

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE 17TH MEETING OF FINANCE AND GENERAL
PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2005 AT 9:30AM
IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- (1)** Mr Sammy Wilson (Chairman)
- (2)** Mr Alex Attwood
Mr Barry Gilligan
Mr Alan McFarland

**PSNI REPRESENTATIVES IN
ATTENDANCE:**

- (3)** Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (5)** Mr David Best (Director, Finance and Support Services Department)
- (4)** T/Superintendent Road Policing development
- (4)** Inspector Road Policing Development
- (6)** (Operational Support and Change Management)
- (5)** 1 Official; PSNI Finance and Support Services Department
- (4)** 1 PSNI Official

PITO IN ATTENDANCE

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (6)** Mr Philip Webb (PITO)
- (6)** Mr Paul Latham (PITO)
Mr Sam Hagen, Director of Corporate Services
Mr David Wilson, Director of Planning
Mrs Sinead Simpson, Director of Policy
3 Board Officials

- (1)** Item number 3.1 to close
- (2)** Item numbers 1 – 4, 9,12,16 -23 and part 27
- (3)** Item numbers 3.2, 3.3, 9
- (4)** Item number 27
- (5)** Item numbers 3.2, and 5 - 11
- (6)** Item numbers 25 and 26

1. APOLOGIES

Item No:

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mrs Rosaleen Moore.
NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF THE 16th FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 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 23 September 2005 be agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER
2005**

3.1 PSNI Best Value Review of Patrolling (Item 7.1 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a paper which summarised progress on the PSNI Best Value Review of Patrolling. The review is currently on schedule and is due to be completed by 31 March 2006. NOTED.

3.2 PSNI Quarterly Report – 1 April to 30 June 2005 (Item 9 of Minutes Refers)

Item No:

The Chairman welcomed the Deputy Chief Constable, Mr David Best and a representative from PSNI Finance and Support Services Department to the meeting.

At the last meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 23 September 2005 the Committee had requested that a representative from PSNI should attend this meeting to respond to the Committee's questions regarding the PSNI overtime figures. The Deputy Chief Constable, along with representatives from PSNI Finance addressed the Committee and clarified a number of issues regarding spending on overtime. Item 9 of these minutes also refers.

3.3 PSNI Land at Old Comber Railway (Item 29 of Minutes Refers)

At the last meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 23 September 2005 the Committee had requested that a representative from PSNI should attend this meeting to discuss the release of land along the Old Comber Railway, currently used by PSNI as a car park for Brooklyn.

The Deputy Chief Constable discussed the release of the land and the land adjacent to the site. He advised the Committee that he had tasked Security Branch to carry out a review regarding the release of the land. Following completion of the review, PSNI would advise the Board of the outcome.

NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Correspondence Concerning Contractors

Item No:

The Committee considered correspondence from PSNI Finance and Support Services Department concerning the criteria for appointing contractors to PSNI and in particular the development of select lists for contractors.

It was:-

AGREED

That Board officials should discuss with the Chief Executive and give further consideration to the development of expertise within the Board concerning the procurement procedures within PSNI.

4.2 2007/08 Allocation for Policing

The Chairman brought to Members attention a letter received from NIO Policing and Security Division relating to the police grant allocation for 2007/08. The allocation shows a total funding gap of £70m for 07/08, with additional funding of £20m being made available from NIO, leaving a gap of £50m.

Members expressed concern at the level of the funding gap, requesting that questions be asked of the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting.

5. PSNI QUARTERLY REPORT ON EXPENDITURE -1 APRIL to 30 SEPTEMBER 2005

Two representatives from PSNI Finance Department joined the meeting and briefed the Committee on the 2nd quarterly expenditure report covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2005. NOTED.

Item No:

The Committee discussed a number of pressures and easements issues arising from the report including expenditure on:

- Employers Pension Contributions
- Helicopter Pilots
- Patten Severance Grant
- Public enquiries
- Civilian Pension transfer, and
- An Underspend on Patten non severance

It was:-

AGREED

That further information should be provided by PSNI regarding the breakdown of costs in relation to the helicopter.

**6. SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL BID FOR NOVEMBER
MONITORING ROUND 2005**

The Committee considered the details of supplementary PSNI financial bid for additional funding relating to the 2005/06 main Police grants, and for Patten funding that had been submitted to the NIO in November, a response is expected from the NIO by mid December. NOTED

7. PSNI ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2004 - 2005

The Committee considered the following accounts:-

Item No:

- Main Police Account.
- Police Fund.
- Police Property Fund.
- Police Pension Statement.

The PSNI Finance Branch representatives confirmed that the accounts had been certified by the Comptroller and Auditor General. NOTED.

8. PSNI QUARTERLY OVERTIME PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered the PSNI Quarterly overtime monitoring summaries for September and October 2005. NOTED.

9. PSNI OVERTIME MONITORING SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2005

Two representatives from PSNI Finance Department briefed the Committee on overtime monitoring. The Committee received information covering the impact on overtime of the investigation into the Northern bank robbery, the policing of the loyalist feud and the public disorder in September 2005. Arising from discussion concerning the number of officers who exceeded the average overtime per member per month, the PSNI representatives undertook to consider if further details could be provided about the Departments/ DCUs and types of work that incurred the largest amount of overtime.

The Committee discussed national agreements concerning the overtime entitlements of officers, the shift pattern system and ongoing discussions at national level to modernise and increase flexibility in working arrangements.

Following the discussion the Deputy Chief Constable left the meeting.

10. PSNI MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR 2006/07

The Committee considered the PSNI analysis of Expenditure from April to October 2005. NOTED

11. PSNI DRAFT ANNUAL ESTIMATES FOR 2006/07

The Committee considered the PSNI Annual estimates for the year ending 31 March 2007. NOTED

12. COMPENSATION CLAIMS – SUMMARY 2005 – SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2005

The Committee considered schedules of Financial Settlements for September and October 2005.

It was:

RESOLVED

- To approve the financial settlements detailed in the paper.

It was:

AGREED

- That officials should obtain further clarification on one case
- That the Committee receive a future presentation on claims management

Item No:

- To highlight to PSNI that in October 2005 there was an increase in the number of cases lost as a result of failure of duty of PSNI/RUC officers.

13. COMPENSATION CLAIMS PAID BETWEEN JULY AND SEPTEMBER 2005

A quarterly summary of settled civil action claims is presented to the Human Rights and Professional Standards (HRPS) Committee. At their last meeting on 11 November 2005 the HRPS Committee requested that the number of out of court settlements between July and September 2005 be drawn to the attention of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. NOTED.

14. GRANT OF EASEMENT – M1 WESTLINK PROJECT (NIE)

The Committee considered a paper concerning a Grant of Easement in respect of an electricity cable which will be diverted along Stanley Street once work commences on the Westlink Project. NOTED.

15. GRANT OF EASEMENT – M1 WESTLINK PROJECT (PHOENIX GAS)

The Committee considered a paper concerning a Grant of Easement in respect of a gas pipeline which will be diverted along Stanley Street once work commences on the Westlink Project. NOTED

16. ROSEMOUNT POLICE STATION

The Committee considered information in respect of an application to take over and develop the site of Rosemount Police Station when PSNI withdraw from the site. NOTED.

Following discussion It was:-

AGREED

Officials should obtain further information from PSNI about the current use of sites formerly occupied by PSNI and the planned use of sites soon to be vacated by PSNI.

17. STATION REVIEW – MIDDLETOWN POLICE STATION

The Committee considered a paper on a station review framework relating to Middletown Police Station. The Committee considered the review document a copy of the presentation made by PSNI during public consultation and a summary of the responses received. A number of Members expressed disappointment that the local District Policing partnership considered this to be an operational decision, and that it should not comment on this matter.

Members discussed the presentation, the public consultation carried out by PSNI and the proposals for policing the area should the station be closed.

It was:-

AGREED

To refer the Committees views to ACC Rural.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED

Item No:

That the proposed closure of Middletown Police Station be considered by the Board at the next meeting together with any further information obtained in the interim period.

18. DISPOSAL OF CULLYBACKEY POLICE STATION

It was:-

RESOLVED

That a Deed of Conveyance in respect of the disposal of Cullybackey Police Station be signed by two Board members and the Chief Executive of the Policing Board, and sealed and forward to PSNI.

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

The Committee considered a paper which detailed applications received from various Police Social and Recreation Clubs seeking general authorisations for the supply, sale and consumption of intoxicating Liquor.

It was:-

RESOLVED

That approval will be granted to the general authorisation in respect of

- Newforge Country Club
- Ardmore Social and Recreation Clubs
- Maydown Social and Recreation Clubs
- Fermanagh District Command Clubs

**20 RATIFICATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR OCCASIONAL
AUTHORISATIONS FOR THE SALE OR CONSUMPTION OF
INTOXICATING LIQUOR ON POLICE PREMISES**

The Committee considered a paper informing Members of decisions taken by Board officials in accordance with delegated authority to approve occasional exemptions in respect of functions at police establishments.

It was:-

RESOLVED

To notify the decisions taken by officials, as detailed in the paper at Appendix 1A.

**21. NIPB FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31
MARCH 2005**

The Committee considered the Northern Ireland Policing Board financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2005. NOTED.

22. NIPB MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO OCTOBER 2005

The Committee considered the Northern Ireland Policing Board accounts to October 2005. NOTED.

23. NIPB MONITORING ROUND 2005

The Committee considered a paper detailing the NIPB return in relation to the November financial monitoring exercise.

It was:-

RESOLVED

That the easement offered by the NIO is £375k be agreed.

24. INFORMATION PAPERS

24.1 Legal Fees and the Employment of Counsel

The Committee considered a paper and correspondence from PSNI in relation to legal fees and the employment of counsel.

It was:-

AGREED

Those officials should pursue the matter with PSNI.

**25. PRESENTATION - PITO INDEPENDENT VALIDATION OF THE PSNI
IS STRATEGY**

The Chairman welcomed the two representatives from the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) and a representative from PSNI.

Item No:

The Committee received a presentation on the third progress report by PITO on the November 2005 independent assessment of the PSNI Information Systems (IS) Strategy.

The Committee was advised that the PITO team had found clear evidence that there continued to be improvements in many areas of the project and programme governance, control and delivery since the first and second reviews. The overall status of the Strategy Implementation is assessed as 'Amber' .

There had been 13 recommendations identified and that 4 of these are considered 'amber'. NOTED.

Members discussed the findings and recommendations with the PITO representatives, including anticipated capital spend for the current year.

26. PITO INDEPENDENT VALIDATION OF THE PSNI IS STRATEGY

The Committee considered a paper detailing a proposed inspection and reporting timetable.

It was:-

RESOLVED

That the timetable would be as follows:

INSPECTION	REPORT TO COMMITTEE
• March 2006	April 2006
• June 2006	September 2006
• October 2006	December 2006

Following consideration of this paper the PITO and PSNI representatives left the meeting.

27. PSNI VEHICLE RECOVERY SCHEME

The Chairman welcomed PSNI representatives from PSNI Road Policing Department and reminded Members of the previous discussion regarding the vehicle recovery scheme.

Following the Committee's request for an update on the Judicial Review listed for hearing on 27 September, Members received a presentation from the PSNI representatives on the vehicle recovery scheme which facilitates the removal / security of vehicles in a range of circumstances.

The presentation provided details of:

- The background to the 'Judicial Review' application.
- The PSNI review of the managed vehicle recovery scheme.
- The methodology of the review, and
- The way forward following the Judicial Review.

Following the presentation the Committee discussed a number of concerns about the Vehicle recovery scheme with the PSNI representatives. While welcoming the review the Committee expressed concern;-

- That a new long term contract with the existing managing agents had been agreed and entered into so quickly by PSNI in the light of previously documented findings,
- That the contract period is for 2 years,

Item No:

- That the Board had not been informed of the decision to enter into the new contract, before this meeting.

It was:-

AGREED

That a question would be drafted for the Chief constable at the next Policing Board meeting.

Following discussion the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

28 QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED

That a question would be drafted for the Chief Constable in relation to the PSNI Vehicle Recovery Scheme.

29. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

30. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

30.1 Application for Reimbursement of Early Redemption Penalty Incurred To an Officer Having To Move Home under the SPED Scheme ADM 10

Item No:

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

It was:-

AGREED

That further information would be sought from PSNI regarding this application.

30.2 PSNI Best Value Review Area For 2006/2007

The Committee considered a paper which outlined the proposed PSNI Best Value Review Area for 2006/2007 and a Draft Terms of Reference for the Review.

It was:-

AGREED

To endorse the proposed PSNI Best Value Review Area for 2006/07 as 'partnership'

30.3 Attendance at Conference by Board Member

Official advised the Committee of a request from a Member to attend a conference entitled 'Developing Leaders in Central Government' on 27 January 2006

It was

AGREED

That the matter be referred to the Chairman of the Board as the decision related to the remit of the Corporate Policy Committee

31. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 17 February 2006.

(Meeting closed 13:40 pm).

Secretariat

December 2005

CHAIRMAN