

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2006 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
Mr Alex Attwood
(1) Mr Joe Byrne
(1) Ms Deirdre Mac Bride
Mr Brian Rea
Mr Trevor Ringland

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)
(3) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
(3) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
(2) Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)
3 Officials

- (1) Item number 6 only
- (2) Part item number 9, 10 – 12
- (3) Except item number 6

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Brendan Duddy, Mr Willie Hay, Mrs Pauline McCabe and Mrs Rosaleen Moore. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF A CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2006

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting held on 22 November 2006 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 Community Based Restorative Justice (CBRJ) (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Community Engagement confirmed that following a meeting of the Board's Sub Group on Community Based Restorative Justice on 13 December 2006, the text had been agreed and a letter had been drafted for the Chairman's signature, forwarding the Board's submission to the NIO on the Draft Protocol on Community Based Restorative Justice. NOTED.

3.2 New Police College (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman informed the Committee that he had made informal contact with the Tanaiste's Office in Dublin and discussed funding for the new police college with Mr Sean Aylward, General Secretary of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. Mr Aylward had advised that the Government of the Republic of Ireland did not intend to make a capital contribution to the new police college. He indicated that, when the new college opens, further discussion on co-operation between the PSNI and An Garda Siochana in respect of training could take place. NOTED.

3.3 PSNI Human Resources Project Team (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Deputy Chief Executive informed the Committee that arrangements were being finalised for a temporary member of the Board's Press Office to participate in the PSNI LINKS Project Team for 2 days per week, up to a maximum of 24 days. NOTED.

3.4 St Andrew's Agreement (Items 4.5 Of Minutes Refers)

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman had undertaken the following engagement on behalf of the Board:-

- Meeting with Mirwaiz Mohammad Umar Farooq, Chairman All Parties Hurriyat Conference – Belfast – 14 December 2006.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

There were no matters arising. NOTED.

4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman advised that the following correspondence had been received:-

- Letter from NIO Central Management Unit – 27 November 2006. NOTED.

4.4 News Releases

There were no matters arising. NOTED.

4.5 Chief Constable's Performance And Development Review

The Chairman informed Members that along with the Vice Chairman, he had conducted the first in-year review of the Chief Constable's performance under the Performance

and Development Review System on 31 October 2006. The Chairman outlined the areas of discussion. NOTED.

The Chairman advised Members that he had invited each of the Committee Chairpersons to submit any comments, relevant to their Committee's remit in advance of the in-year review and that no comments were submitted.

The next in-year review had been scheduled for February 2007 and Committee Chairpersons were invited to submit any comments, by mid January 2007. NOTED.

4.6 Meeting Of British/Irish Intergovernmental Conference

The Chairman highlighted the paragraphs relating to policing contained in a joint communiqué issued following the British/Irish Intergovernmental Conference held in London on 12 December 2006. NOTED.

Members discussed the Board's role, responsibilities and its participation in the Organised Crime Stakeholder Group. Members expressed concern that the future role of the Board could be diminished given ongoing developments concerning the transfer of responsibility for national security, the establishment of SOCA and the increasing membership of the Organised Crime Stakeholder Group. Members suggested that the Board could, in the future, find its responsibilities reduced to holding the Chief Constable to account for only volume crime.

During discussion of the introduction of new legislation to assist in the prosecution of sexual offenders in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, officials undertook to obtain further information from the Chief Constable on other legislative measures that could significantly increase cross-border co-operation and success in the investigation of serious crimes.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Making Sure Crime Doesn't Pay

The Chief Executive informed Members about a consultation document that had been received containing proposals for a new measure to prevent convicted criminals profiting from published accounts of their crimes. NOTED.

5.2 IACP European Policing Conference

The Chief Executive informed Members about an IACP European Executive Policing Conference which was being arranged for 22 – 24 April 2007 in Amsterdam.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board should register its interest in sending representatives to the conference.

5.3 Securing The Future – Event 4

The Probation Board for Northern Ireland had issued an invitation to the 4th in a series of events, looking at the implications of devolution for criminal justice in Northern Ireland, on 16 January 2007. Any Members requiring further information were asked to contact Secretariat. NOTED.

6. COMPLETE 1ST DRAFT OF THE 2007/10 POLICING PLAN

The Chairman referred Members to the draft Policing Plan provided by PSNI and reminded the Committee that much of the information contained in the draft had yet to be updated.

The Committee considered the draft Plan and suggested a number of amendments and identified issues to be clarified. Board officials noted Members' comments.

The Chairman advised that Board officials were due to meet with PSNI representatives later in the day to discuss further revisions to the draft. NOTED.

The Chairman advised Members that a further draft of the Policing Plan 2007/10 would be brought to the January 2007 Committee meeting for consideration. NOTED.

7. CO-ORDINATION OF PSNI INSPECTIONS

The Committee considered a paper in relation to the inspection activity, relating to PSNI, planned by major inspection bodies in 2007/2008. Included in the paper was a letter from HMIC, Mr Ken Williams formally asking the Board for its views on his planned inspection areas for 2007/2008.

A Member proposed an amendment to the terminology used in a key area, and subject to consideration of this, it was:-

RESOLVED:

- That the Committee was content with the HMIC planned inspection areas for 2007/2008.
- That the Committee was content with the planned inspection areas proposed by major inspection bodies.
- That the Committee proposed that Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) consider the issue of Business Crime in future plans.

**8. REPORT BY THE DELAY ACTION TEAM FOLLOWING THE CJINI REPORT
“AVOIDABLE DELAY”**

The Committee considered a summary of a report by the Delay Action Team which followed a recent CJINI report entitled “Avoidable Delay”. NOTED.

The Committee emphasised the need to ensure that in setting delay targets, the Criminal Justice Board took account of the Policing Plan targets, to ensure that targets and performance monitoring standards are consistent.

It was:-

AGREED:

That PSNI should be invited to provide a written response to the recommendations contained in the report by the Delay Action Team.

**9. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING BOARD
MEETINGS**

The Committee considered a paper, tabled at the meeting, concerning the arrangements necessary to take questions from the public at Board meetings in public.

Officials explained that the paper continued to be “work in progress” and sought the advice of Members concerning the focus of the proposals.

The Committee discussed recent Board meetings in public, the proposals contained in the document and:

It was:-

AGREED:

That the paper should be reviewed by officials in the light of discussion and a further paper should be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

10. PSNI POLICY ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY POLICE OFFICERS

The Chairman referred Members to a draft PSNI General Order on political activity by PSNI officers.

The Committee was reminded that in September 2005, ACC Criminal Justice presented a draft policy on political activity to the Committee. Members had sought clarification concerning a number of issues and PSNI had subsequently received agreement from NIO to amend PSNI regulations in line with changes introduced in England and Wales. Members were advised that the necessary amendments in legislation were likely to take place in April 2007.

The Committee considered the draft Order and it was:-

AGREED:

That legal advice should be sought concerning the content of the draft General Order and that the matter should be brought back to the Committee for further consideration, along with a copy of the PSNI/ACPO Guidelines.

11. 18TH REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMISSIONER

The Committee considered a paper which summarised the most recent report from the Office of the Oversight Commissioner, Report 18, published on 5 December 2006.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chairman should write to the Chief Constable to ask for comment on the recommendations and associated performance indicators that remained outstanding.

The Chief Executive informed Members that officials from the Board, PSNI and NIO were currently considering the allocation of responsibility for monitoring the completion of outstanding recommendations contained in the report of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland. NOTED.

12. UPDATE ON PSNI HMIC BASELINE ASSESSMENT 2005

The Committee considered a paper which provided an update on the key issues highlighted in the PSNI HMIC Baseline Assessment 2005.

The attention of Members was drawn to the 7 key areas in the 2005 report and that:-

- HMIC had identified a number of areas for improvement which were already being addressed by PSNI and monitored by the Board.
- Some of the areas for improvement fall between 2 Committees of the Board.
- The exercise highlighted the importance of Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee in taking an holistic view of the HMIC Baseline Assessment and in identifying a number of critical areas and tasking the relevant Committee to monitor these.

NOTED.

13. MATTERS TO BE RAISED WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

A Member indicated his intention to raise the issue of security at Parliament Buildings, Stormont. NOTED.

A Member sought further information on the PSNI response to a question at the December Board meeting concerning shift patterns. Officials undertook provide further information and, if necessary, to liaise with the Member in drafting a further question on the issue.

14. INFORMATION PAPERS

The Committee noted the following information paper:-

14.1 Chief Officers 2006 Pay Award

The Committee noted a paper which gave details of:-

- The 2006 Chief Officers' Pay Award.
- The review by the Home Office in preparation for the 2007 pay round.
- The review of the police negotiating machinery.

Members discussed the current salary package for the Chief Constable of the PSNI.

The Committee noted that the Home Office had released a statement on behalf of the Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety announcing a review of pay arrangements for police officers by Sir Clive Booth and expressed concern that the Board had not been included in the consultation process.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials should pursue an opportunity for the Board to make input to the review process.

15. PRESS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 Handling Strategy For Publication Of Police Ombudsman Report

A Member referred to previous discussion concerning the handling of the publication of the Police Ombudsman's report into the investigation of the death of Mr Raymond McCord Jnr and sought an update regarding the Board's preparations.

Officials confirmed that an Implementation Plan had been developed, following the Board's approval of proposals for handling matters that related to the Board's responsibilities. A further paper will be brought to the January 2007 meeting of the Committee for consideration. NOTED.

Members discussed a number of issues relating to the handling strategy.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Wednesday, 17 January 2007 at 09:00am.

(Meeting closed 12:20pm).

Secretariat
December 2006

Chairman