

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**  
**FINDINGS FROM THE BOARD'S CONSULTATION ON FUTURE**  
**ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS**

**1.0 Background**

In 2006, the Board carried out pre-consultation with District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) and a small number of key stakeholders on future arrangements for DPPs in the context of the Review of Public Administration (RPA). A series of issues emerged and, together with the considerations of a DPP Inter-Agency Working Group, formed the basis of a consultation paper issued by the Board for consultation in December 2006. The paper set out the features, merits and drawbacks of options for the future of DPPs in the context of the RPA.

- 1.1 The Board also facilitated a consultation event to provide a further opportunity for input to the consultation process through the use of digivoting technology and facilitated group discussions. Board Members and officials also attended meetings with DPPs to discuss the consultation paper.

**2.0 Detail**

**2.1 Responses**

The closing date for responses was 23 February 2007. To date the Board has received **52 responses** to the consultation as follows:

<b>ORGANISATIONS</b>	<b>No of Responses</b>
District Policing Partnerships	23
PSNI including Chief Constable, DCUs and Superintendents Association	10
District Councils	9
Community Safety Partnerships	5
Others	5

A full list of those who responded is attached at **Annex A**.

In addition, 146 representatives from DPPs, CSPs, PSNI and other key stakeholder groups attended the consultation event in January.

### **3.0 Principles**

The Board sought views on four key principles that could potentially provide a framework within which to consider the future of DPPs:-

1. Citizen centred service
2. Impartiality and confidence building
3. Partnership working
4. Effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery

3.1 Early analysis suggests that while there is considerable support and endorsement for the proposed principles, additional principles were needed to encompass all of the values, aims and functions of the new model. Suggestions include, transparency and accountability, engagement and participation and sharing of information in ways that contribute to safer communities.

3.2 Views were further sought on which if any of the key principles were more important in considering future partnership arrangements. Responses to this question were mixed. The majority of respondents to the consultation reported that all of the principles were equally important. However, citizen centred service, impartiality and confidence building and to a lesser extent partnership working were highlighted as having greater significance. The primary focus on the citizen was also a key message from the consultation event.

### **4.0 Models**

4.1 Consultees were invited to comment on two high level indicative models for future partnership arrangements that were developed by the DPP Working Group following the outcome of the pre-consultation exercise. The models detailed below ranged from a stand-alone partnership with a primary focus on monitoring police performance to a fully integrated DPP/CSP type partnership within a community planning framework, referred to as a CPSP.

**4.0.1 DPP Monitoring Partnership** - within this model there are two options:

- a. a stand-alone partnership similar to existing DPPs but restricted to their monitoring role; or
- b. the Board assuming direct responsibility for the partnerships – taking them outside Councils.

**4.0.2 Community Policing Safety Partnership (CPSP)**

- a. an integrated partnership operating within the community planning framework. This would function as illustrated in Table 1.
- b. an integrated partnership that sits outside the proposed community planning framework.

4.1.1 Initial analysis of the consultation responses indicates overwhelming support for a fully integrated DPP/CSP type partnership within a community planning framework.

4.1.2 From the 51 written responses received to date, 49 responded stating a preference - 47 of these recorded a preference for a CPSP and this included all but one of the Community Safety partnerships that responded. Other responses reflected variations of the model and recognised the need for greater detail before a firm position could be reached.

## **5.0 Key Issues**

- 5.1 An initial analysis of the consultation responses, feedback at the consultation event and other engagements raise a number of Key issues for future consideration. These include:
- The significant benefits associated with an integrated DPP/CSP model, particularly in relation to effectiveness and efficiency and the value of a partnership approach to the future of policing, community safety and good relations.
  - The need to maintain a monitoring role of policing at a local level in order to continue to build community confidence in policing.
  - The complexities of the relationship between partnership working with the police and monitoring police performance.
  - Membership of future partnerships to ensure a balanced partnership and community representation at all levels.
  - Local arrangements to ensure continued engagement, flexibility to suit local needs and consideration given to the merit of existing arrangements.
  - A future partnership's alignment to the community planning process
  - The funding and governance arrangements for the operation of the new structures

**Northern Ireland Policing Board**  
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