

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 43rd CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2005 AT 10:00 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- (1)** Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- (1)** Mr Fred Cobain
- Mr Brian Dougherty
- Mrs Pauline McCabe
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (2)** Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)
- (2)** PSNI Statistician

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (3)** Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
- (3)** Mr David Jackson (Director of Communications)
- (3)** Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
- (3)** Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- (3)** Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)
- (3)** Three Board Officials

- (1)** Item number 3.1 – part of item number 6
- (2)** Item number 19
- (3)** Item number 1 to 18 only

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Bradley (Vice-Chairman), Mr McGrady and Mr Sharma. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE 42nd CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 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 24 March 2005 should be agreed subject to an amendment being made to item 3.9 to record that it was agreed that the Chief Constable should be asked what action if any had been taken against senior officers as a result of the recommendations which had been made by the Police Ombudsman.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 42nd MEETING

Conference On Night-Time Economy And Licensing Act (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that a conference would be held on 7 June 2005 in the City Hotel, Derry/Londonderry to discuss the problems of Night-Time Economy in Northern Ireland. NOTED.

Duty Payment For Part-Time Reserve Officers (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised the Committee that a meeting between Independent Members and representatives of the Part-Time Reserve had been arranged for 2.00pm to discuss duty payments.

It was:-

AGREED

That the meeting between Independent Board Members and representatives of the Part-Time Reserve to discuss duty payments should be postponed until a later date.

Full-Time Reserve Retraining Scheme (Item 3.7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the Human Resources Committee would be considering an invitation from the Police Rehabilitation and Re-Training Trust to discuss re-training for Full-Time Reservists and phase plans. NOTED.

HMIC Baseline Assessment Of PSNI (Item 3.8 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 6.

Meeting With Police Ombudsman - Searches (Item 3.9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted 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 but this meeting had been postponed to a later date. NOTED.

PSNI Senior Civilian Staff – Pay And Allowances (Item 3.10 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 7.

APA Assessment And Improvement Framework (Items 3.13 And 10 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 and the Terms of Reference for the Group. NOTED.

3.8 Chief Constable – Performance Development Review And Performance Related Pay (Item 3.15 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that a meeting would be held with the Chief Constable in May 2005 to discuss his 12 month review of performance under his Performance and Development Review and Performance Related Pay. A report would be presented to the Committee following discussion with the Chief Constable and Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary. NOTED.

3.9 Visits To Boston / Chicago / Washington – Feedback (Item 4.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised the Committee that:-

- A letter had been sent to the Secretary of State suggesting that a Working Group should be set up to consider the establishment of an Integrated Call Centre for all Emergency Services in Northern Ireland. NOTED.
- A summary paper of issues arising and learning points from the visits was being prepared for consideration by the Community Involvement Committee and the Board. The Director of Community Affairs would discuss the preparation of a paper with the Members involved. NOTED.

3.10 Report Of The NIAC Into The Functions Of The NIPB (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive referred to the Board's response to the NIAC Report on the functions of the Board. The Committee had agreed to make recommendation to the Board regarding a number of issues and to give further consideration to others. A paper would be brought to a future Committee meeting. NOTED

3.11 Notifiable Memberships (Item 13 Of Minutes Refers)

A letter had been received from the PSNI regarding a new General Order and Guidance Notes in respect of notifiable memberships. NOTED.

3.12 NIPB Annual Report (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)

Work continued to progress on the drafting of the Policing Board's Annual Report for 2004 / 2005. NOTED.

3.13 Communications Strategy (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Communications was in the process of discussing the communications strategy with Members of the Press and Public Relations Committee. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman advised the Committee that he had undertaken the following engagements on behalf of the Board:-

- Reception – British-Irish Association – Belfast – 8 April 2005. NOTED.
- Dinner with HMIC - London – 13 April 2005. NOTED.

- Meeting with Sir Keith Povey - London – 14 April 2005. NOTED.
- Chief Police Officers' Dinner - London - 14 April 2005. NOTED.
- Policing with the Community Conference – Belfast – 19 April 2005. NOTED.
- Meeting with the Independent Commissioner for Detained Terrorist Suspects – Belfast – 19 April 2005. NOTED.
- Meeting with Diplomats – Belfast – 20 April 2005. NOTED.

4.2 Publications

The following publications had been placed in the library:-

- House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee – Ways of Dealing with Northern Ireland's Past: Interim Report – Victims and Survivors. NOTED
- House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee – The Challenge of Diversity: Hate Crime in Northern Ireland. NOTED

It was:-

AGREED

- That a response to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee report on Ways of Dealing with Northern Ireland's Past should be considered by the Committee at a future meeting.
- That questions should be drafted to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting regarding the PSNI's responses to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee's reports on Dealing with the Past and Hate Crime in Northern Ireland.

4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman informed Members he had received the following correspondence:-

- A letter and consultation document from the Chief Operating Officer of the NI Review of Public Administration seeking views on the Review of Public Administration. NOTED.
- A letter from the NIO regarding Election Purdah. NOTED.
- An APA circular regarding proposals to establish an inspectorate for justice and community safety. NOTED

It was:-

AGREED

- That a question should be drafted to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting regarding the PSNI's response to the NI Review of Public Administration in relation to rationalising the number of PSNI District Command Units
- That a copy of the section in the APA circular regarding Police Authorities should be issued to all Board Members for information.

4.4 News Releases

The Chairman informed Members about the following news releases:-

- A news release regarding the Assets Recovery Agency's successful actions – NIO – 1 April 2005. NOTED.
- A news release regarding a Northern Ireland Security Vetting Review: NIO – 5 April 2005. NOTED.

4.5 Meeting with Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC)

The Chairman had held a meeting with representatives from the IMC on 20 April 2005. NOTED.

The Committee discussed the effects that organised crime was having on the community in Northern Ireland.

It was:-

AGREED

- That consideration should be given to organising a Workshop to discuss issues around organised crime.
- That the Community Involvement Committee should be asked to consider inviting a local police officer to discuss policing in Crossmaglen.

4.6 FAIR EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL (FET) Case

The Committee considered the content of a draft response to a letter, which had been received regarding an FET case.

It was:

RESOLVED

That the letter in relation to the FET case should be issued.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Review Of Board Organisation Structures

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that a paper would be provided for consideration at a future meeting regarding a review of Board Organisation Structures. NOTED.

5.2 Reconstitution Of The Board – October 2005

The Chief Executive advised the Committee about the reconstitution of the Board in October 2005 and the recruitment process which would be put in place by the NIO to appoint Independent Board Members. The Chief Executive advised that written notification of the procedure would be issued shortly. NOTED.

It was:-

AGREED

That the assessment of performance form for Board Members which had been received from the NIO should be circulated to all Independent Members.

5.3 Freedom Of Information Requests - Members

The Chief Executive briefed the Committee on the number of requests that had been received by the Board under Freedom of Information legislation. NOTED.

It was:

AGREED

That a protocol should be developed, in order that Members could obtain information relating to the Board without initially having to seek the information through formal Freedom of Information procedures.

5.4 Informal Meetings With Members - Feedback

The Chief Executive updated Members regarding informal meetings, which he had held with Board Members. A report would be brought to the Committee when the interviews with Members were completed. NOTED.

5.5 PSNI Presentations At Board Meetings

The Chief Executive explained that on occasions there was difficulty in selecting a suitable subject for a presentation at a Board meeting in public. NOTED.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED

That when there was no suitable subject for a presentation at the Board meeting the Chief Constable should be asked additional questions.

It was also:-

AGREED

That Board Members should be reminded of the deadline for receipt of questions by the Chief Executive for the June 2005 Board meeting in order to meet the '7 days in advance' requirement set out in Standing Orders.

5.6 Conference – Changing The Way Local Crime Reduction Works Joining Up National Priorities and Local Action

The Chief Executive gave details of a conference entitled “Changing The Way Local Crime Reduction Works Joining Up National Priorities and Local Action” which would be held in London on 23 June 2005. NOTED.

5.7 Board Meetings – 30 June 2005 and 1 September 2005

The Committee considered holding Board meetings in public at locations outside the Board’s Headquarters on 30 June 2005 and 1 September 2005 in order to invite Members of DPPs to join the Board for interactive sessions.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED

That the Board meeting in public on 30 June 2005 should be held in the Greater Belfast area and the meeting on 1 September 2005 in Fermanagh.

5.8 Legal Actions - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Case

The Chief Executive referred to actions against the Police and Police Authority for Northern Ireland from police officers concerning post traumatic stress disorder. He advised the Committee that the Authority / Board had now been removed from the legal action. NOTED.

6. HMIC BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF PSNI – REFRESH REPORT

The Committee considered a paper concerning the key issues which had been identified in the HMIC Baseline Assessment of PSNI Refresh Report. The paper asked the Committee to consider the issues in the report and to

decide whether the PSNI / HMIC should be asked to give a presentation on the report and to consider the areas for consideration by relevant Committees.

During consideration of the report the Committee expressed their views on:-

- The link between DPPs and Community Safety Partnerships.
- Delays in SOCO responses to scenes of crimes.

It was:-

AGREED

- That the points which were made by Members during discussion should be pursued.
- Areas of concern in the report should be considered by the relevant Committee.

7. PSNI SENIOR CIVILIAN STAFF – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Committee considered a paper regarding the terms and conditions for the PSNI Senior Civilian Staff posts.

The current post holders were not appointed on the basis of the proposals and discussions are ongoing between the Chief Executive and PSNI regarding assimilation, once this has been finalised a report will be brought to the Committee. NOTED.

It was:-

RESOLVED

That the proposals outlined in the paper should be approved and the Secretary of State's endorsement obtained.

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 to provide views to assist in developing proposals on revised Committee structures for the next meeting of the Committee. The Committee briefly discussed the paper and indicated a desire to have a structure which had fewer Committees, meeting more frequently and with a larger membership.

It was:-

AGREED

That further consideration of the paper should be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

9. CORPORATE PLAN – 2002 - 2005

The Committee considered a paper which outlined the final outcome on the corporate objectives for 2002 – 2005. NOTED.

10. REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION – CONSULTATION MARCH 2005

The Committee considered a paper summarising proposals set out in a further consultation document issued by the team undertaking the Review of Public Administration.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED

- That the Board supports the reduction in the number of councils so that the PSNI DCUs may be restructured accordingly in a more efficient and effective manner;
- That the Board requests a thorough examination of local partnership arrangements in advance of the implementation of new council structures, including DPPs and CSPs, so that the opportunity provided by the unavoidable change in local partnerships is maximised to achieve the most streamlined and effective arrangements post Review;
- That the Board urges the early conclusion of the Review and implementation of new structures so that the benefits may be realised at the earliest possible date.

11. CONSULTATION ON SENTENCING FRAMEWORK FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Committee considered a draft response to an NIO Consultation document entitled “Review of the Sentencing Framework in Northern Ireland”.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED

That the draft response to the Review of the Sentencing Framework in Northern Ireland be approved and issued by the Board.

12. IMPLEMENTATION OF BICHARD REPORT

The Committee considered the contents of a paper regarding recommendations contained within Sir Michael Bichard's report and consultation which was taking place, the results of which would affect how PSNI carried out their work in this area. The Committee noted that the Report made no specific reference to Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland in the implementation of the recommendations.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED

That the Board ask PSNI to highlight the need for police in the Republic of Ireland to be associated with any IT system for police intelligence concerning child protection procedures.

13. PROPOSALS FOR A DRAFT CRIMINAL JUSTICE (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2005

The Committee considered a paper regarding proposals to amend Criminal Justice legislation under the terms of the Northern Ireland Act 2000. NOTED

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

It was:-

AGREED

That a Member would draft a question, on behalf of the Committee, to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting regarding anti-social behaviour orders.

15. PRESS ISSUES

It was:-

AGREED

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

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was conducted.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 12 May 2005 at 10:00am.

18. CRIME RECORDING AUDIT

The Chairman welcomed ACC Operational Support and the PSNI Statistician to the meeting.

The PSNI representatives gave the Committee a short presentation on the measures put in place by PSNI to meet a new National Crime Recording Standard introduced in England and Wales in April 2002 and the main

findings of the PSNI Crime Recording Review. The aim of the new standard is to promote greater consistency between police forces in the recording of crime and to take a more victim orientated approach to crime recording. A copy of the slides used in the presentation is attached at Annex 'A'.

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed:-

- The timescale for implementation of electronic recording
- The audit process
- A central call management facility
- Response times
- Staffing levels
- The procedures for the compilation of national police crime statistics and publication timescales

The Chairman thanked the PSNI representatives for their contribution and they left the meeting.

19. CHIEF EXECUTIVE PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW 2004 – 2005

All officials left the meeting for this item of business.

(Meeting closed 12:20pm).

Secretariat
April 2005

CHAIRMAN