

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 APRIL 2007 AT 1:30PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER,  
BELFAST**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS:**

Mr Barry Gilligan (Chairman)  
Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr Brendan Duddy  
(1) Mrs Arlene Foster  
Mrs Dolores Kelly  
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  
4 Officials

(1) Item number 3.8 to close

**1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received for the meeting. NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2007**

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee held on 8 February 2007 be agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2007**

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

The Committee was advised that the Service Monitoring Manager and 2 independent Board Members agreed that the Custody Visitor should be removed, this decision was subsequently appealed reviewed by the Chairman of the Community and Human Rights Committee and the decision to remove the Custody Visitor was upheld.  
NOTED.

**3.2 Progress Report On the Implementation Of The Board's Community Engagement Strategy** (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 7.

**3.3 Criminal Justice Inspectorate Report On Hate Crime In Northern Ireland** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a substantive paper would be brought to the Committee at a later date. NOTED.

**3.4 Policing With The Community – Oversight Arrangements – Appointment Of An Advisor** (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a meeting had taken place with the Committee Chairman, Board officials and Mr Bob Lunney from the Office of the Oversight Commissioner.

Mr Lunney has indicated that he would be interested in working on this project.

The Committee was advised that details of the contract would be brought to the next Committee meeting. NOTED.

**3.5 Custody Visitors Statistics – October – December 2006** (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 6.

**3.6 Honorarium To A Local Government Chief Executive For Work Carried Out In Setting Up DPPs** (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the Board had considered this issue at its meeting on 22 March 2007 and agreed to pay an honorarium to a council chief executive. NOTED.

**3.7 Value For Money Review – CSPs / DPPs** (Item 13 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a letter had been issued to the NIO on 7 March 2007 and that a response was still awaited. NOTED.

**3.8 Information Papers** (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that amendments to the Criminal Convictions and Suspended Officers Statistics Papers requested by Members had been agreed between PSNI and NIPB officials and that a revised paper would be presented at the next Committee meeting. NOTED

**3.9 Any Other Business – Injuries Caused By Attenuating Energy Projectile: The Latest Less Lethal Option** (Item 17.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that ACC Toner had attended a meeting with the author of the report, 'Injuries Caused by Attenuating Energy Projectile: The latest less lethal option', Dr Maguire. An update on this meeting will be presented to Members when available. NOTED.

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

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

##### **4.1 Attacks On Current And Former Members Of Strabane DPP**

The Chairman advised the Committee that these attacks are to be thoroughly condemned and that he will write to the DPP Members expressing the Committee's condemnation and support.

##### **4.2 Meetings**

The Chairman advised the Committee of the following meetings being held:

- Wednesday, 18 April 2007, 4:30pm – 7:30pm – Ramada Hotel – Training for New Independent Community Observers (ICOs);
- Wednesday, 13 June 2007, 6:00pm – Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh – Presentation event for ICOs leaving the Scheme;
- Wednesday, 30 May 2007, 6:00pm – 8:00pm – City Hotel, Armagh – Custody Visitors Annual General Meeting;
- Tuesday, 24 April 2007, 11:00am – 12noon – St Kevin's Hall, Belfast – Launch of Message in a Bottle Scheme.

Any Members wishing to attend should contact Secretariat.

##### **4.3 NIO Correspondence Regarding Appropriate Adults**

The Committee received a copy of a letter from the NIO regarding the set up of an "appropriate adult" scheme which requested representation from NIPB on a working group.

It was:

**AGREED:**

That officials would write to the NIO advising that the Board would take part in the working group to discuss the set up of an 'Appropriate adult' scheme.

**4.4 Attendance of Human Rights Groups at Community and Human Rights Committee meetings**

It was:

**AGREED:**

That the Committee will meet annually with CAJ and other Human Rights organisations who are interested in meeting with this Committee.

**5. PSNI RECRUITMENT COMPETITION 12 – THE WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY OBSERVERS (ICOs)**

The Committee considered a paper which summarised the feedback from the ICOs on their work on PSNI Recruitment Campaign No 12 and the recent civilian campaigns.

NOTED.

**6. CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME – JANUARY – MARCH 2007 STATISTICS**

The Committee considered a paper which summarised the key points of the information contained in the statistical summary of Custody Visitors. Members expressed concern at the number of delays Custody Visitors were encountering.

It was:

**AGREED:**

- that a question would be drafted for the Chief Constable at the May Board meeting regarding the delays Custody Visitors have experienced;
- The Service Monitoring Manager would provide full details of these delays to PSNI Head of Operational Policy & Support and request a detailed explanation of the reasons for these delays.

## **7. PROGRESS REPORT ON 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.

The Chairman acknowledged the work that the Director of Community Engagement and his team had put into engaging with the groups as detailed in the Strategy.

Members NOTED the steady progress in all areas and in particular, were asked to note that the Coalition on Sexual Orientation (COSO) would be engaging with the Board.

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That officials would consider Specialist roles for Committee members when reviewing the Community Engagement Strategy.

## **8. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE**

The Committee considered a paper which provided details on five members of a DPP, all of whom had missed two public and two private meetings within a six month period. In four of the cases it was agreed there would be no further action would be taken or a review. In case number five, it was:-

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the case of the DPP member be referred to the Board for consideration of removal from office.

**9. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
WEEK EVENT 3 MAY 2007**

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members to approve a DPP event as part of Community Relations Week.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

In principle to hold the event but Members requested that officials consider:

- The date;
- The venue;
- The costs.

**10. BUSINESS CASE FOR RECONSTITUTION OF DISTRICT POLICING  
PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) (ST ANDREW'S AGREEMENT) ACT 2006**

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members to recommend the approach as detailed in the attached Business Case for DPP reconstitution and to make a bid to the NIO for funding to cover the associated costs.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

To approve the submission of the Business Case to the NIO and to bid for the projected costs for DPP reconstitution.

## **11. REGULATION 20 REPORTS**

### **11.1 Report Into The Discharge Of Firearm At Howard Street, Belfast - 24 November 2002**

The Committee considered the content of a report which had been received from OPONI under Section 55 (4) of the Police (NI) Act 1998 regarding the investigation into the discharge of a firearm at Howard Street, Belfast on 24 November 2002. **NOTED**

### **11.2 Report Into The Discharge Of Firearm At Kilrea Town Centre - 12 July 2004**

The Committee considered the content of a report which had been received from OPONI under Section 55 (4) of the Police (NI) Act 1998 regarding the investigation into the discharge of a firearm at Kilrea Town Centre on 12 July 2004. **NOTED**

### **11.3 Report Into The Discharge Of CS Incapacitant Spray, Cross Street, Enniskillen – 15 August 2004**

The Committee considered the content of a report which had been received from OPONI under Section 55 (4) of the Police (NI) Act 1998 regarding the investigation into the discharge of CS Incapacitant Spray at Cross Street, Enniskillen on 15 August 2004. **NOTED**

### **11.4 Report Into The Discharge Of CS Incapacitant Spray Strand Road, Londonderry – 11 September 2004**

The Committee considered the content of a report which had been received from OPONI under Section 55 (4) of the Police (NI) Act 1998 regarding the investigation into the discharge of CS Incapacitant Spray at Strand Road, Londonderry on 11 September 2004. **NOTED**

**11.5 Report Into The Discharge Of CS Incapacitant Spray At Custody Suite,  
Coleraine Police Station, 28 October 2004**

The Committee considered the content of a report which had been received from OPONI under Section 55 (4) of the Police (NI) Act 1998 regarding the investigation into the discharge of CS Incapacitant Spray at Coleraine Police Station on 28 October 2004.

**NOTED**

**11.6 Report Into The Discharge Of CS Incapacitant Spray In Newtownabbey –  
28 November 2004**

The Committee considered the content of a report which had been received from OPONI under Section 55 (4) of the Police (NI) Act 1998 regarding the investigation into the discharge of CS Incapacitant Spray at Newtownabbey on 28 November 2004.

**NOTED**

**11.7 Report Into The Discharge Of CS Incapacitant Spray At Antrim Road,  
Belfast – 4 December 2004**

The Committee considered the content of a report which had been received from OPONI under Section 55 (4) of the Police (NI) Act 1998 regarding the investigation into the discharge of CS Incapacitant Spray at Antrim Road, Belfast on 4 December 2004.

**NOTED**

**11.8 Report Into The Discharge Of CS Incapacitant Spray at Cliftonville Court,  
Belfast – 22 December 2004**

The Committee considered the content of a report which had been received from OPONI under Section 55 (4) of the Police (NI) Act 1998 regarding the investigation into the discharge of CS Incapacitant Spray at Cliftonville Court, Belfast on 22 December 2004. **NOTED**

**12. INFORMATION PAPERS**

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

**13. SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS 2007**

The Committee was advised that a revised list of presentations would be presented at the next Committee meeting. NOTED.

**14. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That a question, relating to the delays experienced by Custody Visitors in gaining access to Custody Suites be put to the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting.

**15. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

There were no matters arising.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 14 June 2007 in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed at 3:10pm).

**Secretariat**

**April 2007**

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**Chairman**