

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 1 JUNE 2006 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
- (2) Mr Alex Attwood
- Mr Joe Byrne
- Mr Brendan Duddy
- Ms Arlene Foster
- Mr Willie Hay
- (1) Mrs Dolores Kelly
- Mr Danny Kennedy
- Ms Deirdre Mac Bride
- Mrs Pauline McCabe
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- Ms Dawn Purvis
- Mr Brian Rea
- Mr Trevor Ringland
- (3) Mr Suneil Sharma
- Mr Peter Weir

PSNI IN ATTENDANCE:

- (4) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (4) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (4) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice)
- (4) Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Rural Region)
- (4) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)
- (4) Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Crime Operations)
- (4) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)
- (4) Ms Sinead McSweeney (Director of Media and PR)
- (4) Mr David Best (Director of Finance and Support Services)
- (4) Deputy Director, Human Resources
- (4) Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

- (1) Item number 4 to close
- (2) Except item numbers 4 to 7.2
- (3) Except item numbers 7.3, 9, 10, 12 & 13
- (4) Item number 11 only

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

There were no apologies received for the meeting.

The Chairman advised that he and the Chief Executive had attended the funeral of a serving officer, Constable Jonathan Campbell on 30 May 2006. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 3 May 2006

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 3 May 2006 be approved.

2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 3 May 2006

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Board meeting in public held on 3 May 2006 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

3.1 Community Restorative Justice (Item 3.1.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Community Affairs advised Members that the meeting between the Board and the Criminal Justice Minister concerning Draft Guidelines for Community Based Restorative Justice schemes, which had been deferred by the Minister, has now been rearranged for 19 June 2006. All Members were invited to attend the meeting. NOTED.

A number of Members enquired about the date of a public announcement being made by NIO in relation to the result of its consultation on the Draft Guidelines. The Board was advised that no public announcement was expected from the Minister prior to the 19 June meeting. NOTED.

3.2 New Police Training College (Item 3.1.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman and Chief Executive updated Members on progress regarding Board correspondence to the Prime Minister seeking a meeting in relation to additional funding for the new Police Training College.

The Chairman informed Members that he had received a letter from the Minister of State, stating that he was happy to support the request of the Board for a meeting with the Prime Minister. The Minister of State requested a meeting with the Board to discuss the funding for the college and a provisional date of 20 June 2006 had been arranged by officials.

It was:

AGREED:

That Members of the Board's Police College Working Group should meet with the Minister of State to discuss the funding of the new Police Training College.

3.3 TASER (Item 3.1.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Policy reminded Members of the background to the PSNI informing the Board of its intention to introduce TASER, on a trial basis, for use by a limited number of officers in specified circumstances. The Chairman had written to the Chief Constable requesting details of the progress made by PSNI in undertaking an Equality Screening Exercise regarding the introduction of TASER and the associated consultation with those on the Section 75 list in the PSNI Equality Scheme. The Director advised Members that the Board's Human Rights Advisors were progressing their review of the matter and that a paper would be brought to the relevant Committee in due course. NOTED.

The Human Rights Commission has organised a seminar on TASER on 5 June 2006 and the Chairman of the Board's Community and Human Rights Committee will attend as an observer. NOTED.

3.4. Organised Crime Task Force Stakeholder Group (Item 4.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive informed Members that to date no substantive reply had been received from NIO regarding the Board's request for increased representation on the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) and its Stakeholder Group. NOTED.

The Chairman advised that he had written to the Clerk of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee on 15 May 2006, setting out the Board's views on the unsatisfactory level of its representation on the OCTF and asking the Committee to consider the Board's comments during its inquiry into organised crime in Northern Ireland. NOTED.

The Chairman of the OCTF Operational Strategy Group had accepted the Board's invitation to brief the Board on the work of the Group. The briefing will be delivered to the Corporate Policy Committee meeting on 18 July 2006 and all Board Members will be invited to attend the presentation. NOTED.

The Chairman of the OCTF wrote to the Board on 25 May 2006 inviting representatives from the Board to join him for the launch of the OCTF Annual Report and Threat Assessment on 19 June 2006 at the Balmoral Hall, Belfast.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Board should be represented by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Mr Alex Attwood and Mr Ian Paisley Jnr.

3.5 Independent Monitoring Commission (Items 3.4 and 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised Members that he had received a letter from the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC) accepting the Board's invitation to meet Members prior to publication of the next IMC report on paramilitarism. Officials were currently agreeing a mutually suitable date at the end of August or end of September 2006. Members were asked to inform the Chief Executive of any issues that should be placed on the agenda. NOTED.

3.6 Questions To The Chief Constable (Item 13 Of Minutes Refers)

In response to a question from a Member regarding an offer from PSNI to provide further information to the Board in relation to the review of the murder of Mrs Attracta Harron officials advised that arrangements had been made for ACC Criminal Justice to brief Members on the Multi Agency Sex Offender Risk Assessment Management (MASRAM) processes at the June 2006 Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting. All Members were invited to attend the presentation. NOTED.

In response to a question from a Member regarding the HMIC review of the use of firearms, officials advised that a paper on this matter would be presented to the next Board meeting. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

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

- Presentation to BBC Broadcasting Council for Northern Ireland – Belfast – 19 May 2006.
- Launch of Special Olympics Ireland – Belfast – 22 May 2006.
- Policing with the Community Awards – Belfast – 23 May 2006.
- Luncheon – Belfast Harbour Commissioners – 23 May 2006.
- Knife Awareness Campaign Launch – Belfast – 24 May 2006.
- ACPO-APA Summer Conference and International Policing Exhibition – London 23 - 25 May 2006.
- NIO Dinner with a delegation from the Royal College of Defence Studies – Hillsborough Castle – 30 May 2006. NOTED.

With regard to the ACPO/APA Summer Conference, officials undertook to circulate any relevant papers to Committees and individual Members as appropriate.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

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

- The Police Federation For Northern Ireland Annual Report 2005.
- CJINI Report – 'Avoidable Delay – A Thematic Inspection of Delay In The Processing Of Criminal Cases In Northern Ireland' – May 2006.

NOTED.

It was:

AGREED:

That a copy of the CJINI Report should be circulated to all Members.

4.3 Correspondence

There were no matters arising.

4.4 News Releases

The Chairman highlighted the following news release:-

- Joint Statement by the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach – Armagh – 6 April 2006. NOTED.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Conferences

The Chief Executive advised Members of the following seminar and conferences:-

- Seminar on Managing Change Effectively on 29 June 2006 in Belfast.
- Conference on 6 July 2006 in London regarding "The Future of Criminal Justice".
- Local Government Association Conference on 12 July 2006 in London on Police Reform – issues, strategies and resources for local authorities.
- ACPO Womans Conference on 13 June in the City Hall, Belfast.

Any Member wishing to attend any of the events was asked to contact Secretariat.
NOTED.

5.2 Police Officers Part -Time Sub Group

The Director of Policy informed Members about the business of the meeting of the Police Officers Part -Time (POPT) Sub Group held on 25 May 2006. The next POPT meeting has been arranged for 7 June 2006 and will involve contributions from PSNI and NIO and all Board Members would be invited to attend the meeting. NOTED.

The Director informed the Board that a press launch to promote the recruitment of part-time police officers in 5 District Command Units (DCUs) was being arranged in each of the DCUs for 15 June 2006. Information packs were being prepared for issue to the District Policing Partnerships in the 5 DCU areas and would be copied to all Board Members. NOTED.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Chair of the Sub Group should undertake any media requirements on behalf of the Board in relation to the press launch.

5.3 One Small Step Towards A Shared Future

The Chief Executive drew the attention of members to a leaflet received from a campaign entitled 'One Small Step Towards A Shared Future'. Mr Ringland, Chairman of the campaign, outlined the background to the campaign.

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the Board should endorse the 'One Small Step Towards A Shared Future' campaign.

5.4 Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation

The Chief Executive informed the Board that an invitation had been received from the Chairman of the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation for all Members to visit the RUC GC Garden at Brooklyn on 6 September 2006. It was noted that the 6 September 2006 was the date of the Board meeting which may create difficulties with the timing of the visit on that day.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Board should accept the invitation received from the RUC GC Foundation to visit the Garden but seek to arrange an alternative date.

6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Minutes Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Meeting Held On 25 April 2006

6.1.1 Proposed Conference On Policing (Item 3.1 Of The Minutes Refers)

The Chairman highlighted the recommendation made by the Committee that the Board should take the lead in organising a conference on policing in early 2007. Members discussed the role of the Board in organising the conference and the positive response received from PSNI and NIO to the Board's proposals. In response to a question, the Chief Executive described the overall theme of the conference as being to review and showcase developments in policing in recent years and to look forward to developments in future years. NOTED.

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 25 April 2006.

Minutes Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Meeting Held On 18 May 2006

The Chairman highlighted the following recommendation made by the Committee:-

Developing Strategic Priorities For The Board (Item 7.3 Of The Minutes Refers)

That a workshop be arranged for all Board Members in September, which would feed into the Strategy Event with PSNI in October 2006. The Chairman suggested that the workshop could be extended to include time to consider a number of PSNI human resources issues.

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 18 May 2006.

7. COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING

7.1 Minutes Of The Community And Human Rights Committee Meeting Held On 17 May 2006

The Chairman of the Committee highlighted the following resolution made by the Committee:-

7.1.1 Register Of Notifiable Memberships (Item 6.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee had resolved to accept the result of the second registration process as reflective of Notifiable Memberships within the PSNI and to continue to keep the matter under review.

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee held on 17 May 2006.

7.2 OPONI Report Into The Circumstances Surrounding The Death Of Alice McLoughlin At Portadown On 6 July 1991

The Board considered a paper which provided information on a report by the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPONI), under Section 62 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, into the circumstances surrounding the death of Alice McLoughlin at Portadown on 6 July 1991.

Members were advised that the Community and Human Rights Committee had considered the Report and the conclusions put forward by the Police Ombudsman and recommended that the Board should respond supportively to the view expressed by the Ombudsman, that the co-operation of retired officers with investigations where the knowledge they possess would possibly enlighten the investigator and ultimately assist in helping to facilitate some form of closure for the family of someone who is deceased, would be desirable.

The Board considered the recommendation made by the Committee and a draft letter to the Ombudsman. A number of issues arose during discussion, including, the expectations of the victims of crime, and their families, and the public of retired police officers in providing co-operation; the human rights of members of the public, including retired officers; the financial implications; the legislative provision

that would be necessary to require co-operation; and the possible impact of this matter on the Historical Enquiries Team.

It was:

AGREED:

- That the Board should write to the Police Ombudsman stating that the Board had noted the report and that the Board proposes to further consider the view expressed in the Report by OPONI regarding the co-operation of retired officers.
- That the Historical Enquiries Team should be invited to a future meeting with the Board.
- That a paper on “Dealing with the Past”, including the role of PONI and HET, should be brought to the relevant Committee for consideration.

7.3 Board Members’ Support For District Policing Partnerships (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board considered a proposal from the Community and Human Rights Committee that each Board Member should take responsibility for supporting one or more District Policing Partnership (DPP). It was proposed that the role would involve Members in providing a two-way channel of communication between the Board and DPPs, communicating information issues of relevance to the DPPs, providing feedback to the Board on views that DPPs have on key issues and highlighting issues of concern raised by DPPs. Members would also provide support for the DPP in undertaking its statutory roles, through acting as a sounding board for DPPs in taking forward local issues, observing DPP meetings in public and providing feedback to DPPs on ways of improving effectiveness. A schedule showing the possible allocation of Members to each DPP was tabled for consideration.

It was:

AGREED:

- That officials should take a paper to the Community and Human Rights Committee clarifying the role of Members in liaising with the DPPs.
- That Officials should discuss the allocation further with individual Members.
- That following discussion at the Community and Human Rights Committee the DPPs should be informed that the Board is progressing the matter.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 10 May 2006

The Chairman of the Committee highlighted the following matters:-

8.1.1 Bar On Entry To Other UK Police Services (Item 5.10 Of Minutes Refers)

A Member of the Board had highlighted at a meeting some months ago that a Home Office policy stated that police forces should not accept applications from people who had unsuccessfully applied to join any UK police force within the previous 12 months. Given the unique appointment procedures in Northern Ireland it was possible that unsuccessful applicants to PSNI, which used different selection criteria, could be disadvantaged when applying for forces in England and Wales. A joint letter by the Board and PSNI was subsequently sent to all police forces, police authorities and the APA. The issue was raised with the Police Negotiation Board, the NIO and the Home Office. Following this action, the Home Office has now agreed to revise their policy to make it explicit that it only applies to forces in England and Wales. NOTED.

8.1.2 Training Strategy and Costed Training Plan (Item 5.14 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee had met with the Head of the PSNI Police College on 8 May 2006 and received a presentation on the revised Training, Education and Development (TED) Strategy.

The Committee had resolved to approve the revised TED strategy at its May meeting, subject to the satisfactory resolution of issues around induction and diversity training for student officers. Members had met with representatives from Mediation NI on 30 May 2006 regarding these issues and the Committee plans to have a further meeting with PSNI. The Committee also had concerns regarding District Training and the overall cost of training throughout the PSN but agreed that these issues could be resolved in the coming months.

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 10 May 2006.

8.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources (Quorum) Committee Held On 10 May 2006

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources (Quorum) Committee on 10 May 2006.

9. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

9.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Held On 19 May 2006

The Chairman of the Committee drew the attention of Members to:-

9.1.1 Process and Implications of CSR 2007 (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)

The presentation and discussion with the Head of NIO Police Division and other NIO officials regarding the financial cycle, spending reviews and the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007. NOTED.

9.1.2 Overview – PSNI IS Strategy (Item 3 Of Minutes Refers)

The presentation and discussion of the 4th PITO Validation Review of the Implementation of the PSNI IS Strategy. Overall, the implementation of the IS Strategy is proceeding satisfactorily, with only two areas for action identified. NOTED.

9.1.3 PSNI Vehicle Recovery Scheme (Item 6.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee had agreed to receive a presentation on the Vehicle Recovery Scheme. NOTED.

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 19 May 2006.

9.1.4 Outsourcing Of The PSNI Cleaning Contract

The Committee will receive a presentation at its next meeting on the outsourcing of the PSNI cleaning contract. NOTED.

10. PRESS ISSUES

It was:

AGREED:

To consider issuing news releases in respect of:-

- The Board decision to endorse the One Small Step Towards A Shared Future Campaign.
- The PSNI Best Value Review on Patrolling, following liaison with PSNI.

11. QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The meeting discussed questions to be put to the Chief Constable and decided whether they should be asked at the Board meeting in public, in the private session, or by way of written reply.

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable and other PSNI representatives to the meeting.

The Board received further information concerning:-

- Police investigations into the attempted murder of Mr Mark Haddock.
- The use of receipts from capital sales by PSNI.
- Procedures for the auditing of a specific PSNI contract.

- Police investigations into the murder of Mr Michael McIlveen.
- The risk to PSNI officers from terrorist attack.
- The number of SPEDs that have taken place as a result of the security situation.
- A stabbing in Ballymoney High School on 27 April 2006.
- Police investigations into the abduction of Mr Bobby Tohill.
- Trends in violent assaults in Belfast city centre.
- The status of police investigations into offences by the individual known as 'the border fox'.
- Liaison with the Garda Siochana regarding the murder of Mr Denis Donaldson.
- The reduction of overtime in PSNI.
- Guidelines issued to officers on political correctness.

The Board moved into its meeting in public and following this session the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Meeting With Student Officers – 31 May 2006

Members who represented the Board at the meeting with student officers on 31 May 2006 commented on the meeting. The issues raised will be considered by the Human Resources Committee. NOTED.

Stevens, Crompton and Blakey Reports

The Chairman updated the Board on a meeting that he and the Vice Chairman had held with ACC Crime Operations on 30 May 2006, regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Stevens, Crompton and Blakey Reports. NOTED.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Board confirmed the date of the next meeting for Thursday, 29 June 2006 in the Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen.

(Meeting closed 3.40pm).

Secretariat

June 2006

CHAIRMAN