

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 MAY 2009 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- (1) Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
- (2) Mrs Dolores Kelly
- Mr Alex Maskey
- Mr Basil McCrea
- (3) Mr Daithí McKay
- (1) Ms Mary McKee
- (1) Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- (1) Mr Brian Rea
- (1) Mr Trevor Ringland
- Mr Jimmy Spratt

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (4) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (4) Mr Alistair Finlay (ACC Urban Region)
- (4) Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Rural Region)
- (4) Mr Joe Stewart (Director of Human Resources)
- (4) 1 Public Affairs Officer

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Adrian Donaldson (Chief Executive)
- Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)
- (5) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
- (5) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- 3 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 3 to close
- (2) Item number 8 to close
- (3) Item number 4.3 to close
- (4) Item number 19 only
- (5) Except Item number 19

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

No apologies were received. NOTED.

The Chairman advised Members that the Committee would receive a report from the Chief Constable later in the meeting in relation to the complement of Full Time Reserve officers. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2009

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting and subject to an amendment regarding the attendance of 2 Members at the meeting, it was:-

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting held on 12 March 2009 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2009

3.1 Government Proposals in Response To A Review Of PACE In Northern Ireland – NIO Consultation (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the Board's Human Rights Advisor was currently preparing a paper on the NIO consultation on the review of the PACE legislation. Given the nature of the issues raised, the draft response would be brought to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee for consideration at its next meeting. NOTED.

3.2 PSNI Estate Strategy (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman informed Members that following discussion at the May 2009 Board meeting he had written to the Chief Constable inviting him to attend a special Board meeting on 6 August 2009 to discuss the draft 2008 PSNI Estate Strategy. NOTED.

3.3 Update On The Outstanding Recommendations From The Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland Report On Scientific Services In PSNI (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

A further position statement had been requested from ACC Crime Operations concerning the 5 recommendations outstanding from the CJINI report on Scientific Services. The PSNI response would be brought to a future Committee meeting.
NOTED.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman highlighted the following engagements which he had undertaken on behalf of the Board:-

- Superintendents' Association of Northern Ireland Annual General Meeting Dinner 2009 – Templepatrick – 6 May 2009;
- Policing with the Community Awards – Newcastle – 18 May 2009.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

There were no matters arising.

4.3 Correspondence

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

- letter from the Deputy Director of the Historical Enquiries Team dated 16 April 2009 and Chairman's response dated 14 May 2009;

- letter from the Lord Chief Justice dated 1 May 2009 regarding trial of Sean Hoey.

The Chairman read Members the letter that he had received and it was:-

AGREED:

- that a copy of the letter from the Lord Chief Justice should be circulated to all Committee Members;
 - that the correspondence would be treated as Confidential;
 - that a question should be drafted for the next Board meeting with the Chief Constable in relation to the Hoey trial.
- Letter from the Chief Constable dated 8 May 2009 regarding the status of the outstanding Patten recommendations;
 - letter from British/Irish Rights Watch dated 23 April 2009 regarding the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2009-2012.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a draft response to British/Irish Rights Watch should be brought to the next Committee meeting for consideration.

- Letter from the Chairman of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland dated 15 May 2009.

NOTED.

4.4 News Releases

The Chairman highlighted the following news release:-

- Your Say – Young People’s Views on Policing Central to Human Rights Inquiry – Northern Ireland Policing Board – 13 May 2009.

NOTED.

4.5 Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Oral Evidence Sessions

The Chairman reminded Members that at the May 2009 Board meeting, it was agreed that Committees should consider the Board’s response to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee investigation into the proposals of the Consultative Group on the Past in Northern Ireland and the enquiry into the Omagh bomb investigation. Time constraints now necessitated that responses should go to the Board meeting on 11 June 2009 and not to Committees as was originally intended.

The Chairman advised Members that with regard to Omagh, it was proposed to submit the Blakey and Crompton 2008 report along with any relevant minutes of Board meetings. A short paper would be prepared for the 11 June 2009 Board meeting in relation to the enquiry on the Eames/Bradley proposals and that the Board response would focus on the role of the Historical Enquiries Team. NOTED.

4.6 Application Under Schedule 5 Of The Terrorism Act 2000

The Chairman read Members a note of a meeting held on 14 May 2009 between the Chairman, Vice Chairman, ACC Crime Operations and a Detective Chief Superintendent to discuss the current police application to the courts under Schedule 5, paragraph 5(5) of the Terrorism Act 2000. The Chairman asked that details of the meeting be regarded as confidential as the matter was sub-judice. NOTED.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Membership Of Committees With Effect From 1 June 2009

The Committee considered a paper in relation to the membership of the Board's Committees, following the appointment of Mr Barry Gilligan as Chairperson Elect and Mr Brian Rea as Vice Chairperson Elect of the Board.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

- that a sub-committee, comprising the Chairperson Elect, Vice Chairperson Elect, one representative from each of the political parties and one independent Member should be appointed to review the membership and remit of the Committees;
- that the sub-committee should report back to the Committee with recommendations in September/October 2009;
- that Professor Sir Desmond Rea should replace Mr Brian Rea as a member of the Human Resources Committee, the Human Rights & Professional Standards Committee and the Resources & Improvement Committee until the review is completed;
- that the Resources & Improvement Committee should be given delegated authority to appoint a Vice Chairperson to the Committee to replace Mr Brian Rea until the review is completed;
- that Standing Orders 20(f), (g), (m) and (n) should continue to be suspended.

5.2 Chief Officer Bonus Scheme – Consultation On Proposed Changes To Chief Officers' Personal Development Reviews

The Committee considered a paper which highlighted proposed changes by the Home Office to the Chief Officers' Bonus Scheme. The Chief Executive advised that the Bonus Scheme would be further discussed at the Police Negotiating Board (PNB) and that the Committee would be updated as appropriate. NOTED.

The Chief Executive invited any Member who wished to comment further on the proposals to contact him.

5.3 Conferences

The Chief Executive advised Members of the following forthcoming workshop:-

- Association of Police Authorities/National Policing Improvement Agency Workshop – Hampshire – 27 May 2009.

Any Member wishing to attend was asked to contact the Secretariat.

6. REVISED APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING PLAN 2010 – 2013

The Committee considered a paper which proposed a revised approach to the development of the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2010 – 2013 and an outline timetable. Members were advised that the timetable would be subject to change, primarily dependent upon the timing of the devolution of policing and justice powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly. NOTED.

With regard to the annual strategy event involving Board and PSNI, it was:-

AGREED:

- that all Board Members and the PSNI top team should be invited to attend the event;
- that the facilitators for the Board/PSNI strategy event should be the Board's Director of Planning and the PSNI Head of Policing and Planning.

Members endorsed the advantages of a pre-strategy discussion involving all Board Members and the need for a corporate approach by the Board to the meeting. A Member suggested that it would be helpful for Board Members to be provided with a critique of performance against the previous Policing Plan and proposals for future improvements.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the pre-strategy discussion takes place at the October 2009 Board meeting and that suitable time be allocated to the discussion.

Subject to the above, it was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the revised approach to the development of the Policing Plan 2010 – 2013 and the proposed outlined timetable.

7. NIPB CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN 2008 – 2009 – END YEAR ASSESSMENT

The Committee considered a schedule which detailed the end of the year assessment of the achievement of targets contained in the 2008 – 2009 NIPB Corporate Business Plan.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the publication of the end year assessment on the NIPB website and in the Board's Annual Report and Accounts.

8. NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD'S STATISTICAL AND RESEARCH STRATEGY 2009 – 2013

The Committee considered a paper containing the proposed Statistical and Research Strategy for 2009 – 2013.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

- that a sub-committee, chaired by the Chairperson elect should consider the proposed Statistical and Research Strategy.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- that the sub-committee should prioritise the research information required by the Board;
- the sub-committee should specifically review the Board's participation in the 2 Northern Ireland Omnibus Surveys in April and September each year and whether other avenues of research were more cost effective;
- that the sub-committee should report back to the Committee as a matter of urgency.

9. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION NORTHERN IRELAND (CJINI)

At the March 2009 Committee meeting, Members had discussed the draft CJINI Inspection Programme with the Chief and Deputy Chief Inspectors. The Committee had asked for a Memorandum of Understanding to be developed to address concerns the Committee had around a potential overlap in the respective roles and remits of CJINI and the Board. The Committee considered the Chief Constable's response on

the draft CJINI Inspection Programme, which raised similar concerns to those of the Board in regard to duplication of activity and additional burden placed on the PSNI.

It was:-

AGREED:

That Members would further consider the draft Memorandum of Understanding and contact the Director of Planning with their comments.

10. MEMBERS' ATTENDANCES AT MEETINGS AND EVENTS DURING THE PERIOD 31 MAY 2007 – 31 MARCH 2009 AND MEMBERS EXPENSES 1 APRIL 2008 – 31 MARCH 2009

At the May 2009 Board meeting, the schedule of Members' Attendance and Expenses had been discussed. It was decided that the Committee should review the layout of the schedules.

A number of Members indicated that they were not content with the existing format. The Chief Executive advised that while officials had reviewed the existing layout, they had been unable to design a better alternative format.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials should produce a further alternative showing totals for "other events" for consideration at the June 2009 Board meeting.

The Chairman had requested additional clarification of his expenses and, it was:-

AGREED:

To include further information as detailed in Appendix 2, regarding the Chairman's expenses.

11. PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL REPORT 1 APRIL 2008 – 31 MARCH 2009

The Committee considered a paper which advised of the arrangements for the publication of the Board's Annual Report 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2009.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To give approval to delegated authority to the Board Chairman to "sign off" on the final text.

12. BRIEFING PAPER ON CONTRACTOR VETTING BY PSNI

The Committee noted legal opinion from the PSNI Legal Services in relation to the vetting of contractors.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board should seek its own legal opinion on the vetting of contractors and that this should be brought to a future Committee meeting.

13. BRIEFING PAPER ON THE SECURITY INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

The Committee considered a paper containing background information on the Security Industry Authority. NOTED.

14. BOARD'S COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The Committee considered a paper which provided an activity report on progress against the objectives set in the Board's Communication Strategy. NOTED.

The Committee paid tribute to the work of the Board's Press and Public Relations Branch for their work in supporting Board communications during 2008/09.

15. BRIEFING ON REVIEW OF PSNI RANK RATIOS

Due to time constraints the update to be provided by PSNI in relation to rank ratios was deferred to a later date.

16. INFORMATION PAPERS

The Committee considered the following information papers:-

16.1 National Policing Improvement Agency – Senior Police National Assessment Centre 2008

16.2 Inspection Of PSNI

16.3 Qualitative Reports On The Police Contribution To The Delivery Of The NI Road Safety Strategy

16.4 Freedom Of Information Requests Received By The Northern Ireland Policing Board In The Period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

16.5 Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland

NOTED.

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

It was:-

AGREED:

That a question should be drafted for the next Board meeting with regard to the R – v – Hoey case.

18. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINES

19.1 Briefing From The Chief Constable – Full Time Reserve Officers

The Committee received a confidential briefing from the Chief Constable in relation to his decision on the remaining complement of Full Time Reserve Officers. NOTED.

A confidential note of the discussion is attached at Appendix 'A'.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 18 June 2009 at 10:00am in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 4:30pm).

Secretariat

May 2009

Chairman