

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 JUNE 2007 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

- (1) Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson (Vice Chairman)
- Mr Barry Gilligan
- Ms Dolores Kelly
- (2) Mr Basil McCrea
- (3) Ms Mary McKee
- Mr Alex Maskey
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- Mr Brian Rea
- (4) Mr Trevor Ringland
- (3) Mr David Simpson
- (5) Mr Gearóid Ó hEára

#### **POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (5) D/Superintendent Essie Adair

#### **REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (5) Mr Paul Goggins MP (Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland)
- (5) Mr Alan McQuillan (Assets Recovery Agency)
- (5) Mr Gordon Millar (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- (5) Mr John Whiting (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- (5) Mr Bob Lauder (Serious Organised Crime Agency)
- (5) Mr Mike Little (Serious Organised Crime Agency)
- (5) Two Officials, Northern Ireland Office
- (6) Independent Adviser

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
- Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
- Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- (5) Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)
- 5 Board Officials

- (1) From part of item 2 to item 10**
- (2) Item number 1 to item 10**
- (3) Item number 1 to item part of item 16 and item 17 to close**
- (4) Part of item 2 to close**
- (5) Item 16 only**
- (6) Item 21.2 only**

The Chairman welcomed Members to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee of the reconstituted Board.

### **1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Daithí McKay. NOTED.

### **2. FIRST DAY BRIEFING**

The Committee noted the content of a briefing paper which outlined details of the role and main responsibilities of the Committee of the reconstituted Board. NOTED.

### **3. MINUTES OF A CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 APRIL 2007**

The Committee noted the content of the minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2007. NOTED.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 APRIL 2007**

**4.1 Presentation – 20:20 Vision: A Value For Money Establishment Of The PSNI Post 2010/11** (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive informed Members that a response was awaited from the NIO regarding the status of the report on the Value for Money Establishment Review of the PSNI Post 2010/11. NOTED.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That a copy of the report should be issued to new Members of the Committee.

**4.2 Cross Border Co-Operation** (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that the Chief Constable had informed the Board that the PSNI and An Garda Siochana's ability to have mutual access to each others databases in the areas of Drivers Licensing, Vehicle Licensing and Vehicle Insurance, could increase cross-border co-operation in the area of Operational Roads Policing. A letter had been sent to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State seeking his views on the need for legislative change in this area. A response was awaited. NOTED.

**4.3 Report By The Delay Action Team Following The CJINI Report “Avoidable Delay”** (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

In response to a query from a Member it was:-

**AGREED:**

That Officials would provide the Member with a copy of the paper, which had been tabled at the last meeting regarding responses from the NIO and Public

Prosecution Service (PPS) to a recommendation in the Delay Action Team report relating to delays in the prosecution of offenders caused by the relatively early charging of offenders by police in Northern Ireland.

#### **4.4 Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) Report “Hate Crime In Northern Ireland” (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee noted the content of a response from Assistant Chief Constable, Criminal Justice regarding the PSNI’s plans to address the recommendations contained in the CJINI report on “Hate Crime in Northern Ireland”. NOTED.

A Member raised an issue regarding the definition of Sectarian Crime and undertook to draft a question regarding the matter to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting.

#### **4.5 Employment Tribunal Case Against The Policing Board (Item 18.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Director of Corporate Services outlined details of advice which had been given by the Crown Solicitor regarding a Fair Employment Tribunal case against the Board and undertook to keep Members informed of developments. NOTED.

## **5. CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Engagements**

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

- address by Lord Patten – Queen’s University, Belfast – 11 June 2007;
- event to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Forensic Science – Hillsborough – 11 June 2007;
- Changing Behaviour Conference – City Hall, Belfast – 19 June 2007.

## **5.2 Publications**

The Chairman advised the Committee that the following publications had been placed in the library:-

- Change and Devolution of Criminal Justice and Policing in Northern Ireland: International Lessons – CAJ – January 2006;
- Youth Justice Agency – Corporate Plan 2007 – 2010 and Business Plan – 2007 – 2008 – June 2007.

## **5.3 Correspondence**

The Chairman outlined details of a letter which had been received from a solicitor regarding an ongoing investigation by the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

A progress report on the investigation would be obtained for Members and a response provided to the solicitor. NOTED.

## **5.4 News Releases**

There were no news releases to draw to the attention of the Committee.

In response to a query from a Member, the Committee discussed the issuing of news releases by the Board.

The Vice-Chairman proposed that the Chairman of the Board and Vice-Chairman of the Board should be given latitude to make statements on behalf of the Board, using reasoned judgment and then be accountable to the Board for their decisions. Mr Donaldson confirmed that this related to all press statements. The proposal was seconded by Mr Rea and was carried by 7 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions.

## **5.5 Briefings On Crime Operations Issues**

The Committee considered a paper tabled at the meeting regarding briefings to the Board on Crime Operation issues.

It was:-

### **RECOMMENDED:**

That the mechanism set out in the paper regarding briefings on Crime Operations issues should continue for a further period of 2 years, when a review could be carried out.

A Member dissented from the Committee's decision as he had not had an opportunity to fully consider the tabled paper.

## **6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Chief Officers' Incremental Progression**

The Chief Executive advised Members of the Deputy Chief Constable's performance assessments for 2006/2007 in respect of 3 PSNI Chief Officers. The officers would be moved to the next point on the incremental scale for Assistant Chief Constables.

NOTED.

### **6.2 ACC Secondment To Strategic Command Course**

The Chief Executive advised the Committee, that the application by Assistant Chief Constable Rural Region for the position of Syndicate Director for the forthcoming Strategic Command Course had been successful, and referred to the cover arrangements during her absence. NOTED.

The Chief Executive informed the Committee, that the Director of PSNI Analytical Services would be seconded to the New Zealand Police Service, initially for a 6 month period. NOTED.

### **6.3 Research Support For Political Members Of The Board**

The Vice Chairman asked the Committee to consider requesting the NIO to provide research support for political Members of the Board.

Following discussion it was:-

#### **AGREED:**

- that the Chief Executive should discuss the proposal with the leaders of the political parties on the Board;
- a paper should be provided for consideration at the next Board meeting regarding the provision of research support.

### **6.4 Members Induction And Training Programme**

The Chief Executive sought the Committee's views on the most suitable arrangements for further induction and training events for Members including, visits to PSNI facilities/Departments/District Command Units.

The Committee discussed further training and visits for Members and it was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That a Training Needs Analysis should be undertaken to establish the training required by Members.

### **6.5 Conferences**

The Committee noted information on the following conferences:-

- Community Cohesion Annual Conference – 11 July 2007 – London;
- ACPO Excellence in Policing Conference – 17 – 18 September 2007 – University of Warwick

NOTED.

Any Member wishing to attend the conferences was asked to contact Secretariat.

## **6.6 Police Appeals Tribunal**

The Director of Corporate Services outlined details of a request which had been received from an ex police officer for an extension to the time limit which he had to submit an appeal against his dismissal.

The Committee considered the request in accordance with RUC (Appeals) Regulations and it was:-

### **RESOLVED:**

That an extension to the time limit should be granted for 10 days with effect from 22 June 2007.

## **6.7 Board Staff**

The Chief Executive advised the Committee about a number of staffing matters and that cover arrangements were under consideration to fill the positions. NOTED.

## **7. SETTING THE AGENDA**

The Committee considered a paper regarding “setting the agenda” for the Board’s term of office.

The Chairman referred to the outstanding recommendations from the Oversight Commissioner’s Legacy Report and a report of the International Policing Conference

which would be published in the future. He advised the Committee that the Board would wish to take account of these reports as it sets the agenda for its term of office.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- that Members should reflect on the Oversight Commissioner's Legacy Report and the International Policing Conference Report and provide the Chief Executive with views in relation to setting the agenda;
- a further paper encompassing Members views should be brought to the Corporate Plan Away Day for consideration (see item 8 below).

**8. NIPB CORPORATE PLAN – 2008 – 2011**

The Committee considered a paper regarding the proposed process for the development of the Board's 3 year Corporate Plan for the period 2008/2011.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- that an Away Day for Board Members and Officials should be held on 30 August 2007 to reflect on the previous Corporate Plan and agree key priorities and objectives for the 2008/2011 Corporate Plan;
- that initial consultation should be undertaken with key stakeholders on the 2008/2011 Corporate Plan in advance of the Away Day for consideration.

It was:-

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the proposed process outlined in the paper, for the development of the 2008/2011 Corporate Plan be approved.

## **9. PROCESS FOR OVERSEEING IMPLEMENTATION OF OUTSTANDING PATTEN RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee considered a paper regarding a process for overseeing implementation of outstanding Patten recommendations.

Following discussion:-

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

- that the recommendations should be taken to the relevant Board Committee for prioritisation and consideration regarding how they wish to monitor the outstanding recommendations;
- a composite paper should be brought to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee with a view to publishing a progress report annually.

## **10. POLICING BOARD MEETINGS IN PUBLIC – QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING BOARD MEETINGS/LOCATION AND TIMING OF MEETINGS**

The Committee considered a paper regarding options for taking questions from the public at Board meetings and the location and timings of Board meetings.

Following discussion:-

It was:-

### **RECOMMENDED:**

- that Option 4 outlined in the paper, with a slight variation, should be adopted by the Board for handling questions from the public;
- that meetings outside Belfast, should be held at a location in the East of the province in Autumn 2007 and in Newry in February 2008;
- that 1 or 2 evening meetings should be held during the next year. Private sessions starting at 4pm and the public session at 7.00pm;
- that the new arrangements should be introduced on a pilot basis and reviewed after a period of time.

## **11. RESEARCH INTO CRIMES AGAINST BUSINESSES IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Committee considered a paper regarding proposed research into crimes against businesses in Northern Ireland.

It was:-

### **RESOLVED:**

That the research specification into crimes against the businesses in Northern Ireland should be progressed.

## **12. ALLOCATION OF SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE**

The Committee considered a paper regarding the allocation of the Special Responsibility Allowance available at the discretion of the Board.

It was:-

### **RECOMMENDED:**

That the allocation of the Special Responsibility Allowance be as follows:-

<b>Member</b>	<b>Chair £</b>	<b>Vice-Chair £</b>	<b>Other £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
T Ringland	3,750	-	-	3,750
B Rea	-	3,000	-	3,000
R Moore	-	3,000	-	3,000
G Ó hEára	-	-	1,600	1,600
D Rose	-	-	1,600	1,600
M McKee	-	3,000	-	3,000
S Sharma	-	-	1,600	1,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>17,550</b>

Members noted that the allowance would be paid from 31 May 2007, the date that Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs were appointed. NOTED.

### **13. TERMINOLOGY FOR OFFICE BEARERS**

The Committee considered a paper regarding gender neutral terminology for Office Bearers of the Board.

Following discussion, it was:-

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

- that the Board should move to adopt the gender neutral terminology of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson when referring to that office;
- that where the individual appointed to such office is female, then the incumbent could ask to be referred to as “chair” or “chairperson” as they deem acceptable and this title would be used in the minutes of the meeting;
- that where the individual appointed to such office is male, then the incumbent can ask to be referred to as chairman, chair or chairperson as

they deem acceptable and this title would be used in the minutes of the meeting.

#### **14. DATES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS – JULY TO DECEMBER 2007**

The Committee considered a paper which provided a programme of meetings for the Committee during the period July to December 2007.

Following discussion, it was:-

##### **RECOMMENDED:**

That the Committee should meet on the following dates:-

Thursday	19 July 2007
Thursday	20 September 2007
Wednesday	17 October 2007
Thursday	15 November 2007
Thursday	13 December 2007

#### **15. INFORMATION PAPERS**

The Committee noted the following papers:-

##### **15.1 PSNI Response To The Recommendations Contained in The CJINI Report “Handling Volume Crime And The Use Of Police Bail”**

NOTED.

##### **15.2 Policy Screening Consultation Report**

NOTED.

### **15.3 Measuring The Performance Of Committees 2006 - 2007**

NOTED.

### **15.4 Letter From Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland Regarding Inspection Of Roads Policing**

NOTED.

### **15.5 Feedback From Breakout Groups At Induction Day Of New Board – 30 May 2007**

NOTED.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That the feedback from the Breakout Groups should be edited.

### **15.6 Glossary Of Terms and Abbreviations**

NOTED.

### **15.7 Northern Ireland Office News Release Regarding Ministers Announcing News Standards For Bringing Cases To Court**

NOTED.

## **16. BRIEFING ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANISED CRIME TASK FORCE**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Paul Goggins MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and representatives from Assets Recovery Agency, Her Majesty's

Revenue and Customs, Serious Organised Crime Agency, PSNI and NIO to the meeting.

Mr Goggins briefed the Committee on the work and successes of the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) during the last year and outlined details of the priorities for the year ahead.

The Committee and the representatives discussed a number of issues arising from the presentation including:-

- the Government's commitment to tackling organised crime;
- the planned merger of the Assets Recovery Agency with the Serious Organised Crime Agency;
- the problems of Immigration and Human Trafficking;
- tackling the drugs supply chain;
- the introduction of further legislation to combat organised crime;
- a communication strategy for the Organised Crime Task Force;
- illegal dumping of waste;
- fuel smuggling and the tax collection process on fuel.

Following the discussion, the Chairman thanked the Minister and the representatives for attending and they left the meeting.

## **17. MATTERS TO BE RAISED WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING**

Apart from the matter at item 4.4, there were no other matters to be raised with the Chief Constable.

## **18. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES**

It was:-

### **RESOLVED:**

To issue a news release in respect of the briefing on the work of the Organised Crime Task Force.

The Committee noted that:-

- The Board's Annual Report would be laid before Parliament on 25 July 2007.
- The results of the April 2007 Omnibus Survey would be published before the July Board meeting.

NOTED.

## **19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was conducted.

## **20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee was arranged for 19 July 2007. The Chairman advised Members, that ACC Crime Operations would brief the Committee on this date at 12 noon on the transfer of national security. All Members of the Board would be invited to attend.

## **21. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS – CHIEF OFFICERS**

### **21.1 Report On Chief Officers Remuneration**

The Committee considered a confidential paper in relation to a report regarding Chief Officers' remuneration. A confidential note of this discussion is attached at Appendix 'A'.

### **21.2 Conduct Of Senior Officers Regulations 2000**

The Committee considered a confidential paper regarding a complaint against a Senior Police Officer. A confidential note of this discussion is attached at Appendix 'A'.

(Meeting closed 1:10pm).

**Secretariat**

**June 2007**

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**Chairman**