Board's response, in accordance with the requirements of the legislation, to enable publication as soon as possible.

Following discussion, the HMIC and PSNI personnel left the meeting.

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

There were no matters arising**.**

10. PRESS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Work Of DPPs And Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

The Committee noted details of a parliamentary question which Mr McGrady had asked the Secretary of State in the House of Commons regarding the overlap between the work of the District Policing Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships and the Secretary of State's response. It was agreed that a copy of the parliamentary question and response should be circulated to all Board Members.

11.2 Names Of Directors In Minutes Of Meetings

The Committee agreed that the names of the Board's Directors should be included in the minutes of all future Board and Committee meetings**.**

11.3 Change Of Date Of Committee Meeting

The Committee agreed to change the date of the February 2005 Committee meeting from Thursday 17 February to Tuesday, 15 February 2005.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 20 January 2005.

(Meeting closed at 12:45pm).

Secretariat
December 2004

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Chairman