

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 APRIL 2006 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice-Chairman)
- (1) Mr Alex Attwood
- Mr Brendan Duddy
- (1) Mr Willie Hay
- (1) Mrs Pauline McCabe
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- Mr Brian Rea
- Mr Trevor Ringland
- Ms Dawn Purvis
- (1) Mrs Dolores Kelly
- (2) Ms Deirdre Mac Bride

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
- Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Affairs)
- Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)
- Three Officials

- (1) Part item number 2 to close
- (2) Item number 3.6 to close

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Ian Paisley Jnr and Mr Suneil Sharma. NOTED.

2. FIRST DAY BRIEF

The Chief Executive referred Members to a briefing paper which set out the role of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee. Officials briefed

Members on the role of the Committee, highlighting the main responsibilities which included:-

- Oversight and co-ordination of the Board's work in relation to Police Service policies and strategies.
- The development, implementation and monitoring of the Annual Policing Plan.
- Oversight of PSNI implementation of changes to policing, particularly arising from reports from HMIC, the Oversight Commissioner and others.
- The appointment of Senior Police Service personnel.
- Legal and financial support in cases of actions by police officers, and the arrangement of Police Appeals Tribunals.
- Dealing with the referral of matters from the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.
- Oversight of policing performance, particularly in respect of non-DCU functions.
- Oversight of PSNI External Communications Strategy.
- The Committee's role and responsibilities in respect of the Policing Board.

During the briefing, Members raised a number of issues and it was,

AGREED:

- That officials would identify meetings / conferences / events of particular significance, to assist new Members in deciding on competing priorities.
- Further consideration would be given by the Committee to the best method of following up on recurring themes in oversight or inspection reports received by the Board.

- Officials would, in consultation with Chairs of Committees, work towards further streamlining business to progress work on strategic issues, minimise the number of presentations and the volume of paper.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Board should meet with the Oversight Commissioner at an early opportunity.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

3.1 Proposed Conference On Policing

It was:

RECOMMENDED:

- That the Board should take the lead in organising a conference on policing in early 2007.

AGREED:

- That the objectives, content and product of the conference be clearly identified.
- That as an initial step, the Chief Constable should be invited to discuss the purpose, format and content of such a conference with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

3.2 Study Visit To England And The Netherlands Regarding Community Policing

The Chief Executive reminded Members that it had been proposed that a study visit to England and the Netherlands be arranged during week commencing

22 May 2006. Following consultation, it was clear that an insufficient cross-section of Members would be available during this week due to other priorities, including the recall of the Northern Ireland Assembly. He suggested that the Committee might wish to consider postponing the event to later in the year.

It was:

RESOLVED:

- That the Board postpone the Study Visit to England and the Netherlands until Autumn 2006.
- That dates during week commencing 22 May 2006 should be identified to facilitate any Members requesting further briefing or training in connection with the Board's work.

3.3 Dates Of Committee Meetings: May – December 2006

Members considered a paper which provided a programme of meetings for the Committee during the period May to December 2006. Following discussion, it was:

AGREED:

That the Committee should meet on the following dates:

Thursday, 18 May 2006

Thursday, 15 June 2006

Thursday, 20 July 2006

Thursday, 21 September 2006

Thursday, 19 October 2006

Thursday, 16 November 2006

Thursday, 21 December 2006

3.4 Questions For The Chief Constable

Officials explained the process for Board Members to put questions to the Chief Constable.

It was:

AGREED:

That officials should continue to draft questions for Members in relation to the quarterly performance monitoring statistics provided by PSNI prior to Board meetings at which PSNI performance is to be considered.

There were no questions arising for the meeting for the May 2006 Board meeting.

3.5 New Police College – Funding

The Chairman advised Members that he had written to the Prime Minister requesting a meeting between the Board and the Prime Minister regarding the funding for the new PSNI college.

A copy of a response to the letter to the Prime Minister from Mr Shaun Woodward MP, Minister of State, dated 18 April 2006 was tabled. In his letter, the Minister offered the Board the opportunity to meet him to discuss the funding for the college.

The Committee discussed funding for the capital costs of the project and recent correspondence received from NIO concerning funding availability.

It was:

RESOLVED:

- That the Chairman should write to the Prime Minister, summarising the issues raised by Members during discussion, and reaffirming the need for a meeting at Prime Ministerial level.
- That the Chairman should respond to the Minister's letter of 18 April 2006.

3.6 Numbering System – Board Agendas And Minutes

The Chief Executive reminded Members that at a previous training event, a Member suggested that the numbering system for Board agendas and minutes should be revised to reflect the establishment of a newly reconstituted Board.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Board revise the headings of Board and Committee agendas and minutes by deleting the number of the meeting.

3.7 ACPO / APA Conference, London – 24 – 25 May 2006

The Chief Executive advised Members about the ACPO / APA conference being held in London during 24 and 25 May 2006 and advised any Members interested in attending to contact Secretariat. NOTED.

4. ORGANISING THE BUSINESS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered a paper containing proposals for a methodology for organising the business of the Committee over the coming months.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Committee would receive appropriate background briefing or information on issues as they arise at meetings in the coming months, rather than holding separate briefing or information sessions.

5. SHOOTING INCIDENT AT BALLYNAHINCH

A Member referred to the recent incident at a PSNI checkpoint in Ballynahinch which resulted in the death of Steven Colwell and sought details of the contact made between PSNI and the Board following the shooting.

The Chief Executive outlined the contact that had occurred between PSNI Senior Command, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and officials following the shooting.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Board should be provided with a copy of the PSNI guidelines governing the use of firearms.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 18 May 2006 at 10:00am.

(Meeting closed 11:50am).

Secretariat

May 2006

Chairman