

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2006 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
Mr Alex Attwood
Mr Joe Byrne
(2) Mr Fred Cobain
Mr Willie Hay
Mrs Dolores Kelly
(2) Mr Danny Kennedy
Ms Deirdre Mac Bride
Mrs Pauline McCabe
(1) Mrs Rosaleen Moore
(1) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
Mr Brian Rea
Mr Trevor Ringland
(1) 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 Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)
(3) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice)
(3) Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Crime Operations)
(3) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)
(3) Mr Joe Stewart (Director of Human Resources)
(3) Superintendent, Dungannon DCU
(3) Superintendent, Newtownabbey DCU
(3) Superintendent, Urban OCU
(3) Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat
(3) 1 representative, Command Secretariat
(3) 1 representative, Press Office
(3) 2 representatives, Analysis Centre

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

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

- (1) Part Item number 3.2 to close
- (2) Item number 4 to close
- (3) Item number 13 only

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Duddy, Ms Foster, and Ms Purvis.
NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 6 September 2006

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 6 September
2006 be approved.

**2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 6 September
2006**

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Board meeting in public held on 6 September 2006 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 Community Based Restorative Justice (Item 3.1 and 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The first meeting of the Community Based Restorative Justice Working Group had been arranged for 19 October 2006. NOTED.

At its meeting on 21 September 2006, the Community and Human Rights Committee had agreed that in addition to one representative from each of the political parties represented on the Board, 2 independent Members should be appointed to the Working Group. Officials advised that subsequent to the Committee meeting, a request had been received from a third independent Member to join the group.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Community Based Restorative Justice Working Group should comprise 3 political Members and 3 independent Members and that the membership would be Mr Attwood, Mr Duddy, Mr Kennedy, Ms Mac Bride, Mr Paisley Jnr and Ms Purvis.

3.2 New Police College (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive referred Members to recent media speculation concerning an alternative site for the new Police College. He emphasised that the Board's position had not changed and the recommended site for the new Police College

remained Desertcreat. He suggested that the Board would wish to clarify the position at its meeting with the Secretary of State on 10 October 2006. The Chief Executive also confirmed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Project Board on 13 October 2006.

Members discussed recent comments made by a Minister concerning the site of the Police College and the availability of sites previously occupied by the Ministry of Defence. The Chief Executive updated Members on a meeting which had been held with representatives from Cookstown District Council on 3 October 2006, at which Councillors had expressed their concern about the speculation over the site for the Police College. Members discussed the impact of future recruitment levels on the throughput of the college and the opportunities for partnership funding. The Board also discussed the need for the representatives from political parties to put forward the Board's position regarding the Desertcreat site.

3.3 Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC) (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board had met with the Independent Monitoring Commission on 26 September 2006 prior to the publication of its latest report on paramilitary activity (published on 4 October 2006).

Discussion ranged over a number of issues including the following:-

- Single officer patrolling.
- Increased acceptance of the police in communities.
- Normalisation of police buildings.
- Efficiency and effectiveness issues - v - security.
- Organised crime.
- Community Based Restorative Justice.
- Relationships with An Garda Siochana.
- The report by the Police Ombudsman into the murder of Raymond McCord Jnr.
- The Pilot Police Cadet Scheme, as recommended by the Independent Commission on Policing.

NOTED.

3.4 Board Meeting With Historical Enquiries Team (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised Members that a visit to the offices of the Historical Enquiries Team had been arranged for 19 October 2006. All Members of the Board were invited to attend. NOTED.

The Chairman referred Members to a letter dated 22 September 2006 from NIO concerning the current Historical Enquiries Team funding position. NOTED.

A Member sought further details regarding reference in the letter to funding to be provided to the Office of the Police Ombudsman for the investigation of historic crimes and officials undertook to clarify the position and advise the Member.

3.5 Station Review – Coalisland Police Station (Item 3.8 and 15 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised that the further information sought by Members concerning the delivery of policing in the Coalisland area in the medium and longer term would be provided at the next Board meeting. NOTED.

3.6 Invitation To RUC George Cross Memorial Garden (Item 5.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised the Board that a visit to the RUC George Cross Memorial Garden had been arranged for 3 November 2006. All Members of the Board were invited to attend. NOTED.

3.7 Change Of Date Of Meeting (Item 6.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised the Board that the date of the November Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee had been changed from 16 November to 22 November 2006. NOTED.

3.8 Joint Briefing From PSNI And The Security Services (Item 19 Of Minutes Refers)

A Member referred to the confidential briefing which the Board had received from the Director and Co-ordinator of Intelligence and the Assistant Chief Constable Crime Operations at the previous meeting.

The Member referred to information given by ACC Crime Operations concerning the arrangements for the transfer of national security to the Security Services and asked Members to consider how the Board could support the PSNI in taking forward the matter.

It was:

AGREED:

That a paper should be prepared for a future Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee to consider.

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:-

- North Belfast DPP Sub Group – 20 September 2006.
- CBI Annual Lunch –Holywood –21 September 2006.
- Meeting with the Coalition on Sexual Orientation (CoSO) – Belfast – 26 September 2006.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That:-

- The Chairman should meet with ACC Criminal Justice to discuss the issues raised by the CoSO Group.
- That the Members should see a copy of the advertising campaign run by the Gay Police Officers Association.
- That Ms Mac Bride and Mr Sharma should attend future meetings of the Diversity Steering Group.
- Visit to District Command Unit – Newtownabbey – 27 September 2006.
- DPP Chairman’s Forum – Templepatrick – 28 September 2006.
- Reception to mark the National Police Memorial Day 2006 – Hillsborough – 30 September 2006.
- National Police Memorial Day Service – Belfast – 1 October 2006.
- Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) Stakeholder Group meeting – 2 October 2006.

Members discussed a number of issues raised by representatives of the business community during the OCTF meeting and the role of businesses in combating organised crime. The business community had expressed criticism about a number of aspects of PSNI investigation of organised criminal activity. The business community had agreed to carry out a survey in relation to money laundering, with the assistance of police analysis. The Chairman reminded Members that at its first public forum, the Board planned to centre the event on business crime.

- PSNI Performance Conference – Enniskillen - 3 October 2006.
- Meeting with Cookstown District Council Representatives – 3 October 2006.
- Dinner in honour of representatives of the Basque Government – Hollywood – 3 October 2006.
- Media dinner – Belfast – 4 October 2006.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

There were no matters arising.

4.3 Correspondence

There were no matters arising.

4.4 News Releases

The Chairman highlighted the following news releases:-

- ARA reaches settlement in benefit fraud case – Assets Recovery Agency -12 September 2006.
- Support for the Police is fundamental – Hain – NIO – 13 September 2006.
- Help Stamp Out Extortion – Goggins – Organised Crime Task Force – 14 September 2006.
- Home Office consultation to extend to Northern Ireland – NIO – 18 September 2006.
- Goggins welcomes advances in less lethal weaponry – NIO – 20 September 2006.
- £2 million expansion of Town Centre CCTV Systems – Hanson – 21 September 2006.

NOTED.

4.5 Chairman Of Police Federation

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board should recognise the service given to the Police Federation of Northern Ireland by Mr Irwin Montgomery who was due to retire on 25 October 2006 by the presentation of a token farewell gift.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Conferences/Seminars

The Chief Executive advised Members about the following conferences and seminars:-

- Conference on Public Service Reform – London – 17 and 18 October 2006.
- Seminar on Re-configuring Northern Ireland's Public Sector – Belfast – 24 October 2006.
- Conference on Building Public Confidence in the Criminal Justice System – 26 October 2006.
- Seminar on Skills Development for Police Authorities and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships – Birmingham – 17 November 2006.

NOTED.

5.2 Venues For Board Meetings In Public In 2007

The Board considered a paper which asked Members to consider the locations for 2 Policing Board meetings in public to be held outside Belfast in 2007. It was,

AGREED:

That meetings outside Belfast in 2007 would be held in Antrim and Newry.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Board had agreed at its June 2006 meeting to commence the Board meetings in public in Waterside Tower at 1:30pm, for a trial period. The trial period having been completed, he advised that a paper would be brought to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee reviewing the timing of Board meetings in public. NOTED.

5.3 Independent Community Observer Recruitment Campaign

The Chief Executive drew the attention of Members to the launch of the advertising campaign on 20 September 2006 to recruit 60 new voluntary Independent Community Observers. NOTED.

6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Meeting Held On 14 September 2006

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 14 September 2006.

Handling Strategy For Publication Of Police Ombudsman Report

The Committee considered an options paper that proposed a handling strategy for the publication of the Police Ombudsman's report into the murder of Mr Raymond McCord Jnr.

It was:

AGREED:

- That subject to the inclusion of acknowledgement that intelligence gathering had saved a considerable number of lives, the handling strategy and the options presented should be approved.

That the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee should further reflect on one aspect of the paper.

6.3 Measuring The Performance Of Committees

The Board considered a paper in relation to the criteria to be used to measure the performance of Board committees.

The Chief Executive outlined the main points arising from discussion that had taken place at the September 2006 Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee concerning the criteria.

Following discussion, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the criteria on which the assessment of committees should be based were:-

- The number of meetings per year.
- The attendance of Members.
- The delivery of the Corporate Business Plan Objectives within the remit of each Committee.
- The Committee's role in the delivery of major strategies for policing.

It was:

AGREED:

- That the assessment should be carried out annually, reporting to the Committee in May of each year, starting in May 2007.
- The first year (2006/2007) would be viewed as a pilot year and the performance management regime reviewed in the light of experience.

7. COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING

7.1 Minutes Of The Community And Human Rights Committee Meeting Held On 21 September 2006

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee held on 21 September 2006.

7.2 Consideration Of The Removal From Office Of A DPP Member

This item was withdrawn.

7.3 Invite To 5th Annual Workshop Of The International Law Enforcement Forum (ILEF) On 7 – 9 November 2006

Officials sought the interest of Members in attending the next International Law Enforcement Forum (ILEF) conference to be held in Fairfax, Virginia in the United States of America on 7 – 9 November 2006. One Member indicated his interest in attending and undertook to advise officials of his availability as soon as possible.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 13 September 2006

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

8.1.1 Presentation By PSNI Regarding Proposals For 2006 In Respect Of The Special Priority Payment (Item 4 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.2 Addressing The Shortfall Of Detectives In PSNI (Item 7.3 Of Minutes Refers)

During Board discussion of this item, it was:-

AGREED:

That the Board Chairman and Vice Chairman along with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee should meet with the relevant Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary officer (HMIC) to discuss the delay in receipt of the Human Resources Planning Report from HMIC.

As the Human Resources Planning Report was not yet available, it was:-

AGREED:

That the Human Resources "Strategy Day" planned for 26 October 2006 should be postponed.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 13 September 2006.

8.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources (Quorum) Committee Held On 13 September 2006

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of meeting of the Human Resources (Quorum) Committee held on 13 September 2006.

9. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

9.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Held On 15 September 2006

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

9.1.1 Presentation By PSNI Regarding Progress On The Implementation Of The PSNI Estate Strategy (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.2 PSNI Business Cases (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.3 Special Purchase Of Evacuated Dwellings (SPED)

A Member enquired whether there had been an increase or decrease in the number of SPED cases and the Chairman of the Committee advised that this information would be sought from PSNI and provided to the Member concerned.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 15 September 2006.

10. NIPB STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Board considered a summary of the key strategic priorities identified by Members during workshops held in Cookstown on 31 August 2006 and suggestions to address these priorities.

From the identified strategic priorities and the Board's role in addressing these, 3 strands of activity had emerged around:

- Capacity building.
- Communications activity, and
- Challenge mechanisms.

Underpinning these was a need for the Board to be able to define and measure what success looks like.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee should address the issues identified above and develop an appropriate course of action, with the exception of the Community Engagement Strategy, which would be taken forward by the Community and Human Rights Committee.

11. INFORMATION PAPERS

11.1 Future Of DPPs In The Context Of Review Of Public Administration

The Board considered an information paper highlighting discussions within the Community and Human Rights Committee on the future arrangements for District Policing Partnerships.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials should consult with the representatives of the political parties on the Board to further inform discussion.

11.2 Report Of The Preparation For Government Committee

The Board considered an overview of the report on "Law and Order" issues prepared by the Committee on the Preparation for Government at the Northern Ireland Assembly. NOTED.

12. PRESS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

13. 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:

- Progress towards implementing the recommendation contained in the Best Value Review of Patrolling to introduce a 10 hour variable shift pattern for all response police.
- The use of agency staff covering PSNI vacancies and sickness absence.
- The deployment of PSNI officers on duties related to the Northern Ireland security situation.
- The reasons for the resignation of recent appointees to the post of PSNI Head of Training and measures being taken by PSNI to provide training to new police trainees and in-service officer training, as part of implementing an effective TED Strategy. During this discussion, the Chief Constable offered Board Members full access to observe any aspect of PSNI training.
- The circumstances surrounding a security threat to a Government official from the Republic of Ireland who had left her post in Northern Ireland.
- A number of issues arising from the recently published Independent Monitoring Commission report.

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

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Joint PSNI / NIPB Christmas Advertising Campaign

The Board considered a paper regarding the Policing Board jointly funding with PSNI the 2006 Anti Burglary Christmas advertising campaign.

Officials reminded Members, that in 2005 the Board had agreed to participate in, and part fund with PSNI, a Christmas advertising campaign to encourage householders to take responsibility for reducing and preventing domestic burglary during the festive period. In the interests of efficiency, it was proposed that the graphics used in 2005 should be used again.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- To approve funding of £43,000 for the Christmas advertising campaign (50% of the overall budget).
- That the Board's logo should be carried on the same posters as in 2005.

14.2 Sunday Sequence Programme

The Board discussed comments made by the Police Ombudsman during a BBC radio programme – Sunday Sequence – on 1 October 2006 concerning TASER.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board's Chief Executive should informally advise the Chief Executive of the Police Ombudsman's Office about concerns that a number of Members raised during discussion.

14.3 International Monitoring Commission Report

The Board discussed a number of issues arising from the recently published Independent Monitoring Commission Report, these included:-

- The ongoing threat from dissident republican groups and loyalist paramilitary groupings.
- Matters arising from the report that should be raised by the Board at its meeting with the Secretary of State.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Board confirmed the date of the next meeting for Wednesday, 1 November 2006 in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle.

(Meeting closed at 12:30pm).

Secretariat
October 2006

CHAIRMAN