

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 14 JUNE 2007 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS:**

Mr Alex Maskey (Chair)  
Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chair)  
Ms Martina Anderson  
Mr Tom Buchanan  
Mr Leslie Cree  
(1) Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson  
Ms Mary McKee  
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára  
Mr Suneil Sharma

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Dr Debbie Donnelly, Deputy Chief  
Executive  
9 Board Officials

(1) Item numbers 1 - 9

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr David Rose. NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2007**

The Committee NOTED the minutes of the previous meeting on 17 April 2007.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF COMMUNITY AND HUMAN  
RIGHTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 APRIL 2007**

### **3.1 Progress Report On Implementation Of The Board's Community Engagement Strategy (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Deputy Chief Executive advised the Committee, that consideration would be given to specialised roles for Members when the Strategy is being reviewed.

### **3.2 District Policing Partnership (DPP) Members Attendance (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that the case of a Derry DPP member had been referred to the Board for removal from office.

### **3.3 District Policing Partnership (DPP) Community Relations Week Event 3 May 2007 (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that the date, venue and cost of the Community Relations Week event had been re-examined.

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

### **4.1 Engagements**

The Chairman highlighted and commented on the following engagements:-

- launch of School Watch – 12 June 2007 – Vice Chairman of the Board attended this event;
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans-Sexual (LGBT) – Engagement Event – 12 June 2007 – Derry/Londonderry and 14 June 2007 – Belfast;
- A Taste of Northern Ireland – 23 June 2007 – Belfast City Hall
- District Policing Partnership (DPP) briefing on Call Management and Policing with the Community – 19 June 2007 – Kells, 21 June 2007 – Cookstown.

## 4.2 Schedule Of Meetings

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That the following dates with alternating times be set for future Community Engagement Committee meetings:-

Thursday	16 August 2007	2:00pm
Thursday	27 September 2007	5:00pm
Thursday	25 October 2007	2:00pm
Thursday	22 November 2007	5:00pm
Thursday	03 January 2008	2:00pm

## 4.3 Board Members Support For District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)

The Committee was advised that Members agreement was sought on a recommendation to the Board for Board Members support of DPPs.

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That this recommendation would be brought to the Board.

## 4.4 Correspondence From Newtownabbey, Carrickfergus And Castlereagh District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)

The Deputy Chief Executive updated Members on correspondence received from a number of DPPs

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That Members would be updated on the issues at its next meeting.

**5. FIRST DAY BRIEFING**

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with details of the role of the Community Engagement Committee.

Members were asked to NOTE the role of the Community Engagement Committee and were asked to AGREE the change in function of the Committee and to bring forward a recommendation to the Board for a change to Standing orders to reflect the change in functions.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- To note the role of Community Engagement Committee
- The addition of a specific role in relation to the development and implementation of the Board's Community Engagement Strategy
- that the Independent Community Observer (ICO) Scheme would become the responsibility of the Human Resources Committee;
- that the Independent Custody Visitors Scheme would become the responsibility of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee;
- that a recommendation would be brought to the Board for an amendment to be made to the Standing Orders to reflect the changes of the Committee's functions.

It was also:-

**AGREED:**

That a full list of all groups with whom the Board had engaged should be brought to the next Community Engagement Committee meeting.

## **6. 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.

Board officials provided a verbal update on the work with the various sector reference groups that the Board agreed to work with.

Following discussion, it was:-

### **AGREED:**

- That officials consider methods for measuring the impact of Community Engagement work to establish a baseline assessment.
- That the Community Engagement Committee be provided with information on the PSNI Community Engagement Strategy.
- That the definition of minority ethnic be changed to reflect minority ethnics and language groups.

## **7. RECONSTITUTION OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)**

The Committee was presented with a paper which provided an illustrative analysis of the application of the Board's decision to use the D'Hondt method of proportionality to inform its view on which DPPs meet the political condition as set out in schedule 8 of the St Andrews Agreement Act 2006. Members were advised that this information should be treated as confidential and it was:-

**AGREED:**

That this will be discussed further by the Committee at its next meeting.

**8. POLICY FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)**

The Committee considered a paper in which Members were asked to note the policy the Board will follow in appointing independent members to the District Policing Partnerships (DPPs). NOTED.

**9. APPOINTMENT OF IMPARTIAL ASSESSOR TO OVERSEE THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)**

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members to RESOLVE to appoint Impartial Observers and an Independent Complaints Monitor to oversee the reconstitution of the District Policing Partnerships (DPPs).

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To appoint 4 individuals with relevant experience from the OCPA list of accredited individuals to undertake the role of Impartial Assessor and Independent Complaints Monitor.

**10. TENDER SPECIFICATION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS TO ASSIST WITH THE ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN AND IDENTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT AS INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)**

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with details of a tender specification for the appointment of consultants for the advertising and selection process to assist the Board in appointing independent members to District Policing Partnerships (DPPs).

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To approve the approach to the tender specification, and to approve the commencement of the procurement process.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the Committee be provided with comparative costs from other public appointment processes of this scale.

**11. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR THE RECONSTITUTION OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)**

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with information on the approach to the Board's communication activity planned in support of the reconstitution of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs). NOTED.

**12. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) ATTENDANCE – FERMANAGH DPP**

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of a Fermanagh DPP member's absence from meetings within a 6 month period.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That no further action should be taken at this time, and that the member's attendance be kept under review.

**13. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) ATTENDANCE –  
NEWTOWNABBAY DPP**

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of a Newtownabbey DPP member's absence from meetings within a 6 month period.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That no further action should be taken at this time, and that the member's attendance be kept under review.

**14. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) ATTENDANCE – ARMAGH DPP**

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of an Armagh DPP member's absence from meetings within a 6 month period.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the Chairman of the Committee write to the member to advise that their attendance was unsatisfactory and that it would be reviewed in 3 month's time.

**15. HATE CRIME – PSNI RESPONSE AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTORATE REPORT**

The Committee was asked to NOTE the PSNI response to recommendations contained in the Criminal Justice Inspectorate’s report on Hate Crime.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That PSNI should be invited to a future Community Engagement Committee meeting to give a briefing on Hate Crime.

**16. SENTENCING FOR PERSONS CONVICTED OF HATE CRIME**

The Committee noted the information in relation to sentencing for persons convicted of Hate Crime. Members were unhappy with the sentences imposed in these cases, but are willing to discuss with PSNI at a future briefing. NOTED.

**17. SCHEDULE OF BRIEFINGS/REPORTS 2007**

The Committee NOTED the schedules of briefing/reports for 2007.

**18. INFORMATION PAPERS**

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

**19. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That a question would be draft and put to the Chief Constable on Hate Crime.

**20. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES**

There were no matters arising.

**21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no matters arising.

**22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 16 August 2007 at 2:00pm.

(Meeting closed 3:55pm).

**Secretariat**

**June 2007**

---

**Chairman**