

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 9.30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

- PRESENT:**
- Mr Gerry Kelly (Chairperson)
 - (1)** Ms Deirdre Blakely
 - Mr Jonathan Craig
 - (2)** Mr Robin Newton
 - (3)** Dr Paul Nolan
 - Ms Roisin McGlone
 - Mr Pat Sheehan
 - (4)** Ms Deborah Watters (Vice-Chairperson of Board)
- POLICE SERVICE OF
NORTHERN IRELAND IN
ATTENDANCE:**
- (5)** Mr David Best, Director of Finance & Support Services
 - (5)** Mr Mark McNaughten, Head of Finance
- OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**
- Mr Barney McGahan (Interim Chief Executive)
 - Mr David Wilson (Director of Support Services)
 - Six Board Officials

- (1) Item number 1 – part item number 10.2**
- (2) Item number 1 – part item number 10.1**
- (3) Item number 1 – item number 10.7**
- (4) Item number 1 – item number 10.5**
- (5) Item number 10.1**

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received from Mrs Wendy Osborne.

The Chairperson asked Members to declare any conflicts of interests arising from the agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson invited nominations for the post of Vice-Chairperson of the Committee.

Mr Jonathan Craig proposed that Mrs Wendy Osborne be appointed Vice-Chairperson of the Committee. The proposal was seconded by Dr Paul Nolan.

The Chairperson invited other nominations. There were no other nominations.

There being no other nominations, the Chairperson declared that Mrs Wendy Osborne was duly elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee.

3. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members considered a paper which outlined draft Terms of Reference for the Resources Committee.

The Interim Chief Executive advised the Committee about proposed changes to sections 3.4 and 5.1 of the draft Terms of Reference following discussions at the Partnership and Performance Committee meetings.

During discussion Members suggested changes to sections, 2.3 and 5.1 of the draft Terms of Reference and it was:-

AGREED:

That subject to the changes being made that the draft Terms of Reference should be brought to the next Board meeting for approval.

4. DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 JUNE 2015

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 25 June 2015.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 25 June 2015 be approved.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

5.1 Questions for the Chief Constable (Item 3.5 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted correspondence between the Interim Chief Executive and the PSNI regarding the provision of temporary workers. by Grafton. NOTED.

Members referred to the payments which had been made by PSNI as a result of the early termination of the managed services contract and it was:-

AGREED:

That PSNI should be asked to provide further information in relation to the payments.

5.2 Future NIPB Accommodation (Item 3.6 of minutes refers)

This issue was dealt with at item 10.7.

5.3 PSNI Charging for Vetting Services (Item 4.2.1 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted a letter dated 14 August 2015 from Assistant Chief Constable, Human Resources Department regarding PSNI charging for vetting services. NOTED.

5.4 End Year Report on the Implementation of the PSNI People Strategy (Item 6.5 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted information regarding the management of sickness absence in PSNI. NOTED.

In response to a question from the Chairperson, Officials explained that an update would be provided by PSNI on a six monthly basis in relation to the PSNI People Strategy.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That PSNI should be asked to provide further information on how PSNI will ensure that such groups as those Injured in the line of duty are managed fairly and proportionately within the recently updated absence management procedures.

5.5 Questions for the Chief Constable (Item 7.2 of minutes refers)

Members noted a response from the PSNI regarding why the PSNI representative had differed in his decision from that of the Independent Assessor in relation to reviewing vetting decisions.

NOTED.

6. COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND FIRST DAY BRIEF

Members noted a Committee Programme of Work for 2015/16. NOTED.

Officials presented information to the Committee which outlined the roles and responsibilities of the Resources Committee.

During discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That a presentation should be given to the Committee on the Injury on Duty process and an update on the recommendations in the Scoffield Report.

7. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The Committee considered a proposed schedule of meetings of the Resources Committee for the period October 2015 – June 2016.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

To approve the dates of the Committee meetings for the period October 2015 – June 2016.

8. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

8.1 Northern Ireland Community Safety College

Members noted a letter dated 17 August 2015 from the Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding the business case approval process for the Northern Ireland Community Safety College. NOTED.

The Committee discussed the revised business case for the College and proposed that the Resources Committee should consider the business case instead of the Board Business Co-Ordination Group and that subject to Members availability, the meeting scheduled for 22 October 2015 should be put back until 29 October 2015 at which stage the business case should be available.

8.2 Correspondence

The Committee noted the following:-

- Letter dated 31 July 2015 from PSNI regarding a PSNI Ex-Constable.
- Letter dated 29 July 2015 from PSNI regarding Student Officer Recruitment – Physical Competency Assessment.

- Letter dated 29 June 2015 from Northern Ireland Ambulance Service regarding public order protection clothing.

NOTED.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That a further update should be obtained from Northern Ireland Ambulance Service regarding the issue of public order protection clothing at public order situations.

8.3 NCA Sub Group

The Committee considered a paper regarding the reconstitution of the Performance Committee NCA Sub Group.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a new NCA Sub-Group should be constituted consisting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Performance and Resources Committees.

8.4 PSNI Estate Strategy

Officials briefed the Committee about a meeting which had taken place recently regarding the PSNI Estate Strategy.

During discussion it was:-

AGREED:

- That PSNI should be asked to provide justification for station disposals in the Estate Strategy.
- To write to PCSPs in respect of their role in engaging with PSNI Commanders regarding station closure/disposals.

- To write to PSNI seeking information on the impact of the closure of Willowfield PSNI station in relation to the Barnardo's initiative.

9 ITEMS FOR DECISION

9.1 Assisted Removals

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of a request from PSNI regarding Assisted Removals for five Police Officers, and to sought a decision in relation to the request.

It was:-

AGREED:

To ratify the Interim Chief Executive's decision at the 31 July 2015 Tripartite meeting to a final extension of leased accommodation to 31 March 2016.

9.2 Secondment Request – Bahrain

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members consideration of a section 8 request for the secondment of a PSNI Officer to Bahrain with the purpose of sharing UK experience and best practice - to support Youth Justice Reform through improved legislation, detention and rehabilitation.

During discussion a Member referred to an Amnesty International Report which highlighted abuse which had taken place in Bahrain.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

- To defer a decision on the request for the secondment of a PSNI Officer to Bahrain and request NI CO/PAB to give a presentation to the Committee in relation to secondments.
- To seek further information from PSNI on the strategic approach to secondments.

10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10.1 PSNI Report on Expenditure to August 2015

The Chairperson welcomed Mr David Best, Director of Finance and Support Services and Mr Mark McNaughten, Head of Finance to the meeting.

	Actual £k	Budget £k	Variance £k
Staff	219,134	224,691	5,557
Non Staff costs	49,147	55,746	6,599
Receipts	(3,916)	(2,490)	1,426
Cash Payment of Provisions	12,161	13,203	1,042
Loss on Disposal	(268)	0	268
Hearing Loss	3,583	5,000	1,417
Ringfenced Depreciation and Diminution	15,383	15,147	34
TOTAL RESOURCE DEL	295,224	311,567	16,343

NOTED.

The Director of Finance and Support Services updated the Committee on the PSNI Budget including an underspend of £16m at the end of September 2015 and scenario planning of 5% and 10% cuts in 2016/17.

During discussion Members raised various issues with PSNI, including:-

- Contingency Planning

- The underspend of £16m by PSNI, which would be set aside to cover in year budget cuts.
- The Voluntary Exit Scheme for PSNI Staff.
- Management of PSNI overtime.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives from PSNI for attending the meeting and they left.

10.2 Policing Board Report on Expenditure to August 2015

The Committee noted the Board's Management Accounts to August 2015.

NOTED.

10.3 NIPB June 2015 Monitoring

The Committee considered a paper in relation to the Board's In-Year monitoring round submission to the DOJ and the current position provided by the DOJ in response to the submission.

The Interim Chief Executive briefed the Committee on a meeting of Accounting Officers which had taken place on 23 September 2015 and DOJ scenario contingency planning.

10.4 NIPB Report on Approval of Expenditure exceeding delegated limits

The Committee noted a paper in relation to the Board's approval of expenditure exceeding delegated limits. NOTED.

The Committee:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the requests to exceed delegated limits in respect of legal fees in relation to a judicial review by the Chief Constable against a decision of a Police Appeals Tribunal and the use of consultants in a grievance process.

With regard to a request for approval for expenditure exceeding delegated limits in respect of legal fees for defending a Fair Employment Tribunal claim it was:-

AGREED:

That additional information should be obtained in relation to defending the Fair Employment Tribunal case.

10.5 Progress Report on the PSNI Procurement Strategy

The Committee noted a progress report from the PSNI on the implementation of the PSNI Procurement Strategy. NOTED.

10.6 Progress Report on the implementation of the PSNI Estate Strategy

The Committee noted a progress report from the PSNI on the implementation of the PSNI Estate Strategy. NOTED.

10.7 Process for developing the NIPB Accommodation Business Case

The Committee noted the process for developing a Business Case for NIPB accommodation, the Business Case and the current situation with regard to future NIPB accommodation. NOTED.

Members noted that Officials were currently engaged in a scoping exercise led by DOJ Officials to examine the viability of establishing a DOJ Headquarters site for all DOJ core functions and Arms-Length bodies, including NIPB. NOTED.

During discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That DOJ Officials should be invited to give a presentation to the Committee on the proposed relocation of all DOJ Headquarter Bodies into a single site by 2020.

10.8 Board Organisation and Staffing

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with the current Board Organisation and Staffing. NOTED.

During discussion it was suggested that 2 – 3 Members should be nominated from the Committee to work with the new Chief Executive to initiate an Organisational and Staffing Review.

11. INFORMATION PAPERS

The Committee noted the following papers:-

11.1 PSNI Secondment and Assistance Policy

11.2 PSNI Recruitment Campaign 1 – Final Equality Analysis of Each Stage

11.3 NIPB Year End Financial Statements, Letter of Representation and Report to those charged with Governance

NOTED.

During discussion it was:-

AGREED:

- That information should be obtained from PSNI in relation to the low uptake for Recruitment Campaign 1 from persons from a Nationalist/LGBT background.
- To obtain the Equality Commission's view on the issue following discussions with ACC Human Resources.

12 QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

That a question should be drafted to ask the Chief Constable in relation to the PSNI physical competence assessment.

13. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communication issues.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for discussion.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee would be advised of the date of the next meeting.

(Meeting closed at 1.20pm.

BOARD SUPPORT

September 2015

Chairperson