

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2009 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Barry Gilligan (Chairman)
Mr Brian Rea (Vice Chairman)
Ms Martina Anderson
Mr Tom Buchanan
Mrs Dolores Kelly
Mr Alex Maskey
Mr Basil McCrea
Ms Mary McKee
Mrs Rosaleen Moore
Mr Trevor Ringland

(1) Mr David Rose

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(2) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
(2) Mr Alistair Finlay (ACC Urban Region)
(2) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Crime Operations)
(2) Mr David Jones (ACC Rural Region)
(2) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Operational
Support & Criminal Justice)
(2) Ms Liz Young, Head of Media & Personnel
(2) Superintendent, Command Secretariat
(2) 1 PSNI Personnel, Command Secretariat

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Adrian Donaldson (Chief Executive)
Dr Debbie Donnelly (D/Chief Executive)
Mr David Jackson (Director of Community
Engagement)
Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate
Services)
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
3 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 4.2 to close
- (2) Item number 12 only

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Leslie Cree, Mr Gearóid Ó hEára, Mr Ian Paisley Jnr, Professor Sir Desmond Rea, Mr Suneil Sharma, Mr Jimmy Spratt and Mr Peter Weir. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

2.1 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 7 May 2009

The Board considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting and subject to a minor amendment it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 7 May 2009 be approved.

2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 7 May 2009

The Board considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting in public held on 7 May 2009 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

3.1 Recruitment Of Deputy Chief Constable (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman formally advised the Board of the appointment of Mrs Judith Gillespie as Deputy Chief Constable with effect 1 June 2009. NOTED.

3.2 Appointment Of A New Chief Constable For The PSNI (Item 5.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Board the closing date for receipt of applications had been set for 19 June 2009. A shortlisting meeting had been arranged for 2 July 2009 with interviews planned for the second week in August. The Chief Executive advised Members that there had been 12 requests for information packs to date. NOTED.

3.3 Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) Report On Visit To Antrim PSNI Station On 23 March 2009 (Item 8.1 Of Minutes Refers)

Members were advised that the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) report on it's visit to Antrim PSNI station on 23 March 2009 had been considered by the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee at it's meeting on 10 June 2009. A draft response, prepared on the basis of the discussion at the Committee meeting would be brought to the July 2009 Board meeting for consideration. NOTED.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

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

- Irish Language Meeting – Derry/Londonderry – 19 May 2009;

- British-Irish Intergovernmental Dinner – Belfast – 26 May 2009 (the former Chairman also attended);
- Launch of LGBT Report – Belfast – 2 June 2009;
- Meeting regarding alcohol related violence – Belfast – 2 June 2009;
- Organised Crime Task Force Stakeholder Meeting – Belfast – 2 June 2009.

A Member suggested that consideration should be given to requesting a briefing at a future Board meeting in public on Organised Crime, particularly in relation to human trafficking.

- RUC GC Day Service – Enniskillen – 7 June 2009;
- The Chief Constable’s Highly Commended Awards Ceremony – Ballymena – 8 June 2009;
- Police Advisory Board – Belfast – 10 June 2009.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

The Chairman highlighted the following publication that had been received:-

- Views on Organised Crime: Findings from the January 2009 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey – NIO.

NOTED.

4.3 Correspondence

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

- letter from Public Prosecutions Service dated 27 May 2009 regarding meeting with the Director of Public Prosecutions in England and Wales;
- letter from the Chief Constable dated 1 June 2009 regarding PSNI commitment of resources in researching and investigating the Troubles.

The Chairman referred Members to the letter, tabled at the meeting. He advised that the letter from the Chief Constable of 1 June 2009 would be considered at the next meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee, with a view to either writing to the Chief Constable or raising any matters arising with him at the July 2009 Board meeting;

- letter from the Chief Constable of 3 June 2009 regarding the PSNI Senior Management Team.

Members discussed the re-arrangement of duties within the PSNI Senior Management Team and a Member indicated that he would discuss the matter further with the Chief Constable later in the meeting. A number of Members expressed disappointment that Members had not been advised by the Chief Constable of the re-arrangement of duties within the current Senior Management Team at an earlier stage. NOTED.

The Chief Executive referred Members to a paper, tabled at the meeting, which sought the Board agreement to the composition of a Selection Panel for an Assistant Chief Constable Recruitment and Selection Panel. The Chief Executive advised that the vacancy at Assistant Chief Constable level had arisen due to the promotion of ACC Judith Gillespie to Deputy Chief Constable and ACC Toner undertaking a secondment to the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA).

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Assistant Chief Constable Selection Panel should comprise:-

- the Chairman of the Board;
- the Vice Chairman of the Board;
- 1 representative from each political party on the Board;
- 1 female independent Member.

It was subsequently:-

AGREED:

- that the female independent Member on the Selection Panel should be Ms Mary McKee;
- that each political party should advise the Chief Executive of their representative as soon as possible, to enable a Selection Panel meeting to be arranged.

The Chief Executive advised that it was hoped to advertise the post during the last week in June 2009.

4.4 News Releases

There were no matters arising.

4.5 Investigation By The Police Ombudsman

The Chairman updated Members on an investigation and report by the Police Ombudsman into complaints made by William Courtney, Andre Shoukri and Ihab Shoukri (deceased), following public comments made the Chief Constable over a period from March 2004 to May 2008. The Chairman reported that after completing his investigations, the Police Ombudsman had concluded that no specific misconduct had been committed by the Chief Constable and the complaints were not upheld.

The Chairman informed Members about an interview that he had held on 4 June 2009 with the Chief Constable, in the presence of the Vice Chairman and the Chief Executive, regarding the findings and recommendations contained in the report.
NOTED.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Update On Desertcreat College

The Chief Executive referred Members to a report to the Board by the Programme Manager for the Desertcreat College Programme and advised Members:-

- the design team had been appointed and commenced assignment on 23 March 2009;
- the business case team had been appointed and commenced assignment on 23 March 2009;
- the next major milestone would be the submission of a joint outline business case for ministerial approval in October 2009;
- the College remained on course for completion by December 2012.

NOTED.

The Chairman advised that Mr Brian Rea, in his capacity as Vice Chairman of the Board, would represent the Board in future meetings of the Desertcreat College Steering Group. NOTED.

5.2 Meeting With OFMDFM - 29 May 2009

The Chief Executive updated Members on a meeting he and the Director of Corporate Services had attended with officials from the OFMDFM and DFP on 29 May 2009. Discussion focused on future policing budgets. NOTED.

5.3 Conferences/Seminars

The Chief Executive advised Members about the following conference:-

- Forensic Collaboration Conference – 16 June 2009 – Ryton – Coventry.

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

6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

6.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee Held On 21 May 2009

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

6.1.1 Membership Of Committees With Effect From 1 June 2009 (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman referred to the Committee's recommendation that a Sub-Committee be appointed to review the membership and remit of Committees. The group would be comprised of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mrs Kelly, Mr Maskey, Mr McCrea, Ms McKee and Mr Weir. Officials were asked to arrange the first meeting of the Sub-Group as soon as practicable. Members suggested a number of ideas in relation to streamlining the work of the Board and its Committees and reducing the overlap in the remit of Committees. The Chief Executive asked Members who had any further suggestions to contact him and these would be fed into the Sub-Committee.

During discussion, all Members were invited to attend the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee "Away Day" on 24 June 2009 at which the future work programme of the Committee would be considered. NOTED.

The Chief Executive advised that Professor Sir Desmond Rea would not be replacing Mr Brian Rea as a Member of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee and that the Committee may wish to consider whether it required a replacement for Mr Brian Rea. NOTED.

6.1.2 Development Of The Policing Plan 2010 – 2013 (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

6.1.3 NIPB Statistical And Research Strategy 2009 – 2013 (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 21 May 2009.

6.2 Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Oral Evidence Sessions

The Chairman reminded Members that, at its meeting in May 2009, the Board had agreed that the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee should consider the Board's response to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee (NIAC) investigation into the Consultative Group in the Past and that the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee should consider the Board's response in relation to the Omagh bombing NIAC investigation. However, time constraints had necessitated that responses be considered by the Board. At the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting on 21 May 2009, Members had noted that with regard to Omagh, it was proposed to submit the Blakey and Crompton reports together with any relevant minutes of Board meetings and that a short paper would be prepared for this meeting on the Eames/Bradley proposals and that the Board's response would focus on the role of the Historical Enquiries Team (HET). The Chairman referred Members to a paper regarding the Board's response to NIAC.

Members discussed whether the Board could reach a corporate view on a response in respect of the report of the Consultative Group on the Past. Following discussion, it was clear that with the exception of a consensus around how the Board should respond in respect of the pressures on the policing budget relating to 'Policing the Past', that the Board would be unlikely to agree a corporate response.

It was:-

AGREED:

That with regard to the report on the Consultative Group on the Past, a draft letter to NIAC, focusing on issues relating to the policing budget, should be brought to the next Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee for consideration.

It was further:-

RESOLVED:

That with regard to the Omagh bombing, the Board should submit the Blakey and Crompton 2008 report, together with any relevant minutes of Board meetings.

6.3 Members' Attendances At Meetings And Events During The Period 31 May 2007 – 31 March 2009 And Members Expenses – 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2009

The Board considered a revised format for the presentation of information concerning Members' attendances at "other events".

It was:-

AGREED:

That the revised format should be adopted and details of Members' attendances at meetings and other events during the period 31 May 2007 to 31 March 2009 and Members' Expenses from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 should be published on Board's website.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

7.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community Engagement Committee Held On 28 May 2009

The Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

7.1.1 Meeting With Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) Officials (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

7.1.2 Response To Consultation On Future On Community Safety Partnerships And District Policing Partnerships (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt further considered under item 7.2.

7.1.3 PSNI Proposed Bid Under PEACE III To Support A Policing With The Community Strategy (Item 13 Of Minutes Refers)

Members were advised that subsequent to the Committee's endorsement of the bid, Mr David Rose had indicated that he was willing to represent the Board on the Project Board.

7.1.4 Progress Report From Community Engagement Branch (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairperson of the Committee proposed that the Board should host a meeting on hate crime, that would have a particular focus on sectarian crime. The Chairperson also proposed that, building on the work that the Board had already undertaken recently and Government work on violence against women, that a future meeting should also be focused on this issue.

Members discussed how the meeting would complement the work already undertaken by the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee in relation to domestic

violence and the desirability of involving stakeholders that had already contributed to the Board's thematic investigation on domestic violence in another thematic.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee held on 28 May 2009.

7.2 Further Response To Consultation On The Review Of Community Safety Partnerships And District Policing Partnerships

The Board considered a paper containing a draft response to the NIO consultation document 'Local Partnership Working on Policing and Community Safety – A Way Forward'. The draft response had been prepared following the input of DPP members and consideration by the Community Engagement Committee.

Members suggested a number of amendments to the draft letter and it was:-

AGREED:

That officials should further reflect on draft response and that a paper should be brought to the next Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee for further consideration.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 14 May 2009

The Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

- 8.1.1 PSNI Neighbourhood Officer Training Courses** (Item 4.3 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.2 Post Related Allowance For Chief Superintendents** (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.3 Information, Guidance And Pension Entitlements – Former Police Officers Revised March 2009** (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.4 Ill Health Retirement Of A Police Officer – Definition Of “Likely to be Permanent”** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.5 Selected Medical Practitioner Contract – Estimated Selected Medical Practitioner And Independent Medical Referee Cases And Fees For The Financial Year 1 April 2009 – 31 March 2010** (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.6 Police Dependents’ Trust** (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.7 Thematic Inquiry on Domestic Abuse** (Item 13 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.8 Briefing On The Training Programme For Trainee Intelligence Officers** (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.9 Briefing On The ‘Policing A Shared Future Strategy’** (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 14 May 2009.

9. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

9.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Held On 15 May 2009

The Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

9.1.1 Disposal Of PSNI Station At Mountjoy Road, Omagh (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.2 Additional Finance For 2009/10 Year (Item 6.2 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.3 Procurement With PSNI (Item 6.4 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.4 PSNI Continuous Improvement Report And Overview Database Update (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.5 Best Value Review Recommendations – Post Implementation Review Reports – NIPB And PSNI (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.6 Independent Validation Of The PSNI IS Strategy (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Resources & Improvement Committee held on 15 May 2009.

10. INFORMATION PAPERS

There were no matters arising.

11. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

12. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

Members considered a synopsis of the Chief Constable's monthly report and a copy of the slides of the presentation to be given at the Board meeting in public by the PSNI. Both documents had been tabled for Members. A number of Members expressed concern that both documents had been tabled at the meeting, rather than presented in advance of the meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chief Constable should be requested to supply the slides for the presentation at the Board meeting in public at least 7 days in advance, to enable Members to consider more fully the issues involved together with any accompanying statistics.

Members also suggested that it would be helpful to receive the synopsis of the Chief Constable's monthly report prior to the day of the meeting.

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

Members discussed the presentation to be given to the Board meeting in public. The presentation was a report on final year figures and performance 2008/09. Members discussed the format of the statistics and requested that future reports for the Board meeting in public be received 7 days in advance of the meeting. The Chief Constable responded that the Board would be provided with a copy of the slides used in future presentations, well in advance of the meeting. PSNI representatives reminded

Members that the verbal report often put statistics and other information in context and that this needed to be borne in mind when viewing the slides.

A Member referred to the re-arrangement of responsibilities within the PSNI Senior Management Team and sought reassurance that criminal justice issues would continue to receive the same priority. The PSNI representatives assured Members that criminal justice issues would continue to receive priority and that ACC McCausland was continuing to have responsibility for Criminal Justice Department, as well as his new responsibilities as ACC Operational Support.

The Chief Constable updated Members in relation to meetings with the Police Federation for Northern Ireland regarding the future of the Full Time Reserve.

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

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting with the Chief Constable was arranged for 2 July 2009 at Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 12:00noon).

Secretariat

June 2009

Chairman