

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2006 AT 10:00AM IN THE SLIEVE DONARD HOTEL, NEWCASTLE**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

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

#### **PSNI IN ATTENDANCE:**

(3) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)  
(3) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)  
(3) Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Rural Region)  
(3) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice)  
(3) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)  
(3) Mr David Best (Director of Finance and Support Services)  
(3) Mr Joe Stewart (Director of Human Resources)  
(3) Chief Superintendent, Crime Operations  
(3) Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat  
(3) 1 representative, Command Secretariat  
(3) 1 representative, Press and Media

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

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)  
Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)  
Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)  
5 Board Officials

- (1) **Item number 6 to close**
- (2) **Part item number 6 to close**
- (3) **Item number 12 only**

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Mrs Moore and Mr Paisley Jnr. NOTED.

The Chairman welcomed a delegation from the Pakistan National Public Safety Commission, led by Interior Minister, Mr Aftab Ahmed Kahn Serpao to the meeting,

## **2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD**

### **Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 5 October 2006**

It was:

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 5 October 2006 be approved.

### **2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 5 October 2006**

It was:

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Board meeting in public held on 5 October 2006 be approved.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

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

The Director of Community Engagement informed Members that a meeting of the Board's Community Based Restorative Justice Working Group had been arranged for 9 November 2006. NOTED.

The Chairman referred Members to the minutes of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting held on 19 October 2006 and to the Committee's recommendation that the Board's Community Based Restorative Justice Schemes Working Group should be given delegated authority to compile and forward the Board's submission to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee (NIAC). NOTED.

In view of the deadlines associated with the submission to the NIAC and the response to be made to the Draft Protocol on Community Based Restorative Justice Schemes to the Northern Ireland Office, this matter had been brought to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee for recommendation.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That the Board's Community Based Restorative Justice Working Group should be a working group of the Community and Human Rights Committee, with associated reporting arrangements.

#### **3.2 New Police College (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chief Executive advised Members about the discussion at the Police College Project Board meeting in October 2006. He advised that a letter had been issued to the NIO seeking clarification on funding and other issues and a response was awaited. The location of the college had been confirmed by the Secretary of State as Desertcreat, near Cookstown. NOTED.

Members discussed the uncertainty concerning the provision of additional funding above the £90m already provided, and the consensus view was that the Board should take no immediate action until a response was received from the NIO.

### **3.3 Historical Enquiries (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chief Executive informed Members that with regard to the reference in a letter from NIO concerning the provision of funding for the investigation of historical enquiries to the Office of the Police Ombudsman, that the NIO had been asked for clarification and a response was awaited. NOTED.

A Member referred to the visit that the Board had undertaken to the Historical Enquiries Team on 19 October 2006. The Member suggested that the public perception of the remit and function of the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) was greater than the actual remit and function of the Team. Members discussed the visit to HET and the absence of Government initiatives concerning dealing with the past.

It was:

#### **AGREED:**

- That the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee should consider the issues raised by the visit to the Historical Enquiries Team.
- That the Committee should also consider inviting the HET to give a presentation to a future Board meeting in public concerning its remit and function.

### **3.4 Station Review – Coalisland Police Station (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chief Executive advised that the further information sought by Members concerning the delivering of policing in the Coalisland area, would be provided at the December 2006 Board meeting. NOTED.

The Chief Executive also advised Members that the review of Guildford station would be included on the agenda of the December 2006 Board meeting. NOTED.

### **3.5 Invitation To RUC George Cross Memorial Garden (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chief Executive advised that a Board visit to the RUC George Cross Memorial Garden which had been arranged for 3 November 2006 had been postponed, due to the lack of availability of Members. Another date will be explored to facilitate a greater attendance of Members.

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

### **4.1 Engagements**

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

- Meeting with Students at St Mary's University College – Belfast – 20 October 2006.
- Farewell Dinner to mark the retirement of the Chairman of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland – Belfast – 24 October 2006.
- NIPB/PSNI Policing Plan Strategy Event – Belfast 25 & 26 October 2006.
- Meeting with Mr David Cameron MP – PSNI Garnerville – 26 October 2006.
- Presentation Ceremony – For PSNI officers with 10 years service without sickness absence – 27 October 2006 (with Dawn Purvis and Ian Paisley Jnr).

NOTED.

## **4.2 Publications**

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

- Probation Board for Northern Ireland – Corporate Governance – October 2006.
- Parades Commission Report – Parading in a peaceful Northern Ireland 2006 – 07.
- Amnesty International – Report of Seminar, Belfast, 25 September 2006 – TASERS.
- Garda Siochana / PSNI – A Cross Border Organised Crime Assessment 2006.

NOTED.

## **4.3 Correspondence**

The Chairman informed Members that he had received the following correspondence:

- Letter from T/Superintendent Command Secretariat regarding Equality Screening Process for TASER.
- Letter from ACC Criminal Justice regarding the PSNI response to the CJINI Report on connecting Criminal Justice. This letter will be placed before the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee for consideration.

NOTED.

## **4.4 News Releases**

The Chairman highlighted the following news release:-

- DRD – Transfer of responsibility for parking enforcement.

NOTED.

#### **4.5 Joint Communiqué – British / Irish Inter-Governmental Conference**

The Chairman drew the attention of Members to a copy of the Joint Communiqué of the British – Irish Inter-Governmental Conference, held at Iveagh House, Dublin on 24 October 2006. NOTED.

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

#### **5.1 RUC George Cross Foundation Bursary Scheme 2007**

The Chief Executive informed Members that he had received a request from the RUC George Cross Foundation for suggested study topics for bursary students to pursue.

It was:

#### **AGREED:**

That the Foundation should be informed that suitable study areas could include crime against older people, hate crime and policing issues affecting migrant workers.

#### **5.2 PSNI Accountability Meetings**

The Chief Executive drew the attention of Members to a paper that had been tabled listing PSNI Accountability Meetings being held in Urban and Rural Regions during October and November 2006. Any Member wishing to attend a performance meeting was asked to contact Secretariat who would make the necessary arrangements. NOTED.

### **5.3 Joint NIPB / PSNI Strategy Event**

It was:

#### **AGREED:**

That the Board should participate in a Joint NIPB / PSNI Strategy Event to follow up on the work undertaken on 25 and 26 October 2006.

A Member suggested that it would be of benefit if a greater number of Board staff attended the strategy event, particularly those involved with the media.

### **5.4 Criminal Justice Inspectorates In England And Wales**

The Chief Executive informed Members that the planned introduction of a Criminal Justice Inspectorate for England and Wales had been deferred and consequently the role of HMIC in Northern Ireland would continue as before. NOTED.

### **5.5 Conferences / Seminars**

The Chief Executive informed Members of the following conferences / seminars:-

- Restorative Justice Conference – Dublin – 18 November 2006.
- Launch of “Respecting Difference” – the Media Initiative for Children “We Can Stop The Bullying” – Belfast – 20 November 2006.

### **5.6 Attendance Of Members At PSNI Graduation Ceremonies**

The Chief Executive reminded Members of forthcoming student graduation ceremonies at PSNI Garnerville on 19 January and 23 February 2007 and requested that any Members interested in attending should contact Secretariat.

## **5.7 Attendance Of Members At Student Officer Meetings**

The Chief Executive reminded Members of forthcoming student officer meetings on 18 December 2006, 29 January and 5 March 2007 and requested that any Members interested in attending should contact Secretariat.

## **5.8 Register Of Interests**

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the return date for Register of Interest proformas was 17 November 2006 and requested that Members return the proformas as soon as possible.

## **6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Minutes Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Meeting Held On 19 October 2006**

It was:

#### **RESOLVED:**

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 19 October 2006.

#### **Handling Strategy For Publication Of Police Ombudsman (PONI) Report**

The Chairman drew attention to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee consideration of the handling strategy for publication of a forthcoming report by the Office of the Police Ombudsman into the murder of Mr Raymond McCord Jnr.

It was:

**AGREED:**

That the Board should issue a letter to Mr Raymond McCord Snr which:-

- Acknowledges that the Board has been monitoring developments in the Police Ombudsman's investigation.
- Notes that the Board will have responsibility for dealing with recommendations / issues arising from the report when it is published.
- Offers a meeting, following the publication of the report.

**6.3 Policing Board Meetings In Public**

The Board considered a paper proposing changes to the timing of Board meetings and the handling of questions.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Board had agreed that for a trial period the Board meeting in public should be moved from noon to 1:30pm for meetings in Waterside Tower. This arrangement had been in operation for 2 months and the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee had reviewed the arrangement at its October 2006 meeting. The Committee had made a recommendation to revise the starting time and the timing of the public session.

It was:

**AGREED:**

- To revise the programme for monthly Board meetings for a 3 month trial basis with the programme as follows:-

9:30am

Board Business

11:00am	Private Session with Chief Constable
11:30am	Board Meeting in Public
1:30pm	<i>LUNCH</i>
2:30pm	Completion of Board Business

Members discussed the structure and content of the Board meeting in public and the arrangements to facilitate questions received from members of the public.

Following a motion from a Member that was seconded and agreed by Members:-

It was:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board agrees in principle to take questions from members of the public, including supplementaries at public sessions of Board meetings for a trial period and that officials should bring forward a paper to Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee on the necessary arrangements to facilitate the trial.

**6.4 Northern Ireland Policing Board Strategic Priorities – Proposed Action Plan**

The Board considered a paper containing recommendations from the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee on actions to address the identified strategic priorities for the Board. Members considered each proposed action plan and noted action in progress.

It was:

**AGREED:**

That 3 (xiii) should be amended to state that “the October and April Private Sessions of the Policing Board *and other sessions* be used, if necessary, to engage with the Chief Constable on any areas of significant under

performance across the major policing strategies which are identified in advance of the Board”.

Subject to the above amendment, it was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To approve the actions recommended by the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee as set out in the appendix to the paper.

**6.5 Omagh Bombing – Request For Public Inquiry And Other Issues**

The Board considered a paper which sought Members views on how to proceed with a range of issues raised by the Omagh Support and Self Help Group at a meeting between the Group and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board on 17 October 2006. Following a lengthy discussion of a number of issues arising from the paper:-

It was:

**RESOLVED:**

- That the Board should bring to the attention of the local head of MI5, the Group’s request for a meeting with the Security Service.
- That the decision whether or not there should be a public inquiry is not a matter for the Board but for the Government and the political parties to determine.
- That the Board should meet privately with the Chief Constable to receive an update on the progress of the trial to date.

It was:

**AGREED:**

- That legal advice should be sought on whether it could be considered contempt of court to take “action” against a witness during the course of a trial.
- That a Board representative should attend the trial to hear the closing statements by the defence and prosecution, and the judges summing up of the case.
- That HMIC be requested to carry out a “stocktake” of recommendations arising from the Blakey, Crompton and Stevens reports emanating from the Omagh bomb tragedy and subsequent investigations.
- To consult with PSNI regarding the response to the issues raised by the Group.
- That a letter be issued to the Omagh Support and Self Help Group to provide an update on the Board’s discussion.

## **6.6 St Andrew’s Agreement**

The Board considered a paper which outlined emerging developments, as they relate to policing, arising from the St Andrew’s Agreement published by the British and Irish Governments on 13 October 2006. The paper also contained recommendations for action from the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

The Board discussed a number of issues arising from the St Andrew’s Agreement and it was:-

### **AGREED:**

- That the Board should defer any further progression of arrangements for meetings with key influencers in London and Dublin and political parties pending the ongoing political developments.
- To arrange to meet with the Northern Ireland Grand Committee when it visits Northern Ireland in the autumn.

- That the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee should consider further the reconstitution of the Board and District Policing Partnerships in the light of the St Andrew's Agreement.

Ongoing initiatives contained in the paper were identified by the Chief Executive.  
NOTED.

## **7. COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **7.1 Minutes Of The Community And Human Rights Committee Meeting Held On 12 October 2006**

The Chairman of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions / recommendations.

#### **7.1.1 International Law Enforcement Forum (ILEF) Conference – 7 – 9 November 2006 (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

Mr Joe Byrne had agreed to represent the Board at the ILEF conference. NOTED.

#### **7.1.2 Less Lethal Weapons (Item 15.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairman of the Committee reminded the Board that his predecessor, Mr Denis Bradley, had represented the Board as lead Member on “Less Lethal Weapons” and sought the Board’s opinion on who should replace Mr Bradley.

It was:

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Mr Barry Gilligan should act as the lead Member on “Less Lethal Weapons”.

**7.1.3 Future Arrangements For DPPs – Development Of A Consultation Strategy** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

**7.1.4 Policing With The Community – Update From the Deputy Chief Constable** (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

**7.1.5 Workplan For The Initial Community Engagement Strategy** (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee held on 12 October 2006.

**8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 11 October 2006**

**8.1.1 Human Resources Planning Strategy** (Item 4.7 Of Minutes Refers)

A Member referred to a meeting that had been arranged between the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Human Resources Committee with Mr Robin Field-Smith, HMIC, to discuss the delay in receiving the HMIC Human Resources Inspection Report. The Member requested that the Regional HMIC, Mr Ken Williams should also be invited to the meeting.

It was:

**AGREED:**

That HMICs Mr Ken Williams and Mr Robin Field-Smith be invited to meet with Board representatives to discuss the delay in publication of the HMIC Human Resources Inspection Report.

It was:

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the draft minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 11 October 2006.

**8.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources (Quorum) Committee Held On 11 October 2006**

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the draft minutes of meeting of the Human Resources (Quorum) Committee held on 11 October 2006.

**8.3 Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000: Review Of Temporary Provisions**

The Board considered a letter received from the Secretary of State seeking its views on the renewal of the Police (NI) Act 2000 Review Of Temporary Provisions. The deadline for receipt of the Board's views is 27 November 2006. The Board considered a paper which provided information on the Temporary Provisions in place regarding the appointment of regular officers and police support staff. Members also considered a draft letter of response to the Secretary of State from the Board Chairman.

A Member referred the Board to an extract from a Parliamentary Debate in which the Secretary of State had indicated that the operation of the 50:50 arrangements could be lifted when the 30% target of catholic representation within PSNI had been reached. NOTED.

During discussion on the compositional change in police support staff, a Member referred to the need to review a severance package for police support staff.

Following discussion, it was:

**AGREED:**

- That as the political Members of the Board had differing views on the renewal of the Temporary Provisions legislation that the individual political parties should respond separately.
- That the independent Members of the Board should be offered the opportunity to sign the draft letter to the Secretary of State.

#### **8.4 Police Community Support Officers**

The Chairperson of the Board's Working Group on Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) updated Members on the work of the group highlighting the ongoing work concerning:-

- Ineligibility criteria.
- Vetting regulations.
- The appointment of a recruiting agent.
- Forthcoming awareness events on 13 and 14 November 2006 in 4 locations across Northern Ireland.

NOTED.

## **9. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **9.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Held On 20 October 2006**

It was:

#### **AGREED:**

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 20 October 2006.

## **10. INFORMATION PAPERS**

The Board noted the following information papers:-

### **10.1 Note Of A Meeting Held With The Secretary Of State On 10 October 2006**

NOTED.

### **10.2 International Policing Conference – Update On Developments**

It was:

#### **AGREED:**

- That the issue of Policing within the Community should be included on the agenda.
- That officials should proceed with arrangements for the conference as outlined in this information paper, in conjunction with PSNI and NIO.

## **11. PRESS ISSUES**

There were no matters arising.

## **12. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

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

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable and PSNI representatives to the meeting. The Board received further information in relation to:

- The progress of the criminal trial in connection with the Omagh bombing.
- The arrangements for firearms training following the HMIC Review of Firearms Training.
- Initiatives in advance of the consultant's review of procurement procedures.
- Resource allocation to the Policing With The Community Branch.
- Implementation of the recommendations outlined in the 2006 report of the Surveillance Commissioner.

During discussion on this item, one Member indicated that the current monitoring arrangements in place between the PSNI and the Board concerning this issue were not satisfactory.

- Developments to enable the reporting of sickness absence in hours rather than days, in common with the rest of the UK.
- The application of the Voluntary Early Retirement and Severance Scheme to PSNI officers under serious criminal or disciplinary investigation.

- Investigations in relation to the recent death of a person in the Hawthorne Hill / Dublin Road area of Newry.
- Visits made by PSNI to warn individuals that they were under threat.
- The current threat assessment in relation to republican dissident groups, loyalist paramilitaries and the Provisional IRA.
- Police action in relation to the return to Northern Ireland of Paul Redpath.

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

### **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no matters arising.

### **14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Board confirmed the date of the next meeting for Thursday, 7 December 2006 in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed at 1:45pm).

**Secretariat**

**November 2006**

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**CHAIRMAN**

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