

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 40th CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2005 AT 10:00 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Desmond Rea (Chairman)
Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman)
(1) Mr Alex Attwood
(1) Mr Joe Byrne
Mr Fred Cobain
Mr Brian Dougherty
(1) Mr Sam Foster
(1) Mr Barry Gilligan
(1) Mr Willie Hay
Mrs Pauline McCabe
(1) Mr Alan McFarland
Mrs Rosaleen Moore
(2) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
(1) Mr Suneil Sharma
Mr Sammy Wilson

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

(1) Mr Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
(1) Mr Sam Kinkaid (Assistant Chief
Constable, Crime Operations Dept)
(1) Ms Sinead McSweeney (Head of Media)
(1) PSNI Officer

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)
Five Board Officials

- (1) Item number 12 only
- (2) Item numbers 9 and 12

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Viscount Brookeborough for item 12 of the minutes.

2. MINUTES OF THE 39TH CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2004

The minutes of the Corporate Policy Committee meeting held on 16 December 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 members of Dungannon and South Tyrone DPP had undertaken their induction training.

3.1.2 Threats Against DPPs

The Committee noted details of recent threats against members of Strabane DPP.

3.1.3 Review Of DPPs

The Committee noted that the review was nearing conclusion and the Director of Community Affairs outlined the main feedback which had been received at the consultation events that had been held with DPP members.

Members discussed the venues for meetings of DPPs and liaison between DPPs and Community Associations and agreed that the Committee's views on the matter should be drawn to the attention of the Community Involvement Committee.

The Committee noted details of legislative provisions relating to DPPs which would be included in the draft District Policing Partnership (NI) Order 2005 and that a paper relating to the draft Order would be presented to the February 2005 Board meeting.

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

The Committee noted that a meeting between the Board and the Executive Director of APA had been arranged for 7 April 2005.

3.3 Review Of Police Fund (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised Members that Mr John Steele would join the February 2005 Committee meeting for lunch and discussion on his review of the Northern Ireland Police Fund.

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

The Committee noted that the PSNI Estates Strategy would be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 21 January 2005.

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

The Committee noted that the PSNI had agreed in principle to the proposals from the Board, regarding student officers attending Board meetings in public. Officials were in discussion with PSNI regarding the logistics.

3.6 Security Vetting Policy (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the Northern Ireland Office had agreed to give a presentation to the Board in relation to the security vetting policy. A date for the presentation had yet to be agreed.

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

The Committee noted that a meeting had yet to be arranged between the Vice-Chairman, Mrs Moore and Mr Wilson to discuss proposals regarding the Board hosting a conference to discuss the problems of night-time economy in Northern Ireland.

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

The Committee noted that the first meeting of the Working Group, who are preparing a paper which would seek to define the role of the Board within the policing architecture, would take place at 3pm.

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

The Committee noted that the 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 2005 Board meeting for approval.

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

The Chief Executive outlined proposals for Board representation at a number of relevant APA Policy Groups and Networks.

The Committee noted that the Chief Executive would discuss the attendance of Members at the APA Groups and Networks with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the relevant Board Committees.

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

The matter was dealt with under item 9.

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

The matter was dealt with under item 6.

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

The Committee noted details of the number of PSNI civilian staff who were members of NIPSA and two trade unions representing industrial grades and it was agreed that two seats should be allocated for one representative from NIPSA, representing general civilian staff and AMICUS, as the lead trade union for industrial grades, to attend the Board meeting in public from February 2005 onwards.

3.14 NISRA Omnibus Survey – October 2004 (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted the content of a paper which provided information on comparative data relating to public satisfaction with other police services and public bodies.

The Committee noted with interest the information contained in the paper which stated that in a survey in England and Wales, 48% of people believed that the police did a good job and 75% felt that the police in their local area did a good job.

3.15 Draft Corporate Plan 2005 – 2008 (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the final draft Corporate Plan for 2005 – 2008 would be presented to the February 2005 Board meeting.

3.16 HMIC Baseline Assessment of PSNI – April 2004 (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the PSNI and the Board's responses to the HMIC Baseline Assessment of the PSNI had been prepared and would be sent to the Secretary of State.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

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

- PSNI Christmas Ball on 18 December 2004;
- Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland Reception on 20 December 2004;
- Meeting with the Alliance Party on 12 January 2005 (accompanied by Vice-Chairman);
- Police Federation for Northern Ireland Health and Safety Seminar - Taser Demonstration on 15 January 2005; and
- Visit to Northern Ireland Mail Centre, Mallusk on 18 January 2005 to thank management, shop stewards and staff for their vigilance in intercepting 'devices'.

4.2 Publications

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

- Broadcasting Courts – Consultation Paper – November 2004
- Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission – Annual Report – 2004
- Royal Society of Ulster Architects – Yearbook and Directory - 2004

4.3 Correspondence

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

- a letter from the Office of the Police Ombudsman regarding an investigation which the Office planned to conduct, under section 55 (6) of the Police (NI) Act 1998, into all matters relating to a call made to the police on 4 August 1998, a call which has remained under consideration in the context of the Omagh bomb investigation;
- a letter from Omagh Support and Self Help Group regarding the alleged phone call.

4.4 New Year Honours List

The Committee noted that the Chairman had sent letters of congratulations to the police officers and civilian support staff from PSNI and the Chief Executive of the Police Ombudsman's Office who had received honours in the New Year Honours List.

4.5 The Second Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland Stakeholder Conference

The Committee noted details of the second Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland Stakeholder Conference which the Chairman and Chief Executive had attended on 19 January 2005.

4.6 Publication Of The Third Report Of The Justice Oversight Commissioner

The Committee noted details of an article which had appeared in the press regarding issues which would be raised in the third report of the Justice Oversight Commissioner's report which would be published that day.

4.7 Secondment Of A Police Officer To Iraq

The Committee noted details of a request from the NIO to the Chief Constable regarding the secondment of a senior police officer to Iraq and that the matter would also be referred to the Human Resources Committee for consideration.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 PSNI Graduation Ceremonies

The Chief Executive referred to the participation of Members at PSNI Graduation Ceremonies and asked Members to advise Secretariat of their availability to attend.

6. DRAFT POLICING PLAN 2005 – 2008

The Committee considered the content of the final draft of the Policing Plan for 2005 – 2008.

The Director of Planning highlighted a number of amendments included in the revised draft. Members recommended a small number of further amendments which officials undertook to pursue with PSNI.

The Committee noted that the deadline for delivery to the printers for publication was 27 January 2005. Subject to the outcome of further discussion between officials and the PSNI regarding the proposed amendments, the Committee agreed to endorse the Policing Plan for 2005 – 2008.

7. OMNIBUS SURVEY QUESTIONS – APRIL 2005

The Committee considered a paper containing questions to be included in the April 2005 Omnibus Survey.

The Committee agreed that a further question concerning the level of satisfaction with PSNI follow up contact with the public should be included. Officials undertook to draft an appropriate question. Subject to this inclusion, the Committee agreed to endorse the questions for inclusion in the survey.

8. FULL-TIME RESERVE RETRAINING SCHEME

The Committee considered a paper containing information about the retraining scheme for Full Time Reserve officers.

The Committee agreed it would be helpful to receive a briefing from the PSNI and NIO on the issues involved and officials undertook to make the necessary arrangements.

9. MEDAL AND DUTY PAYMENT FOR PART-TIME RESERVE OFFICERS

The Committee considered a paper, arising from a correspondence received from Mr Ian Paisley Jnr, containing proposals for the award of:-

- a medal to recognise the efforts of Part-Time Reserve officers
- a duty payment to Part-Time Reserve officers

The Chairman welcomed Mr Paisley Jnr to the meeting and invited him to speak on his proposals. Mr Paisley outlined the rationale for the proposals and the Committee discussed a number of issues relating to the matter.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that further information was required to fully consider the proposals and that a more detailed paper, which included the views of PSNI, should be prepared and brought to a future Committee meeting.

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

There were no matters arising.

11. PRESS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

12. BRIEFING BY THE PSNI ON THE RAID ON THE NORTHERN BANK

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable, ACC Kinkaid and Ms McSweeney to the meeting. The Chairman emphasised that the briefing on the Northern Bank robbery concerned a live police investigation and that it was being given on a confidential basis. The Chairman sought and received an assurance from all Members and officials that the content of the briefing would remain confidential.

The Chief Constable and ACC Kinkaid gave a detailed briefing on the robbery at the Northern Bank in Belfast on 21 December 2004 and the ensuing police investigation. The PSNI officers responded to questions from Members.

Following the briefing and discussion, the Chairman again reminded Members of the need to preserve the confidentiality of this item of business. The Chairman thanked the PSNI representatives for their contribution and they left the meeting.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No matters of any other business were raised.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 15 February 2005.

(Meeting closed at 1:40pm).

Secretariat
January 2005

Chairman