

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 JULY 2006 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- (2) Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
Mr Alex Attwood
Mrs Pauline McCabe
Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- (1) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
Mr Brian Rea

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTOR OF CONSTABULARY IN ATTENDANCE:

- (4) Superintendent Dave Kendall
- (4) 1 Official

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE IN ATTENDANCE:

- (3) Mr N Perry, Director General, Policing & Security
- (3) 2 NIO Officials

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

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)
2 Officials

- (1) **Item number 3.2 to close**
- (2) **Except Item number 14**
- (3) **Item number 13 only**
- (4) **Item number 14 only**

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Duddy, Mr Gilligan, Mr Hay, Mr Kennedy and Mr Ringland. NOTED.

The Chairman informed Members that the Chief Executive was attending a conference in England and was unable to attend the meeting. NOTED

2. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2006

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting held on 15 June 2006 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 Community Restorative Justice (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman informed Members that, following the meeting between the Board and the Minister of State on 19 June 2006, regarding Community Based Restorative Justice (CBRJ), he had written to the Minister highlighting 4 key areas arising from discussion. A copy of the Chairman's letter was included in the papers for the meeting. NOTED.

Members discussed the Parliamentary timetable for a Ministerial statement concerning CBRJ and the publication of protocols for CBRJ schemes. Issues relating to the involvement of individuals with criminal records in CBRJ schemes were also discussed.

3.2 New Police College Funding (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman reminded Members that the Board's Police College Sub-Group had met with Mr Paul Goggins, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State on 20 June 2006 regarding the new Police College. The Chairman advised the Committee that he and

the Vice-Chairman planned to visit opinion formers in New York and Washington during the last week in July and that one of the purposes of the trip was to lobby for support and funding for the new College. NOTED.

3.3 PSNI Human Resources Project Team (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials informed the Committee that an initial trawl notice issued to Board staff to test interest in a secondment to the PSNI Human Resources Project Team had not produced any interest and that other options were now being considered. NOTED.

3.4 Allocation Of Special Responsibility Allowance (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 10.

3.5 Blakey, Crompton and Stevens Reports (Item 4.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman reminded Members about the briefing which the Board had received at its meeting on 29 June 2006 from ACC Crime Operations regarding the further implementation of the recommendations of the Blakey, Crompton and Stevens reports and on the transfer of primacy for National Security.

The Chairman informed the Committee that he had received a report on the remaining 5 outstanding recommendations from the Blakey, Crompton and Stevens reports and that all 5 are being progressed. NOTED.

3.6 Omagh District Policing Partnership (DPP) (Item 4.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman confirmed that letters had been sent to Omagh District Policing Partnership and Omagh Support and Self Help Group offering a meeting between the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Group. To date, the Omagh Support and Self Help Group had not yet responded and it was understood that the Group is due to meet on 19 July 2006 to consider the invitation. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman had undertaken the following engagements:-

- The Queen's University of Belfast – Summer Graduation Dinner – 4 July 2006.
- University of Ulster – Graduation Dinner – 6 July 2006.
- Meeting with Brehon Law Society – 6 July 2006.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

The Chairman advised that the following publications had been placed in the library:-

- Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission – Strategic Plan – 2006 – 2009 - May 2006.
- Youth Justice Agency – Corporate Plan 2006 – 2009 and Business Plan 2006 – 2007 – June 2006.
- Annual Report from the Director of Public Prosecutions to the Attorney General: 2005/06 – July 2006.
- Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland – Annual Business Plan 2006 – 2007 – July 2006.

NOTED.

4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman highlighted the following correspondence that he had received:-

- Letter dated 26 June 2006 from Centre for Cross Border Studies regarding developing Border Ireland as a Cross Border Information Service.
- Letter dated 6 July 2006 regarding a briefing by ACC Crime Operations on a recent inspection by the Surveillance Oversight Commissioner.
- Letter dated 11 July 2006 from ACC Rural Region regarding a presentation on the proposed closure of Coalisland PSNI station.

NOTED.

4.4 News Releases

The following news releases were drawn to the attention of Members:-

- Hate Crime is Wrong – Hanson – NIO – 26 June 2006.
- Criminal Justice Report Published – NIO – 29 June 2006.
- £2million Co Antrim Property Empire Frozen - Assets Recovery Agency – 30 June 2006.
- Organised Crime Must Be Defeated: Goggins – NIO – 5 July 2006.

NOTED.

4.5 Belfast District Policing Partnership (DPP)

The Director of Community Affairs updated the Committee on a number of developments within the Belfast DPP. He advised that Belfast DPP officials had indicated that Members had returned to meetings and that the withdrawal of unionist members appeared to have ceased. The Vice-Chairman had met with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Belfast DPP and discussed a number of issues relating to the operation of Belfast DPP. NOTED.

4.6 Evidence To Select Committee

The Chairman drew the attention of Members to comments made by the Prime Minister, during his appearance before the Liaison Committee of the House of Commons concerning membership of the Policing Board. Members also discussed a recent keynote speech given by the Secretary of State.

4.7 Meeting Between The Police Ombudsman And The Board – 6 July 2006

The Chairman reminded Members of the content of a meeting between the Police Ombudsman and the Board held on 6 July 2006.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Review Of NIPB EDRMS

The Director of Corporate Services informed the Committee about a number of learning points that had been taken from a recent review of the Board's Electronic Data Records Management System (EDRMS). NOTED.

5.2 High Potential Development Scheme

The Director of Policy informed Members about an informal meeting with PSNI officers involved in the High Potential Development Scheme arranged for *12 September 2006. Any Members interested in attending the meeting were asked to contact Secretariat. NOTED. (* **NB Arrangements changed - New date to be arranged**)

5.3 Delivering DCU Performance

The Director of Policy advised the Committee about a course on Delivering DCU Performance on 4 – 8 September 2006. PSNI had requested that a Board Member and a DPP member sit on a panel to assess the "Paradox Basic District Command Unit Case Study". Any Member interested in participating was asked to contact Secretariat. NOTED.

5.4 NDPB Pay Awards

The Director of Corporate Services informed Members about a letter received by the Chief Executive from NIO Policing Reforms Division concerning Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPB) pay awards. The letter provided information on a new procedure requiring all NDPBs funded by the NIO to complete a financial proforma, a business case and a submission to the Secretary of State seeking approval for their annual pay settlement. NOTED.

5.5 Meeting With Federation Of Small Businesses

The Director of Community Affairs informed the Committee that contact had been established with the Federation of Small Businesses and arrangements were being made for a meeting regarding business crime. NOTED.

5.6 Request For Financial Support For Legal Action

The Director of Corporate Services referred Members to meetings of the Corporate Policy Committee in 2004, at which the Committee had considered and approved a request from the Deputy Chief Constable, to financially support a legal action by a Chief Superintendent against the owners of a newspaper. The Chief Superintendent involved in the legal action has now advised the Board the legal action has been settled out of court with full costs being met by the newspaper. NOTED.

5.7 Northern Ireland Policing Board Annual Report

The Director of Policy confirmed that the Board's Annual Report would be laid in Parliament on 24 July 2006. In line with protocol, copies of the Report will not be circulated prior to laying before Parliament, but a copy of the report will be circulated to all Board Members on 24 July 2006. NOTED.

5.8 International Policing Conference

The Director of Policy advised the Committee that the dates for the International Policing Conference in Belfast will be 20-22 February 2007. NOTED.

6. CO-ORDINATION OF PSNI INSPECTIONS

The Committee considered a paper which provided a summary of work undertaken by the Board in co-ordinating PSNI inspections, which was carried out in response to a request from the Chief Constable.

The Committee suggested a number of drafting amendments, subject to these, it was:

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board adopt the recommendations contained in the report and that the report be circulated to all parties involved.

7. RESEARCH INTO THE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEMES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Committee considered a research specification prepared by the Board, NIO Community Safety Unit (CSU) and PSNI proposing research into the views and experiences of people involved in Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Northern Ireland. The overall cost of the project was anticipated to be between £20,000 and £25,000 and would be equally split between the Board, CSU and the PSNI.

It was:

RESOLVED:

To approve the research to be conducted into Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

8. MAIN FINDINGS FROM THE APRIL 2006 OMNIBUS SURVEY

The Committee considered a summary of results from the April 2006 Omnibus Survey focusing on any future actions that the Board/PSNI might take in relation to increasing public confidence in the police. NOTED.

9. OMNIBUS SURVEY QUESTIONS – OCTOBER 2006

The Committee considered a paper containing draft questions relating to policing to be included in the October 2006 Omnibus Survey.

Following consideration, it was:

RESOLVED:

To approve the list of proposed questions for inclusion in the October 2006 Omnibus Survey.

10. ALLOCATION OF SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE

The Committee considered a paper regarding the allocation of the “Special Responsibility Allowance” available at the discretion of the Board up to a ceiling of £14,000.

It was:

RECOMMENDED:

- That the allocation of the Special Responsibility Allowance be as follows:

Member	Chair	Vice-Chair	Other	Total
	£	£	£	£
T Ringland	2,500	-	-	2,500
B Rea	-	2,000	-	2,000
R Moore	-	2,000	-	2,000
B Duddy	-	1,500	-	1,500
J Byrne	-	-	1,000	1,000
D Purvis	-	-	1,000	1,000
P McCabe	-	-	1,000	1,000
D Mac Bride	-	-	1,000	1,000

S Sharma	-	-	1,000	1,000
T O T A L	2,500	5,500	5,000	13,000

- That the Board request NIO to review the remuneration package available to independent Members of the Board.

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

There were no matters arising.

12. INFORMATION PAPERS

12.1 Presentation On HMIC Firearms Implementation

The Chairman referred Members to a letter from ACC Operational Support regarding the arrangement of a presentation on the HMIC Firearms Inspection and the PSNI Implementation Plan. NOTED.

12.2 The 6th Report Of The Justice Oversight Commissioner

The Committee considered a summary of the 6th and final report by the Justice Oversight Commissioner, completed in May 2006. NOTED.

Members wishing to view a full copy of the report were asked to contact Policy Branch.

12.3 The Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) 6th Annual Report and Threat Assessment 2006

The Committee considered a paper which provided a summary of information contained in the 6th Annual Report and Threat Assessment 2006 published by the Organised Crime Task Force. NOTED.

Members wishing to obtain a full copy of the report were asked to contact Policy Branch.

13. BRIEFING ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANISED CRIME TASK FORCE OPERATIONAL STRATEGY GROUP

The Chairman welcomed Mr Nick Perry, Director General, Policing and Security NIO and Chairman of the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF), Operational Strategy Group (OSG) together with 2 NIO officials to the meeting.

Prior to the presentation on OCTF, Members raised a number of issues with the NIO representatives in relation to:-

- The content of a recent keynote speech by the Secretary of State.
- The role of the Board in holding the Chief Constable to account.
- Political discussions relating to the devolution of policing.
- Ensuring that the Board is not unsighted on issues relating to the accountability of the PSNI.

Mr Perry assured Members that their concerns would be passed on to the Secretary of State and Ministers.

Members received a presentation on the structure of the OCTF, and on the structure, developments, and work stream initiatives within the OSG. A copy of the slides used in the presentation is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The Committee and NIO representatives discussed a number of issues arising from the presentation including:-

- How the Board could add value to the work of the OSG and other OCTF work.

- The public attribution of responsibility for organised criminal activities to illegal and paramilitary groups.
- The merit in the introduction of further legislation to combat organised crime.
- Proposals to track fuel using a type of DNA identification process.
- The provision of an opportunity for the Board to meet with the OCTF Operational Strategy Group.
- The need for the Minister who chairs the OCTF to continue to brief the Board.
- The establishment of SOCA and an opportunity for representatives to meet with the Board.
- The future involvement of the security services in OSG.
- The House of Commons report into organised crime.
- Investigations into criminal gangs.
- The removal of financial incentives for fuel smuggling.

Following the discussion, the Chairman thanked the NIO representatives for their contribution and they left the meeting.

14. BRIEFING BY HMIC STAFF ON VALUE FOR MONEY STUDY OF POLICE OFFICER AND CIVILIAN NUMBERS

The Chairman welcomed Superintendent Dave Kendall and his colleague to the meeting. Superintendent Kendall outlined the background to the “Value for Money” review being initiated by the Northern Ireland Office and highlighted the tight deadline for the review to be completed.

The Committee was advised that in view of the limited period of time for reporting that the review was being kept at a “high level”.

Superintendent Kendall discussed a number of aspects of the review including:-

- The criteria for establishing the Most Suitable Force (MSF) comparator.
- Additional specific (Northern Ireland) factors that needed to be taken into account such as normalisation, the review of public administration, the introduction of Community Support Officers, policing a land border and capital city.
- Abstraction due to sickness.
- The establishment figures set out in the report of the Independent Commission on Policing.
- The compilation and issue of a questionnaire to DCUs.

Members discussed a number of issues arising from the briefing including:

- Core figures on the establishment of PSNI.
- The skills mix requirement.
- The constraints of the review being kept at a high level.
- The timeframe for completion of the report and the constraints that this imposed.
- Mutual aid by other police services.
- The unique nature of policing a land border.
- The compilation and accuracy of figures on sickness absence.

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

15. PRESS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 PSNI Special Duty Allowance

The Director of Corporate Services referred Members to previous discussion at Board meetings and the Committee regarding the review of the PSNI Special Duty Allowance. He advised Members that the issue was due to be discussed at the next meeting of the Police Negotiating Board (PNB) on 20 July 2006. The Director of Corporate Services informed the Committee about a number of recent developments concerning the review. Members discussed the likely position of the various parties attending the meeting.

It was:

AGREED:

That during discussion at PNB, Board officials should continue to support the general views expressed by the Chief Constable in his letter dated 8 May 2006 concerning the PSNI Special Duty Allowance.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed the date of the next meeting for 14 September 2006 at 10:00am.

18. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW OBJECTIVES 2006 – 2007

The Chairman proposed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

In response to an enquiry from a Member, the Chairman requested that any Members who wished to suggest amendments to the draft objectives should write to him before the next meeting. NOTED.

It was:

AGREED:

To defer consideration of the Chief Constable's Performance and Development Review Objectives 2006 – 2007 to the next meeting of the Committee.

A Member referred to discussion at a previous meeting relating to the Committee being provided with ratings prior to consideration of the Chief Constable's performance. The Chairman indicated he would consider the matter.

19. CHIEF EXECUTIVE – PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT – REVIEW OF OBJECTIVES 2005 – 2006

It was:

AGREED:

To defer this item to the next meeting of the Committee.

Secretariat

July 2006

Chairman