

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 52nd CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2006 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Joe Byrne
Mr Brian Doherty
(1) Mr Sam Foster
(2) Mr Willie Hay

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(3) Mr Sam Kinkaid (ACC Crime Operations)
(4) Senior Investigating Officer, Crime Operations

HMIC REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

(3) Mr Ken Williams (HMIC)
(3) Chief Superintendent
(3) Superintendent

CJINI IN ATTENDANCE:

(5) Mr Kit Chivers, Chief Inspector of CJINI
(5) 1 Official, CJINI

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
(6) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Affairs)
(6) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
(6) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)
2 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 6 to close
- (2) Item number 17 to close
- (3) Item number 17 only
- (4) Part item number 17 only
- (5) Item number 18 only
- (6) Except item numbers 17 and 18

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Viscount Brookeborough, Mrs McCabe, Mr McGrady and Mrs Moore. NOTED.

Mr McGrady had nominated Mr Byrne as his substitute. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2006

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

AGREED

That the minutes of the Corporate Policy Committee meeting held on 19 January 2006 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 51ST MEETING

3.1 Community Based Restorative Justice (Item 3.3. Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was considered at item number 16.

3.2 Briefing on SOCA (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised Members that he had written to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) to invite a representative to meet with the Board. In response, the Chairman of SOCA, Mr Stephen Lauder had advised that:

- SOCA are working hard to put all the elements in place to enable SOCA to become operational on 1 April 2006.
- SOCA are in discussion with PSNI about how to discharge SOCA responsibilities in Northern Ireland and will continue to work with PSNI.
- The Chairman of SOCA is happy to attend a Board meeting but is unable to do so in February or March on the dates suggested.
- The Chairman of SOCA suggests it would be more useful to meet with the Board later in the year, when SOCA is operational and the issues will be clearer.

- It is suggested that the meeting takes place following the summer recess.

It was:-

AGREED

That the meeting between Board Members and SOCA be included on the schedule of future presentations and meetings for the newly reconstituted Board.

3.3 NATIONAL POLICING IMPROVEMENT AGENCY (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that the Chief Constable and the Board had advised the Government of their views on the proposed legislation for a National Policing Improvement Agency and a response was awaited. NOTED.

3.4 CONDUCT OF SENIOR OFFICER REGULATIONS 2000 (Item 5.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive updated Members about a complaint which was being progressed under the Conduct of Senior Officers Regulations 2000. NOTED.

3.5 REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (Item 5.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive updated Members about a number of matters relating to the Review of Public Administration. NOTED.

3.6 REVIEW OF BOARD STAFFING REQUIREMENTS (Item 7.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive referred Members to the discussion at the January 2006 meeting at which the Committee had approved proposals in respect of senior posts

within the Board. He advised that NIO approval had now been received for the Board to appoint a Deputy Chief Executive. NOTED.

The Committee considered a job description and person specification for the post of Deputy Chief Executive.

It was:-

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the job description and person specification for the post of Deputy Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive informed Members that advertisements for the post would be placed in the appropriate newspapers during week commencing 20 February 2006. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman had undertaken the following engagements:-

- Organised Crime Stakeholder Group – Belfast – 7 February 2006.
- 100th Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Launch – 7 February 2006.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

The following publication had been placed in the library:-

- Bulletin – Analysis of CS Spray Use During 2004 – Police Ombudsman – January 2006.

4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman had received the following correspondence:-

- Correspondence dated 2 February 2006 from the Police Ombudsman regarding:-
 - The discharge of CS Incapacitant Spray at Coleraine on 16 November 2004.
 - The discharge of CS Incapacitant Spray at Ballymena on 13 November 2005
 - The death of Stephen John McLaughlin in Derry/Londonderry on 23 April 2005.
 - Letter dated 2 February 2006 from the Lord Chief Justice regarding a meeting with the Board.

NOTED.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Draft Enabling Legislation And Discussion Paper On The Devolution Of Policing and Justice

The Chief Executive advised Members that the Northern Ireland Office was due to publish a discussion paper on the devolution of policing and justice in Northern Ireland during the morning and that a copy of the paper would be circulated to all Board Members as soon as it became available. NOTED.

5.2 Conference

The Chief Executive advised Members about a Youth Justice Agency Conference in Antrim on 3 March 2006 entitled "10 – 13 year olds and custody: Where are the Barriers?" Any Members wishing to attend the conference were asked to contact Secretariat. NOTED.

5.3 TASER

The Chief Executive reminded Members that at the February 2006 Board meeting it had been agreed that the Board should convene a public information meeting on TASER. He advised that consultations were ongoing with PSNI concerning the invitation list. NOTED.

6. NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD STRATEGIC ISSUES

The Committee considered a paper which drew together the emerging issues from the recommendations of the Report of the Independent Assessment Panel, the prioritisation of the Top 10 Strategic Issues and areas for possible joint research identified by the PSNI following work by the Defining the Role of the Board subgroup.

Members discussed a consolidated list of key areas. A Member suggested that the Training Education and Development Strategy, together with the Diversity Strategy be included with the Human Resources Planning Strategy in the list of key areas.

Subject to this amendment, it was:-

RECOMMENDED

That the consolidated strategic issues/priorities be brought to the attention of the new Board to consider taking it forward as part of the induction process, followed by a work plan prepared by Officials and agreed by the new Board.

7. RECONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD – ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee considered a paper proposing further administrative arrangements in preparation of reconstitution of the Board in April 2006.

The Committee considered draft Terms of Appointment for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board. It was noted that legal advice had been sought regarding the Terms of Appointment, specifically those relating to Removal from Office and that further information concerning this matter would be incorporated in a final paper to the Board.

Following further consideration, it was:-

RECOMMENDED

- That the Board approve the draft Terms of Appointment for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, incorporating comments from the Crown Solicitor's Office.
- That the Board delegate authority to the Chief Executive to deal with any urgent matters during the period between 1 April 2006 and the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board.
- That the concept of Lead Members be developed, for presentation to the new Board.

8. DRAFT TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR BOARD MEMBERS

The Committee considered a paper which provided information on the role and responsibilities of Members and officials in relation to the training and development provided to Members.

It was:-

RESOLVED

To approve the training and development policy for Members.

9. 2007/2010 POLICING PLAN TIMETABLE

The Committee considered a draft timetable for producing the 2007/2010 Policing Plan.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED

That the Board should approve the draft timetable for producing the 2007/2010 Policing Plan.

10. HUMAN RIGHTS RESOURCING

The Committee considered a paper which sought agreement to the contracts of the Board's Human Rights Advisors being renewed for six months, to the end of August 2006.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED

That the Board should approve the extension of the contracts of the Board's Human Rights Advisors by six months to the end of August 2006.

11. CHIEF OFFICERS BONUS SCHEME

The Committee considered a paper which outlined the draft guidelines and procedures on the Bonus Scheme for PSNI chief officers and senior civilian staff.

At its meeting on 9 February 2005, the Police Negotiation Board (PNB) Chief Officers Committee had reached agreement on "guidelines on bonus schemes linking incremental progression for ACCs and Commanders to performance development reviews". The details of the PNB agreement were considered advisory in relation to Northern Ireland, until approval by the Secretary of State was given to implement the scheme. The Secretary of State's approval to the PNB guidelines had been given in April 2005 and the Board and PSNI had subsequently engaged in preparing an agreed Bonus Scheme. NOTED.

The Committee considered the guidelines and procedures on the Bonus Scheme, national guidelines and the involvement of the Board at various stages in the process.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED

- That the Board approve the Guidelines and Procedures on the Bonus Scheme for chief officers and senior civilian staff.
- That the Corporate Policy Committee, or its successor, be the appropriate mechanism for considering the three stage process that the Board is required to take, for the first twelve months and that the mechanism then be reviewed.

12. CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION NORTHERN IRELAND (CJINI) REPORT ON TARGET SETTING AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Committee considered a summary of the CJINI Report published in January 2006 and suggested Board responses to the seven recommendations contained in the Report.

The Committee discussed a recommendation proposing that '*the CJINI should be more proactive in coordinating a framework of shared targets and monitoring the contribution that agencies are making towards them. It needs to be given a clear mandate to this effect by the Ministerial trilateral and it needs a joint secretariat for this purpose*'. Members discussed the need for clarity in the role and responsibilities for inspection of the PSNI by CJINI and HMIC, particularly at a time when the role of HMIC is being redefined.

It was:-

AGREED

- That the Committee should seek the Chief Constable's views on the recommendations contained in the Report.
- That the Chief Executive should represent the Board at meetings of the Criminal Justice Board where issues relating to the performance of PSNI were discussed.

13. INFORMATION PAPERS

13.1 Criminal Justice Inspection – Annual Report 2004/2005

The Committee considered a paper summarising the first substantive Annual Report and Accounts for Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland, since officially coming into operation on 1 October 2004. NOTED.

13.2 Fifth Report Of The Justice Oversight Commissioner

The Committee considered a paper summarising the content of the Fifth and penultimate Report by 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 July 2005 to December 2005.

NOTED.

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

There were no matters arising.

15. PRESS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

16. COMMUNITY BASED RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROPOSALS

The Committee considered a paper which contained proposals for the Board's response to Government concerning its plans for Community Based Restorative Justice Schemes.

Following discussion, as a number of Corporate Policy Committee Members were absent from the meeting it was:-

AGREED

That the paper should be considered by the Board at its next meeting.

It was noted that the response date for the return of comments to Government is 24 February 2006 and it was:-

RECOMMENDED

That a special Board meeting should be arranged, if Government declined to extend the return by date for receipt of the Board's response.

17. PRESENTATION BY PSNI ON THE BLAKEY, CROMPTON AND STEVENS REPORTS

The Chairman welcomed the PSNI and HMIC representatives to the meeting.

ACC Crime Operations gave a detailed update on the progress in the implementation of recommendations arising from the Blakey, Crompton and Stevens 3 Reports. The presentation covered the following issues:-

- Intelligence
 - Dissemination of intelligence.
 - Management of covert human intelligence sources.
 - The implications for the dissemination of intelligence and the management of covert human intelligence sources arising from the change in the role of the Security Services.
- Investigations
 - Staffing
 - Crime Scene Investigators
- Murder reviews
- Analytical services
- Crime Operations structure

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) commented favourably on the progress made by PSNI in implementing the recommendations of all three reports. He confirmed that HMIC would continue to monitor the progress made in the implementation of all the recommendations as a separate process to the baseline assessment, for as long as this was required by the Board.

Members questioned the police representatives about various aspects of the implementation of the recommendations in each of the 3 Reports and received detailed responses.

The Chairman reminded Members that this was the last meeting at which ACC Kinkaid would address Members before his forthcoming retirement. The Chairman thanked ACC Kinkaid for his presentation and for his openness in dealing with questions on sensitive issues raised by Members at this and at previous meetings of the Board and the Committee.

The Chairman thanked HMIC and his staff for their contribution to the meeting and for their work in monitoring the implementation of the three Reports during the current Board's term of office.

The PSNI and HMIC representatives left the meeting.

18. PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION NORTHERN IRELAND (CJINI)

The Chairman welcomed Mr Kit Chivers, Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland and his colleague to the meeting.

The Chief Inspector gave a presentation to the Committee on the role and work of CJINI. During the presentation, Mr Chivers outlined:-

- The status of CJINI.
- The relationship between CJINI and HMIC.
- A summary of CJINI Inspection Reports.

- The co-ordination of inspections with other agencies.
- The combining of inspection agencies in England and Wales to form an Inspectorate of Justice and Community Safety.
- The CJINI inspection programme for 2006/07.
- CJINI Communication Strategy.
- Future possible topics for inspection and
- CJINI response to the inspection of Community Restorative Justice Schemes.

A copy of the slides used during the presentation are included at Appendix A.

Members discussed a number of issues raised during the presentation including:-

- The origins of CJINI.
- The approach of CJINI if it were to be called upon to perform the role of providing independent inspection of Community Restorative Justice schemes.
- The relationship between District Policing Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships.
- Working processes and relationships between CJINI and HMIC.

The Chairman thanked Mr Chivers and his colleague for the presentation and their helpful responses to Members' questions. The CJINI representatives left the meeting.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 Conference – Democratic Dialogue

The Chief Executive reminded Members that at the February 2006 Board meeting he had informed Members about a project being set up by Democratic Dialogue to consider crime and justice issues. He advised the Committee that the first one-day

round table discussions had been arranged for 31 March 2006 and requested that any Member interested in participating contact Secretariat. NOTED.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 8 March 2006 at 10.00am.

(Meeting closed 12:45pm).

Secretariat
February 2006

Chairman