

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- (1) Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- (1) Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
- Mr Alex Attwood
- (3) Mr Joe Byrne
- (1) Mr Fred Cobain
- Mr Willie Hay
- (2) Mrs Pauline McCabe
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- Mr Brian Rea
- Mr Trevor Ringland

PSNI IN ATTENDANCE:

- (5) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)
- (4) Ms Sinead McSweeney (Director of Media & PR)
- (5) Chief Inspector, Operational Support

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (6) Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
- (7) Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)
- (7) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Affairs)
- Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
- (7) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- (7) 3 Officials

- (1) Except item numbers 15 & 16
- (2) Item number 3.2 to close
- (3) Item numbers 15 & 16 only
- (4) Item number 15 only
- (5) Item number 16 only
- (6) Except Item 22
- (7) Except items 20 to 22

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Duddy. NOTED.

The Chairman informed Members that he had written to Mr Colin Cramphorn, Chief Constable of the West Yorkshire Police following his announcement that he was retiring from the post due to ill health. The Chairman referred to the contribution that Mr Cramphorn had made to policing in Northern Ireland.

2. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 JULY 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 18 July 2006 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

There were no further developments relating to Community Based Restorative Justice since the Board meeting on 6 September 2006. NOTED.

In response to a question from a Member regarding proposals for the oversight of Community Based Restorative Justice Schemes, the Director of Community Affairs undertook to circulate the relevant correspondence received from NIO to all Committee Members.

3.2 New Police College Funding (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive updated Members about discussion on the new Police College at the Resources & Improvement Committee meeting held on 15 September 2006. The next meeting of the Police College Project Board had been arranged for 13 October 2006. NOTED.

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

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that a second trawl notice issued to Board staff to test interest in a secondment to the PSNI Human Resources Project Team had not produced any interest and officials were now exploring the use of an external resource to represent the Board on the Project Team. NOTED.

3.4 Allocation Of Special Responsibility Allowance (Item 3.4 & 10 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials confirmed that a letter had been forwarded to NIO to request that the remuneration package available to independent Members of the Board be reviewed. NOTED.

The Chairman expressed surprise and disappointment that details of the allowances had been published in the media, prior to the formal request being made to NIO to review the allowance.

3.5 Omagh DPP (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

A meeting between the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Omagh Support and Self Help Group had been arranged for 28 September 2006. NOTED.

3.6 Blakey, Crompton And Stevens Reports (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

A Member referred to the progress report which the Chairman had received on the remaining 5 outstanding recommendations from the Blakey, Crompton and Stevens Reports and requested a copy of the progress report. The Chairman confirmed that

correspondence regarding this matter would be circulated to all Board Members for information. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman had undertaken the following engagements:-

- Breakfast Launch on New Regime For Handling Of Suspicious Financial Activity - Hilton Hotel – 7 September 2006.
- Briefing on the implications of the Review of Public Administration for District Policing Partnerships – Culloden Hotel – 12 September 2006.

The Vice-Chairman informed Members that the Community and Human Rights Committee would be considering a paper on the implications of the Review for DPPs at their next meeting on 21 September 2006. Members discussed the need for the Board to prepare its plans as soon as possible and to ensure that the Board took the lead in respect of planning for DPPs. The Chairman of the Human Resources Committee indicated that the Committee would be considering the PSNI staffing proposals with regard to the implications of the RPA on PSNI staffing structure.

- Police Federation Conference – La Mon House Hotel – 13 September 2006.
- Meeting with Parliamentary Under Secretary of State of State – 13 September 2006.

The Chief Executive summarised the discussion that had taken place at a meeting between Mr Paul Goggins, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive on 13 September 2006. Issues discussed included policing developments, the new police training college, future funding for policing, Value For Money Review of police numbers, and the role of the Board following the completion of the Oversight Commissioner's term of office. NOTED.

4.2 Publications

There were no publications matters arising. NOTED.

4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman highlighted the following correspondence that he had received:-

- Letter from ACC Crime Operations dated 12 September 2006 detailing preconditions to be met before the transfer of national security from PSNI to the Security Services.

A Member requested that a copy of the letter be circulated to all Committee Members. The Chairman advised that there was a security classification on the document and that he would take further advice about its release.

NOTED.

4.4 News Releases

There were no matters arising. NOTED.

4.5 Questions To The Chief Constable

The Committee considered a paper relating to the handling of questions to the Chief Constable at the monthly Board meetings. NOTED.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Developing Strategic Priorities – Initial Consideration Of Workshop Discussions

The Chief Executive informed Members that a paper based on the discussions at the Members' Workshop on Developing Strategy Priorities, held on 31 August 2006 would be brought to the next Board meeting. NOTED.

Following discussion at the 6 September 2006 Board meeting regarding the benefits of the Board initiating discussions with opinion formers in London and Dublin, the Chief Executive sought the views of the Committee on the key messages that should be delivered.

It was:

AGREED:

- Officials should talk with political Members and Independent Members regarding the key messages that should be delivered to opinion formers in Dublin/London.
- That it would be beneficial if visits took place before the end of November 2006.

A Member referred to an imminent visit by the New York Comptrollers Office to Northern Ireland and suggested that it would be useful for contact to be made with the group.

5.2 Chief Officers Bonus Scheme

This matter was dealt with under item 20.

5.3 European Study Visit

The Chief Executive reminded Members that due to other priorities a planned study visit in May / June 2006 to the Netherlands had been deferred and sought the views of the Committee on the appropriateness of reconsidering the plans.

Members discussed the merits of a study visit to a European location that had or was in the process of developing initiatives helpful to policing in Northern Ireland.

It was:

AGREED:

That officials should develop a paper for a future meeting setting out proposals for a study visit in Europe.

5.4 Alternative Approaches Towards The Management Of Conflict – Phase 5 Report

The Chief Executive drew attention to the publication on 18 September 2006 of the Phase 5 Report of the NIO led Steering Group on Alternative Approaches towards the Management of Conflict. He advised that copies of the report would be circulated to all Board Members. NOTED.

5.5 Application To Secretary Of State For Compensation For Miscarriages Of Justice

The Chief Executive informed Members that an individual had written to the Secretary of State applying for compensation for a miscarriage of justice. NOTED.

5.6 Criminal Justice Board

The Chief Executive updated the Committee on a meeting that the Chairman and he had held with senior NIO officials concerning the Policing Board's relationship with the Criminal Justice Board. NOTED.

A Member requested that a copy of the Terms of Reference of the Criminal Justice Board be circulated to the Committee.

5.7 Downpatrick District Policing Partnership

The Chief Executive outlined the circumstances surrounding the disruption of a meeting of Downpatrick DPP following a suspicious device being left near the venue for the meeting. NOTED.

5.8 Conference

The Chief Executive informed Members about a conference entitled “Police Reform: The 20/20 Vision” being organised by the John Grieve Centre for Policing and Community Safety on 31 October 2006 in Chesham. Any Members wishing to attend should contact the Secretariat for further details. NOTED.

6. PSNI CONSULTATION ON THE POLICY DIRECTIVE ON PROVISION OF ARMED POLICE CLOSE PROTECTION

The Committee considered a draft policy directive received from the PSNI concerning the Provision of Armed Police Close Protection to individuals within Northern Ireland. The Chairman highlighted that this would be a new written policy directive, where previously none existed.

Members considered the documentation. Following discussion, it was:

AGREED:

- That officials should seek clarification on the use of the term ‘moderate’ in the document.

RESOLVED:

- That subject to the above clarification the Committee welcomed the draft policy directive.

7. INDEPENDENT RESEARCH INTO RECENT CRIME TRENDS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Committee considered a paper containing information about a proposed jointly funded independent research project with PSNI into recent crime trends in Northern Ireland.

Members discussed the research specification, the tender scoring criteria and the cost of the project.

It was:

AGREED:

That consideration should be given to broadening the specification relating to evidence of increasing confidence in the reporting of crime among communities who traditionally did not report crimes to the police.

It was:

RESOLVED:

That subject to the broadening of the research as discussed, that the independent research into recent crime trends in Northern Ireland be undertaken.

8. RECORDED CRIME STATISTICS – 2005/06 – NORTHERN IRELAND COMPARISONS WITH ENGLAND AND WALES

The Committee considered a paper regarding a PSNI summary of 2005/06 recorded crime statistics and clearances in Northern Ireland and the comparisons with Home Office recorded crime statistics for England and Wales. The Committee noted that:

- The rate of overall crime recorded per 1,000 population was lower in Northern Ireland than in England and Wales.
- The rate of all offence classes recorded per 1,000 population was also lower in Northern Ireland than in England and Wales, apart from the sexual offences class which was the same in both jurisdictions.

The Committee considered the issue of a press release highlighting the comparisons presented in the summary report.

It was:

AGREED:

That a factual press release should be issued concerning the recorded crime statistics for 2005/06.

**9. CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION NORTHERN IRELAND (CJINI) REPORT
“CONNECTING CRIMINAL JUSTICE”**

The Committee considered a paper which summarised the issues contained in the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) Report entitled: “Connecting Criminal Justice”, published in July 2006. NOTED.

It was:

AGREED:

The Board should write to ACC Criminal Justice drawing his attention to the recommendations contained in the report that related to PSNI and seek his views on how the PSNI plans to progress the recommendations contained in the report.

10. HANDLING STRATEGY FOR PUBLICATION OF POLICE OMBUDSMAN REPORT

The Committee considered a paper which presented a number of options for consideration in the handling of the publication of the Police Ombudsman's report into the investigation into the murder of Mr Raymond McCord Jnr.

It was:

AGREED:

- That the Chairman should contact the Police Ombudsman to obtain information, in advance of the publication of the report, regarding any issues in the report that related to the Policing Board's responsibilities.
- That a number of points raised during discussion should be added to the options paper.
- That a revised options paper should be presented to the October Board meeting for consideration.

11. MEASURING THE PERFORMANCE OF COMMITTEES

The Committee considered a paper regarding the criteria to be used to measure the performance of Board Committees. The Chief Executive reminded Members of a number of recommendations relating to the Board's Committee structure made in the Internal Audit Review of Corporate Governance and Risk Assurance (Committee Structure) carried out in August 2005. He asked Members to consider the criteria to base the assessment to measure the performance of Committees.

Members discussed the assessment criteria, particularly the measurement of the Board's accountability role and the appropriateness of a direct linkage between the performance of the PSNI and the Board's performance.

It was:

AGREED:

That a revised paper, reflecting the additional points of discussion should be brought to the October 2006 Board meeting for consideration.

12. RELOCATION OF ACC

The Committee considered a paper in relation to the payment of tax incurred for relocation benefits received by an ACC during his permanent transition to Northern Ireland.

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the Board should use its discretion to reimburse the tax payable in respect of all relocation benefits that the ACC receives above his personal tax threshold.

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

Two Members advised the Chairman of questions they intended to put in writing for consideration by the Chief Constable at the next meeting.

14. INFORMATION PAPERS

14.1 CJINI Report On Avoiding Delay

The Chief Executive referred Members to correspondence received from Assistant Chief Constable Criminal Justice concerning how the PSNI plans to address the recommendations contained in the CJINI Report on Avoiding Delay. NOTED.

14.2 Letter From PSNI Regarding Mosquito Device

The Chief Executive highlighted correspondence received from ACC Criminal Justice regarding the PSNI decision not to acquire the Mosquito Device. NOTED.

15. BRIEFING BY PSNI ON PSNI COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The Chairman welcomed the Director of Media and Public Relations for PSNI to the meeting.

The Director gave a short presentation describing the key functions and activities of the PSNI Media and Public Relations Department. She highlighted the ongoing work to develop the public relations aspect of departmental work, the revision of the Communication Strategy and the restructuring that was currently ongoing within the department. The Director updated Members on the work being undertaken in developing forthcoming crime prevention campaigns.

The Committee discussed a wide variety of issues with the Director including:-

- The criteria for the Chief Constable to decline giving interviews to the media.
- The briefing role of the department in projects such as CORE and the Review of Public Administration.
- Internal communication regarding key issues e.g. Police Community Safety Officers.
- Communications at DCU command level and the training given to spokespersons at local level.
- The perceptions of police officers of the response by the department concerning negative media coverage of the PSNI.

- The response by the department to major policing issues raised in the press.
- The criteria for apologies issued by the Chief Constable.
- The implications for the department in dealing with cases being investigated by the Historic Inquiries Team.

The Chairman thanked the Director for her contribution and she left the meeting.

16. PRESENTATION BY PSNI ON THE HMIC FIREARMS INSPECTION AND THE PSNI IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Chief Constable welcomed ACC Operational Support and his colleague to the meeting.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Committee had expressed a keen interest in monitoring progress on the implementation of the recommendations flowing from the HMIC review of the police use of firearms and less lethal weapons.

Chief Inspector, Operational Support detailed the 26 recommendations made by HMIC in his report and the PSNI response to date. A copy of the slides used in the presentation is attached at Appendix 'A'. Following discussion, Members sought further information about a number of issues including:-

- The use of armed response vehicles and the access of armed response officers to transport via helicopters.
- The location of armed response units.
- The impact of the recommendations on training.
- The impact of the recommendations on the carrying of personal protection weapons by PSNI officers.
- The appearance of armed response vehicles.
- Future planning and new facilities for firearms refresher training.

The Chairman thanked the PSNI officers for their contribution and they left the meeting.

17. PRESS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed the date of the next meeting for 19 October 2006 at 10:00am.

(Officials, except Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services, left the meeting).

20. CHIEF CONSTABLE – PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW OBJECTIVES 2005 – 2006

The Committee considered a confidential paper in relation to the Chief Constable's Performance and Development Review 2005/06 and resolved the outcome of the assessment under these systems.

A confidential note of this discussion is attached at Appendix 'B'.

21. CHIEF CONSTABLE – PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW OBJECTIVES 2006 – 2007

The Committee considered a confidential paper in relation to the Chief Constable's Performance and Development Review 2006/07 and resolved the draft objectives for finalisation with the Chief Constable and HMIC.

A confidential note of this discussion is attached at Appendix 'B'.

22. CHIEF EXECUTIVE – PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT – REVIEW OF OBJECTIVES 2005 – 2006

The Chief Executive left the meeting.

The Committee considered a confidential paper regarding the Chief Executive's performance against the agreed objectives for 2005/06 and resolved the outcome of the assessment under the systems.

A confidential note of this discussion is attached at Appendix 'B'.

(Meeting closed 1.30pm)

Secretariat
September 2006

Chairman