

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2007 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER,
BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Barry Gilligan (Chairman)
Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Brendan Duddy
(1) Mrs Arlene Foster
Ms Deirdre Mac Bride
Mrs Pauline McCabe
Ms Dawn Purvis
Mr Suneil Sharma

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Dr Debbie Donnelly, Deputy Chief Executive
Mr David Jackson, Director of Community
Engagement
6 Officials

(1) Item number 6 – 18

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Dolores Kelly. NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2007**

It was:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Human Rights
Committee held on 11 January 2007 be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON

3.1 Community Engagement Strategy Initial KPIs (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a letter had been sent to DPPs stating that the feedback from Age Concern was that some meetings should be held during the day to facilitate older people attending. NOTED.

3.2 Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) – Entering Places Of Detention (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Service Monitoring Manager updated Members on her meeting with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) on 29 January 2007. She advised Members that there should be no overlap with the duties of NIHRC and Custody Visitors but that this would be kept under review.

NIHRC would be diverting their attention to other detention centres and in particular, centres dealing with immigration. NOTED.

3.3 Regulation 20 Reports (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered the PSNI response to its query regarding Regulation 20 Reports on CS Spray. NOTED.

3.4 Possible Reconstitution Of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with a copy of the Board's letter to the NIO and their response regarding the possible reconstitution of DPPs. NOTED.

3.5 Future Events For Members To Be Aware Of And Indicate If They Wish To Attend (Item 4.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that they had been issued with the following:-

- a paper detailing future events and;
- a paper summarising Custody Visitor events.

NOTED.

3.6 District Policing Partnership (DDP) Effectiveness – Key Performance Indicators (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that there would be a workshop following the Committee meeting. NOTED.

The Committee also considered a paper which provided Members with a breakdown of costs for consultants used by the Board during the last 12 month period. NOTED.

3.7 Draft Policing (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a paper would be presented to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee at its next meeting.

Members were also advised that a question had been put to the Chief Constable at the February 2007 Board meeting. NOTED.

3.8 Board Support For Policing With The Community Awards 2007 (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the Board had endorsed the PSNI proposal for £15,000 to support the Policing with the Community awards and £2,000 to sponsor a specific Community Police Officer of the Year award.

The Chairman advised the Committee that Members were required to participate in the selection process. NOTED.

3.9 Option For Board To Support PSNI In “Raid Control” Crime Initiative (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that this item had been referred to the February 2007 Board meeting for a decision. NOTED.

3.10 Removal Of A Custody Visitor From The Scheme (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a letter had been sent to the Custody Visitor concerned, detailing the two stage process and the reason for consideration of their removal from the scheme.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that Deirdre Mac Bride and Dawn Purvis would be the two independent Board Members who would apply the policy;
- That the Service Monitoring Manager would meet with the two Members to determine the appropriate course of action on Wednesday 14 February 2007.

3.11 Presentation – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transsexual (LGBT) – Policing With The Community (Item 18.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a letter had been sent to PSNI requesting details of penalties in respect of convictions for Hate Crime. Members were advised that officials were awaiting a reply. NOTED.

Members were advised that a presentation on Hate Crime would be given to the Board at a later date. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman highlighted and commented on the following engagements which he had undertaken on behalf of the Committee.

District Policing Partnership (DPP) events

- DPP Northern Region Community Engagement Information Evening – Comfort Hotel – Antrim – 16 January 2007;
- Consultation on the future of DPPs under RPA – Rosspark Hotel – Kells - 25 January 2007;
- DPP briefing on CORE and LINKS – City Hotel – Armagh – 30 January 2007;

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Events

- Custody Visitor Induction Training – City Hotel – Armagh – 3 February 2007.

Community Engagement Events

- Meeting with the Business Community – Ramada Hotel – 24 January 2007;
- Meeting with Young People – Ulster Folk & Transport Museum – 3 February 2007.

5. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BOARD'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of the progress made in implementing the Community Engagement Strategy since the last report in January 2007.

The Director of Community Engagement briefed the Committee on the following areas:-

- Business Community;
- Youth Sector;
- Ethnic Minority;
- Gay and Lesbian Groups;
- Women's Groups; and
- Older People

It was:-

AGREED:

- that the notes provided by each of the Working Groups at the meeting with the Business Community on 24 January 2007 be sent to all Committee Members;
- officials to follow up with PSNI senior officers as to how issues of crime prevention in relation to the business community can be taken forward on a day to day basis.
- the Director of Community Engagement to check the "UN Convention Report on the Rights of the Child" to identify if there are any issues relevant to the Board.

6. ANALYSIS OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (NIAC) REPORT ON THE DRAFT PROTOCOL ON COMMUNITY BASED RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (CBRJ)

The Committee considered a paper which updated Members as to the Protocol on Community Based Restorative Justice (CBRJ) which has been published by the NIO.

The Chairman advised Members that events have progressed rapidly and that the published Report had highlighted issues and concerns that the Board had raised.

The Chairman advised Members that this was a complex area and that a lot of work had gone into this and thanked the Director of Community Engagement for his work in this area.

7. CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTORATE REPORT ON HATE CRIME IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Committee considered a paper which updated Members on the report published by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate entitled "Hate Crime in Northern Ireland".

It was:-

AGREED:

To write to PSNI asking how they were responding to the recommendations contained in the report.

8. POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY – OVERSIGHT ARRANGEMENTS – APPOINTMENT OF AN ADVISOR

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members' approval to proceed to appoint an Advisor to the Policing Board who would be responsible for Oversight Arrangements regarding Policing with the Community.

Following discussions, it was:-

AGREED:

Board officials would identify a suitable Advisor and report back to the Chairman of the Community and Human Rights Committee to sign off.

9. CUSTODY VISITORS STATISTICS – OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2006

The Committee NOTED a paper which provided Members with a statistical summary of custody visits carried out during October to December 2006.

It was:-

AGREED:

To write to PSNI regarding the delays in Custody Visitors having access to custody suites and seek an explanation of steps being taken to improve the situation.

10. POLICE IDENTIFICATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Committee considered a paper advising Members of progress made towards the implementation by PSNI of the recommendations in the report completed by the Police Ombudsman's Office. NOTED.

**11. POLICE OMBUDSMAN REPORT – CASE OF ATTEMPTED MURDER –
23 OCTOBER 2002**

The Committee considered a paper advising Members on the implementation within PSNI of recommendations made by the Police Ombudsman in the above case. NOTED.

**12. HONORARIUM TO A LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR
WORK CARRIED OUT IN SETTING UP THE DPP**

The Committee considered a paper which informed Members of a letter of appeal against the Committee's decision not to approve the request for payment of 75% of the honorarium to the Chief Executive. Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That a monetary award was not approved but officials would consider other methods of recognition.

13. VALUE FOR MONEY REVIEW – CSPS/DPPs

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with a summary of the NIO Value for Money Review of CSPS/DPPs undertaken as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That officials would write to the NIO to:

- (1) Register the disappointment of Board Members with the Review;
- (2) State that Members do not accept the outcome; and
- (3) Invite NIO to the Committee for a presentation.

14. INFORMATION PAPERS

The Committee considered a paper which informed Members of current information papers and publications.

It was:-

AGREED:

In relation to the statistics papers, to write to PSNI seeking clarification in relation to the dates of offences committed and numbers.

15. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

There were no matters arising.

16. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 Injuries Caused By Attenuated Energy Projectile: The Latest Less Lethal Option

The Committee received a copy of a Policing Board Press Release which was issued in response to an inquiry on a research article entitled Injuries caused by the Attenuated Energy Projectile (AEP) press cutting “injuries caused by AEPs”.

It was:-

AGREED:

To write to PSNI to seek his views on the article.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be arranged at a later date.

(Meeting closed at 12:40pm).

Secretariat

February 2007

Chairman