

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2006 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Mr Sammy Wilson (Chairman)  
Mr Barry Gilligan  
Mr Alan McFarland

#### **PSNI REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (1)** Mr David Best (Director, Finance and Support Services Department)
- (1)** Head of PSNI Estate Services Business Unit.
- (2)** 1 Official ( PSNI Finance and Support Services Department)

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**(1) Items 5 - 11**

**(2) Items 5 - 10**

**(3) Items 1 - 3 and part 9**

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mrs Rosaleen Moore and Mr Fred Cobain. NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2005**

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

**AGREED**

That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9 December 2005 be agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2005**

**3.1 Correspondence concerning Contractors (Item 4.1 of Minutes Refers)**

At the December 2005 meeting of the Committee it was agreed that Board Officials should discuss with the Chief Executive, the development of expertise within the Board concerning the procurement procedures within the PSNI.

Officials advised the Committee that following discussions a practical solution was not evident as procurement within PSNI was carried out at various levels and across many Departments and there was no central point within PSNI which the Board could feed into. Officials confirmed that the PSNI Director of Finance and Support Services has overall responsibility for procurement within PSNI, assisted by the Procurement Unit. NOTED.

**3.2 Quarterly Report on Expenditure- Cost of Helicopter** (Item 5 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a letter dated 30 January 2006 from PSNI regarding a breakdown of running costs in respect of the PSNI Helicopter. NOTED.

**3.3 Compensation Claims – September and October 2005** (Item 12 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a paper and correspondence received from PSNI which provided a response to various queries in relation to compensation claims paid by the Chief Constable in September and October 2005.

It was:-

**AGREED**

- That PSNI be asked to further review the categorisation of one claim.
- That officials should seek further clarification regarding settlement in respect of temporary injuries.

The Committee noted that PSNI had formally invited a Member of the Board to sit on the PSNI Claims Management Committee. The invitation was dealt with at Item 14.

**3.4 Use of Former Police Sites** (Item 16 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a paper providing information on the usage of sites vacated by PSNI over the last three years and utilisation plans for future disposals. NOTED

### **3.5 Legal Fees and the Employment of Counsel (Item 24.1 of Minutes Refers)**

The Director of Planning updated the Committee regarding the PSNI response to an enquiry by the Committee concerning the employment of Counsel. He advised Members that further information had been requested from PSNI and that he would brief the Resources and Improvement Committee at its first meeting. NOTED.

### **3.6 PSNI Vehicle Recovery Scheme (Item 27 of Minutes Refers)**

As agreed at the December 2005 meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee a question had been put to the Chief Constable at the February 2006 Board meeting regarding the PSNI Vehicle Recovery Scheme and a written response containing further information was awaited.

The Committee discussed the Chief Constable's response and the need for him to be clear about the Committee's concerns regarding the way in which the vehicle recovery contract had been managed.

It was:-

#### **AGREED**

That a letter would be sent to the Chief Constable expressing the Committee's concerns at the response to the question at the February Board Meeting.

### **3.7 Application Under SPED (Item 30.1 of Minutes Refers)**

This item was dealt with at Item 17.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. PSNI QUARTERLY REPORT ON EXPENDITURE TO DECEMBER 2005**

The Chairman welcomed the Director of PSNI Finance and Support Services Department and the Head of PSNI Estate Services Business Unit and their colleague to the meeting. The Committee was briefed on the quarterly expenditure report covering the period 1 October to 31 December 2005. Members discussed a number of issues regarding the report.

It was:-

#### **AGREED**

That the Committee's concerns regarding the costs associated with the recruitment of PSNI Officers should be brought to the attention of the Human Resources Committee.

#### **6. PSNI ADDITIONAL OVERTIME REPORT**

The PSNI representatives briefed Members on a paper detailing Police Overtime Monitoring. The Committee thanked PSNI for the additional breakdown in overtime figures which had been included in the report. PSNI officials undertook to investigate the provision of a further breakdown of the figures to supply more information on the hours worked by Departments / DCUs. NOTED.

**7. REPORTS ON PSNI EXPENDITURE AND OVERTIME - NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2005**

The PSNI representatives briefed the Committee on a report on PSNI expenditure to 31 January 2006 this report updated the November and December figures and was tabled at the meeting. NOTED

**8. PSNI GERSHON EFFICIENCY RETURN – QUARTER ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005**

The Committee considered a report from PSNI detailing the current position regarding the delivery of the Gershon Efficiency Programme for the quarter ending 31 December 2005. NOTED.

**9. FUNDING SHORTFALL – PSNI BUDGET 2008/09**

The Committee considered a paper highlighting a letter to the Chairman of the Board from the NIO in relation to police resources. The letter outlined a number of key proposals regarding:-

- Budget Allocations 2006/07
- Comprehensive Spending review
- Future Options
- New Police College

The Chief Executive addressed the Committee regarding the letter and highlighted a number of developments of potential concern to the Board.

After discussion, it was:-

## **AGREED**

- That the Human Resources Committee should be advised of the proposed VFM study into police and civilian numbers, and asked to comment.
- That the offer of a briefing from NIO on finance issues should be accepted by the Committee.

It was:-

## **RECOMMENDED**

That the Board consider the letter from the NIO and

- a) Decide on a course of action to lobby for additional funding for policing, particularly in respect of the police college.
- b) Note that the anticipated funding gap in 2006/07 and 2007/08 has been addressed, but that the situation from 2008/09 is very uncertain.
- c) (i) Note the commencement of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.  
(ii) Comment on the Terms of Reference for the proposed Value for Money studies.
- d) Comment on the provisions for the introduction of a 'policing precept' contained in the draft Northern Ireland Bill
- e) Consider further action to be taken in order to secure full funding for the new Police College.
- f) (i) Note that the Finance and General Purposes Committee welcomed the offer of NIO officials attending the Committee to discuss funding issues.  
(ii) Consider the Chief Constable's request to meet with the Board on the funding gap in 2008/09 onwards.

## **10. HMIC BASELINE ASSESSMENT – OCTOBER 2005 – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

The Committee considered a paper on the HMIC Baseline Assessment on PSNI. Representatives from PSNI briefed Members on this assessment and they discussed issues including:-

- The PSNI vehicle fleet
- Low mileage on some vehicles
- Amalgamation of a number of sites on the police estate.

NOTED.

## **11. MONITORING OF THE PSNI ESTATES STRATEGY**

The Head of PSNI Estate Services Business Unit gave a presentation to the Committee on the PSNI Estates Strategy. The main topics covered in the presentation were:-

- Core Elements which included upgrade of Custody facilities, New Police College, development of Mobile Stations, review of existing Headquarter and Support sites.
- Review of Specific Programmes
- Major works 2005/06
- Forward Maintenance Plan
- Minor works
- Patten Projects
- Normalisation
- Review of Stations
- Future issues.

A copy of the slides used in the presentation is attached at Appendix A.

The Committee considered a paper with information enabling it to monitor implementation of the PSNI Estates Strategy along with a copy of the PSNI Estates Strategy. NOTED.

It was:-

### **AGREED**

It would be helpful if future PSNI reports to the Committee could include a section on feedback following the closure of stations.

The Chairman thanked the PSNI Finance and Support Services Department representatives and the Head of PSNI Estate Services Business Unit for their contribution to the meeting and for their contribution to the work of all the Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings over the term of the current Board. The PSNI representatives left the meeting.

## **12. PSNI ESTATE**

### **12.1 Disposal of Corry Square, Newry**

The Committee was asked to note the signing of an executed deed in relation to Corry Square Newry. NOTED.

### **12.2 Leases Regarding Edward Street, Portadown**

The Committee was asked to note details of the renewal of leases. NOTED.

### **12.3 Disposal of Andersonstown PSNI Station**

The Committee was asked to note details of the final disposal document for Andersonstown Station. NOTED.

### **13. COMPENSATION CLAIMS – SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2005, DECEMBER 2005 AND JANUARY 2006**

The Committee considered schedules of financial settlements for November 2005, December 2005 and January 2006.

It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

To approve the financial settlements detailed in the papers.

It was:

#### **AGREED**

- That further information should be provided for Committee in relation to a particular settlement.
- Officials should review the contents and presentation of the summary which is provided to the Committee.

### **14. CLAIMS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Members were asked to note the minutes of the Claims Management Committee meetings. NOTED.

It was:-

**AGREED**

That the Committee would await the establishment of the new Board before reaching a decision on whether to accept an invitation to sit on the PSNI Claims Management Committee.

**15. GENERAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE SUPPLY, SALE OR CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR**

The Committee considered a paper which requested General Authorisation to enable the supply, sale and consumption of intoxicating liquor at the Foundation Faculty Recreation Club (Police College Garnerville).

It was:-

**RESOLVED**

That a General Authorisation would be granted for a period of 9 months commencing 1 April 2006.

**16. WITNESS EXPENSES FOR EX-MEMBERS/SUPPORT STAFF OF PSNI ATTENDING CIVIL COURT**

The Committee considered a paper which sought approval to PSNI proposals for a revised policy for implementation in respect of witness expenses for ex officers and support staff when attending civil court.

It was:-

### **RECOMMENDED**

That the Board approve the proposals requested by PSNI for a period of 12 months. Subject to review at the end of the 12 month period the Board also writes to the NIO seeking their approval to increasing the allowance.

It was:-

### **AGREED**

To request the PSNI at the end of the 12 month period to supply information in respect of the costs and benefits of implementing the new allowance.

## **17. SPECIAL PURCHASE OF EVACUATED DWELLINGS**

### **17.1 Tendering Exercise – Removal Under the SPED Scheme**

The Committee considered a paper which gave details of the award of a tender for removal services under the Special Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings (SPED) Scheme. NOTED.

It was:-

**AGREED**

That officials should ensure that procedures are in place, to enable Members of the existing Finance and General Purpose Committee to approve removal services under SPED until the newly reconstituted Board is in operation.

It was:-

**AGREED**

That two members of the present Committee could approve applications during this period under delegated authority.

It was:-

**AGREED**

That officials monitor the PSNI to ensure Value for Money through the tendering exercise.

**17.2 Application for Reimbursement of Early Redemption Penalty –  
ADMIN 10**

The Committee considered a paper relating to reimbursement of an early redemption penalty charged to an officer who had to move home under the SPED scheme.

It was:-

## **RECOMMENDED**

That the Board should approve the reimbursement of the early redemption penalty.

### **17.3 Application for Reimbursement of Early Redemption Penalty – ADMIN 11**

The Committee considered a paper regarding an application for reimbursement of an early redemption penalty charged to an officer who had to move home under the SPED scheme.

It was:-

## **RECOMMENDED**

That the Board should approve the reimbursement of the early redemption.

### **17.4 Application for Expenses Incurred – Ex Officer ADM 12**

The Committee considered a paper regarding an application for removal expenses in excess of the agreed limit to move home under the SPED Scheme. The Committee considered the circumstances of the case and noted that the ex officer had been paid in accordance with the PSNI Finance Code.

It was:-

## **RECOMMENDED**

That the Board should not approve the payment of the additional amount.

### **17.5 Application For Removal Expenses – Officer ADM 13**

The Committee considered a paper regarding an application for removal expenses in excess of the agreed limit to move home under the SPED Scheme. The Committee considered correspondence received from PSNI and further information provided by Officials regarding the circumstances of the case.

It was:-

## **RECOMMENDED**

That the Board should approve payment of the additional amount of removal expenses.

### **18. PSNI BEST VALUE REVIEW OF PATROLLING**

The Committee considered a summary of the progress to date regarding the PSNI Best Value Review of Patrolling. Members were advised that the review is on schedule for completion by 31 March 2006. NOTED.

### **19. PSNI BEST VALUE REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIPS 2006/07**

The Committee considered a paper outlining the draft Terms of Reference for the PSNI Best Value Review of Partnerships 2006/2007.

It was:

**AGREED**

To approve the Terms of Reference in principle, pending final clarification on:

- The Partnerships to be reviewed
- The Membership of the Project Board.

The final Terms of Reference will be presented to the next Committee meeting.

**20. PSNI IS STRATEGY**

The Committee considered a paper which provided a current status report of all IS Strategy projects at the end of December 2005. Details of all the IS Strategy projects which had been completed were noted.

It was:-

**AGREED**

That the Board's Director of Planning should write to ACC Corporate Management expressing concern at the apparent slippage from the published IS Strategy timescales in a number of projects which were due to be completed by December 2005 and seeking confirmation that the current budget under spend on IS Strategy projects in 2005/06 would be utilised by year end.

**21. HMIC BASELINE ASSESSMENT – ISSUES RELATING TO BEST VALUE AND THE PSNI IS STRATEGY**

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with the relevant sections relating to Best Value and the PSNI IS Strategy from the recently published HMIC Baseline Assessment Report on PSNI. NOTED.

**22. NIPB BEST VALUE REVIEW – HOLDING THE CHIEF CONSTABLE TO ACCOUNT**

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members approval of the Terms of Reference in respect of the NIPB Best Value Review for 2006/2007 in relation to holding the Chief Constable to Account.

It was:-

**RECOMMENDED**

That the Board should approve the Best Value Review Terms of Reference for Holding the Chief Constable to Account.

**23. NIPB MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO JANUARY 2006**

The Committee considered the Northern Ireland Policing Board accounts to January 2006. NOTED.

**24. INFORMATION PAPERS**

There were no matters arising.

## **25. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

A Member referred to a question scheduled to be put to the Chief Constable at the February 2006 Policing Board Meeting regarding the shortfall in police funding which, due to time constraints, was not asked during the meeting in public. Officials advised that the Chief constable had provided a written response which will be circulated to all Members. NOTED.

## **26. PRESS ISSUES**

There were no matters arising.

## **27. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **27.1 Outsourcing of Postal Courier Service**

The Chairman advised Members that the Committee was scheduled to receive a presentation from PSNI on the Outsourcing of the Postal Courier Service. However due to a busy agenda this was not possible and a written submission had been provided. NOTED.

## **28. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members were advised that any further Committee matters and any matters arising from the minutes of this meeting would be considered at the Board meeting on 28 March 2006.

The Chairman ended the meeting by thanking all the Members of the Committee and the Officials for their work over the last four years.

(The meeting ended at 1.20 pm).

**Secretariat**

**February 2005**

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**CHAIRMAN**