

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE 33<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7 JULY 2004 AT 10:00 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Professor Desmond Rea (Chairman)

Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman)

(2) Viscount Brookeborough

(4) Mr Joe Byrne

(3) Mr Fred Cobain

(3) Mr Sam Foster

Mr Willie Hay

Mrs Pauline McCabe

Mr Alan McFarland

(2) Mr Eddie McGrady

Mrs Rosaleen Moore

Mr Ian Paisley Jnr

(1) Mr Sammy Wilson

#### **POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:**

(5) Mr Hugh Orde, (Chief Constable)

(5) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)

(5) Mr Sam Kinkaid, (ACC Crime Operations)

(5) Mr Duncan McCausland, (ACC Urban Region)

(5) Ms Sinead McSweeney (Head of Media & PR)

(5) C/Supt Ian Cameron, Corporate Management

(5) Deputy Head of Media & PR

(5) Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat

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

(6) Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)

Director of Community Affairs

Director of Corporate Services

Director of Policy and Accountability

Director of Service Delivery

Three Board Officials

(1) Item 3.1 to close

(2) Items 1 to part Item 4.17 and 13

(3) Items 1 to 4, 13 and 15

(4) Items 1 to 7.2, 13 and 15

(5) Item 13 only

Items 1 to 4.10 and 13

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Attwood, Mr Dougherty, Mr Gilligan, Mr Kelly and Mr Sharma.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Peter Holt to the meeting. The Board noted that Mr Holt would join the Board staff in August as Director of Communications.

The Board noted that it was anticipated that a number of visitors from Macedonia would attend the Board meeting in public and it was agreed that the visitors should be invited to join Members for lunch.

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

### **Minutes Of The 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Of The Policing Board Held On 3 June 2004**

The minutes were agreed.

### **Minutes Of The Board Meeting In Public Held On 3 June 2004**

The minutes were agreed.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 32<sup>ND</sup> MEETING**

### **3.1 District Policing Partnerships (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

#### **3.1.1 Clustering Of DCUs**

The Board noted a copy of a letter issued by Assistant Chief Constable, Corporate Development and Change Management to all DPP managers. The letter notified DPPs that the Chief Constable had agreed to examine the possibility of grouping or clustering the Command Teams within DCUs. The letter indicated that the

research on potential groupings is at a very early stage and that no decisions had yet been made. A Member expressed concern that the ACC had written directly to DPP managers and raised the issue of protocols for correspondence between the PSNI and DPPs.

### **3.1.2 Dungannon And South Tyrone**

The Board noted that the process to appoint candidates to the Dungannon and South Tyrone DPP was underway and it was likely that interviews would take place in September 2004.

### **3.1.3 Performance Review**

The Board noted that a DPP Review Working Group, comprising representatives from the Board, NIO Police Reform Team, SOLACE and DPP managers had been established to review the operation of DPPs. Draft Terms of Reference were discussed and an amendment suggested. The Working Group would report to the Community Involvement Committee on completion of the review.

In response to a question from a Member, officials advised that NIO were currently drafting a Code of Practice for the appointment of Independent DPP members. The Code would shortly be issued for consultation and the Board would be included in the circulation list.

Members discussed a number of related issues including the information given to DPPs by PSNI on resources, the contribution made by DPP members to a recent conference organised by the Committee on the Administration of Justice and the advantages of maintaining an element of continuity in the membership of DPPs to be appointed in 2005.

### **3.1.4 Training For Members Of DPPs To Be Appointed In 2005**

The Director of Community Affairs tabled a paper updating Members on the preparation that is being made to provide training and support to those members of DPPs who will be appointed during 2005.

### **3.2 Appointment Of Senior Board Staff (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted that with the appointment of Mr Holt as Director of Communications, the Board's Senior Management Team is now complete.

### **3.3 Human Resource Planning Strategy Review (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted that it is anticipated that the revised PSNI Human Resource Planning Strategy will be available for the Human Resources Committee to consider at its August meeting.

The Board noted that the PSNI is currently reviewing the pilot scheme to appoint part-time police officers and that the sub-group will be reactivated.

A brief discussion followed on human resources currently available to PSNI, comparison strength in UK forces and the future of the Full-Time Reserve.

### **3.4 Future Of Andersonstown PSNI Station (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted that this matter would be dealt with under item 15.1.

### **3.5 Production And Publication Of The Policing Board Annual Report 2003-2004 (Item 14 of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted that the Press and Public Relations Committee had agreed:-

- To produce a summary newsletter for distribution through newspapers and a limited number of copies of a more comprehensive annual report
- The outline format for both publications
- That the timing of the publication of the annual reports of the Chief Constable, Policing Board and OPONI would be reviewed to improve sequencing.

The Board noted that work was ongoing regarding the annual report and it was planned that it would be launched in September.

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

##### **4.1 Criminal Justice System In Northern Ireland**

The Board noted that on 22 June 2004, the Chairman had attended the launch of the Inaugural Annual Report of the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland.

The Board noted that an invitation had been issued to the Lord Chief Justice to speak to Members and Chairpersons of DPPs on the theme of sentencing. It was likely that the event would be held in mid September. The Board noted that while the Lord Chief Justice would take questions, he would not be prepared to respond to questions on specific cases.

##### **4.2 Section 55 Reports From The Office Of The Police Ombudsman**

The Board noted that the Chairman had received two Section 55 (4) reports from the Police Ombudsman and that these would be passed to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee for consideration.

##### **4.3 Engagements**

The Board noted that the Chairman had undertaken the following engagements:-

- The John Harris Memorial Lecture – London – 22 June 2004
- The launch of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – Belfast – 29 June 2004

- A Garden Party at Ardnally to celebrate American Independence Day with the Consul General of the United States of America, Barbara Stephenson - 2 July 2004
- A Graduation Dinner – Queen’s University – 6 July 2004

#### **4.4 Young Persons Behaviour And Attitudes Survey Bulletin**

The Board noted that the results of a survey of Young Persons Behaviours and Attitudes, carried out in October and November 2003, had been published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency in June 2004. A copy of the publication will be placed in the library.

#### **4.5 Best Value**

The Board noted that the Chairman had received a draft copy of an HMIC Best Value Review Inspection Report on the PSNI Arrangements to Secure Continuous Improvement through Best Value reviews.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Audit and Best Value Committee had considered the initial recommendations made by HMIC to improve the Best Value reviews at its March 2004 meeting and had actioned a number of follow-up measures.

The Board noted that the final report would be considered at the next Audit and Best Value Committee meeting.

#### **4.6 Office Of The Police Ombudsman (OPONI) – Investigation – Display Of Identification On Police Officer Uniforms And Equipment**

The Board noted that the Chairman had received correspondence from the Police Ombudsman regarding an investigation by the Office into current police policies in relation to the display of identification on police officer uniforms and equipment and had asked officials to take this matter forward.

#### **4.7 Registration Of Notifiable Memberships**

The Board noted that the Chairman had received a letter from ACC Criminal Justice advising that the process of collating information on the Registration of Notifiable Memberships had been suspended pending a judicial review. The judicial review was granted to 4 police officers and the Grand Lodge of Freemasons on 9 June 2004 and was listed for hearing on 21 and 22 September 2004.

The Chairman advised Members that following receipt of the letter he had sought further advice on the nature of the judicial review and that clarification had been received from PSNI. The Board noted copy correspondence, tabled at the meeting.

#### **4.8 Chief Constable's Annual Report 2003 / 04**

The Board noted that the Chief Constable's Annual Report had been laid in Parliament in June 2004.

#### **4.9 Radio Systems**

The Board noted that the Chairman and a number of Members had visited Larne DCU to view the new Barracuda radio system in operation. It was noted that the new system had greatly improved radio reception, particularly in the Larne area.

#### **4.10 ILEF Conference**

The Board noted that the NIO had extended an invitation for a Member\* to attend the International Law Enforcement Forum (ILEF) meetings in Washington from 16 to 20 August 2004. The Board agreed that officials should liaise with Members as to representation at the meetings.

*(\*It was subsequently agreed that Mr Joe Byrne would represent the Board).*

#### **4.11 NIO Codes Of Practice On Reports And Inquiries**

The Board noted that the Chairman had received notification from the NIO that following their consultation on the Section 59 and 60 Code of Practice, it was anticipated that the final version would be issued within the next week. All Members would be issued with a copy of the Code.

#### **4.12 Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission: Appointment Of Lay Members**

The Board noted that the Chairman had received a letter from Lord Filkin, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State regarding the appointment of lay members to the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission. A copy of the letter is available on request from Secretariat.

#### **4.13 Northern Ireland Information Service – News Releases**

The Chairman highlighted a number of issues arising from news releases issued by the Northern Ireland Information Service.

#### **4.14 Report On The Investigation By Cambridge Constabulary Into The Murders Of Jessica Chapman And Holly Wells**

The Board noted that a summary of the conclusions and recommendations of a report by Sir Ronnie Flanagan, HMI on the investigation by Cambridgeshire Constabulary into the murders of Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells at Soham on 4 August 2002 had been received. A copy of the document will be placed in the library.

#### **4.15 Strabane DPP Meeting**

The Board noted that Strabane District Policing Partnership had written to the Chairman to invite all Policing Board Members to attend its 6th meeting in public on 7 July 2004 in Sion Mills.

#### **4.16 Independent Assessor Of Military Complaints Procedures: 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Report**

The Board noted that the Chairman had received a copy of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Independent Assessor of Military Complaints Procedures in Northern Ireland. A copy of the report will be placed in the library.

#### **4.17 Northern Ireland Affairs Committee – Inquiry Into The Functions Of The Office Of The Police Ombudsman**

The Board noted that the Chairman had received an invitation from the Clerk of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee to give evidence in the Committee's Inquiry into the functions of the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. It was also noted that the evidence session had been scheduled for 14 July 2004\* and the Chief Constable had been asked to give evidence at the same time.

*(\* The date was subsequently changed to 21 July 2004).*

The Board noted that the Chairman would be afforded a brief opening statement and then the Committee would ask questions. A copy of the Chairman's draft statement was circulated to Members.

Mr McGrady declared an interest in this matter, did not participate in discussion or in any approval or non-approval of the draft statement and left the meeting prior to the conclusion of discussion on this issue.

The Chairman invited Members to consider Board representation at the evidence session and advised that the Committee had placed a limit on attendance to three representatives. The Board considered a number of options for representation:-

- The Chairman and Chief Executive
- The Chairman, a 'unionist' Board Member and a 'nationalist' Board Member
- The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive

During subsequent discussion the following issues were also raised:-

- The Committee's requirement for factual information rather than subjective opinion
- The need for the representatives to reflect the wide range of views held by Board Members concerning OPONI
- The opportunity for individual political parties to make representation to the Committee concerning their views
- The issues on which the Committee might wish to seek Board views
- The need to amend the draft statement to reflect discussion points raised at the meeting.

Following a short adjournment to facilitate a plenary session, a proposal was put that the Chairman and Chief Executive represent the Board at the Committee Inquiry. Following a show of hands, the Board agreed and the proposal was adopted.

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

### **5.1 Corporate Plan 2005-08**

The Board noted that it was planned that Members should consider the first draft of the Board's Corporate Plan for 2005-08 at a special meeting during week commencing 27 September 2004. Officials were asked to contact Members to agree the most suitable date.

It was noted that a competition would be held for staff to suggest a new 'Strap Line' for the Board and that the results would be brought to a future meeting.

## **5.2 Meeting Of Five Sided Project Board**

The Board noted that the Chief Executive attended a meeting of the Five Sided Project Board on 28 June 2004 attended by representatives of PSNI, An Garda Siochana, NIO and the Department of Justice. Officials outlined the main issues discussed at the meeting including the initiatives discussed by An Garda Siochana and PSNI for joint working. Members agreed to support a joint "Community Policing" conference.

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

The Board noted that as a follow-up to the joint PSNI / NIPB strategy event held in April 2004, arrangements were being made to hold a further strategy meeting in late October.

## **5.4 ACPO Youth Justice Conference**

The Board noted that the Chief Executive had received details of an ACPO Youth Justice Conference on 21 and 22 October 2004 in Liverpool. Any Member wishing to participate was asked to seek further details from Secretariat.

## **6. CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **6.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Corporate Policy Committee Held On 20 May 2004**

#### **6.1.1 OPONI Survey (Item 3.11 Of Minutes Refers)**

A Member requested that details be obtained from OPONI of all surveys that have been undertaken to date by the Office and any that are planned in the immediate future. Officials undertook to provide the Member with the information.

The Board adopted the minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 20 May 2004.

## **6.2 Draft Minutes Of The 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Corporate Policy Committee Held On 17 June 2004**

### **6.2.1 District Policing Partnerships – Parliamentary Questions (Item 3.1.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

In response to a question from a Member, officials gave further details about liaison with the Chief Executive of Dungannon and South Tyrone Council concerning the answer to 2 Parliamentary questions received by HM Government.

## **7. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **7.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Community Involvement Committee Held On 8 April 2004**

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 8 April 2004.

### **7.2 Draft Minutes Of The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Community Involvement Committee Held On 16 June 2004**

#### **7.2.1 Facilitating The Development Of District Policing Partnerships (Item 6.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted decisions made by the Committee regarding the procurement process for training members of DPPs. The Board endorsed the decisions of the Committee and agreed that the current process should be ceased and a paper prepared for a future Committee meeting regarding the way forward.

It was noted that although a meeting had taken place with a provider, at the suggestion of a Member of the Committee, it took place without prejudice. The decision to have the meeting had not been minuted.

The Director of Community Affairs circulated a paper regarding the Northern Ireland Peacebuilders Programme – Building a Peaceful Community. The Board agreed that a paper should be prepared for the relevant Committee setting out the benefits and costs associated with participation in the programme.

The Board noted a letter, circulated by the Director of Community Affairs, inviting Mr Bob Eamer, Texalbec Inc, Ontario, Canada to participate in a study visit with PSNI and the Board during September 2004.

The Board endorsed a proposal for an exchange visit by DPP representatives and Board Members to Chicago in March 2005 concerning the issue of consultation and policing with the community.

#### **7.2.2 CAJ Conference For DPPs – 29 June 2004 (Item 21.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

A Member expressed concern at the attendance of an official and a number of DPP members at a conference organised by the Committee for the Administration of Justice (CAJ). The Member reminded the Board that the CAJ was not a statutory organisation and suggested that the Board should give careful consideration to the endorsement of participation in conferences organised by non-statutory groups. The Board noted the concern expressed by the Member.

### **8. PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

#### **8.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Press And Public Relations Committee Held On 12 February 2004**

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 12 February 2004.

## **8.2 Draft Minutes Of The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Press And Public Relations Committee Meeting Held On 16 June 2004**

### **8.2.1 Conventions In The USA (Item 3 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted that the Committee had received details of the estimated cost of Members and officials attending the Democratic and Republican conventions in the USA in July / August 2004. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, the Vice Chairman of the Board spoke on the item. He advised that the Committee had decided that the matter should be brought back to the Board for reconsideration. The Board agreed that in view of the estimated cost and the timing of the conventions, it was not appropriate to endorse an attendance.

## **9. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **9.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Finance And General Purposes Committee Held On 16 April 2004**

The Board adopted the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 16 April 2004.

### **Draft Minutes Of The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Finance And General Purposes Committee Held on 18 June 2004**

### **PSNI Information And Communications Systems Strategy – Independent Validator – Re January Committee Minutes (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board noted the Committee's decision regarding amendment of the wording of the minutes of the January 2004 Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting. The Board endorsed the Committee's decision to amend the minutes.

### **9.2.1 HMIC Status Report On PSNI Information And Communication Strategy**

The Chairman of the Committee drew the attention of Members to the report received from the HMIC representative on the status of the IS (Information Systems) strategy implementation. The Board noted that the HMIC representative would carry out a follow-up review in September and give the Committee a further progress report in October 2004.

## **10. AUDIT AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **10.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Audit And Best Value Committee Held On 25 March 2004**

The Board adopted the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 25 March 2004.

### **10.2 Draft Minutes Of The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Audit And Best Value Committee Meeting Held On 24 June 2004**

There were no matters arising.

## **11. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **11.1 Draft Minutes Of The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Meeting Held On 28 May 2004**

There were no matters arising.

### **11.2 Draft Minutes Of The 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Quorum) Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 28 May 2004**

There were no matters arising.

## **12. MONITORING THE POLICING PLAN**

The Board noted a report received from the Facilitator of the joint NIPB / PSNI strategy event held on 28 / 29 April 2004.

The Board considered a paper outlining a number of proposals to assist it in taking an improved approach to monitoring police performance against the Annual Policing Plan.

The Board agreed that:-

- The PSNI will be requested to deliver a presentation to the Board meeting in public, on a quarterly basis, reporting on their performance against the targets contained in the Plan
- It will invite members of DPPs and other groups specifically affected by the targets in the Plan to attend these public sessions
- It will issue a press release after each presentation
- The Chief Constable's monthly briefing paper to the Board will be adapted to include information on performance against targets contained in the Plan.

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

The Board agreed a number of questions to be put to the Chief Constable.

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

The Chief Constable reminded Members of media coverage of an incident at the Mater Hospital and subject to Board approval proposed to show film footage recorded on CCTV cameras at the hospital to the meeting. Members agreed that it would be helpful for them to see the footage and it was shown. ACC Urban Region explained the sequence of events as the footage progressed.

Following the showing, the Chief Constable emphasised that he did not wish to minimise the concerns expressed by hospital staff about their safety, or to condone the incident. However, he expressed concern that media coverage of the incident had tended to sensationalise the event, particularly references to a 'rampage', and 'staff fleeing a mob', this was not reflected in the CCTV footage. There was also criticism of the time taken by police to respond, again this was not reflected in the CCTV footage. ACC Urban Region advised that the CCTV footage had been provided to the Director of Public Prosecutions and the behaviour was not deemed to be illegal.

Members raised a number of issues arising from the incident with the Chief Constable and ACC Urban region including:-

- The potential for reports of the incident to inflame tension in Belfast at a sensitive time in the marching season
- The response given by PSNI to the media coverage
- Media coverage of the PSNI response
- Liaison between PSNI and the management of the Mater hospital
- The response of the Director of Public Prosecutions to the matter.

The Board agreed that the CCTV coverage shown to Members should also be shown at the Board meeting in public later that day.

Members raised a number of other matters with the Chief Constable. In response to a question from a Member, the Chief Constable advised that to date, no-one had been arrested in connection with an injury to a PSNI officer at a checkpoint on 29 May 2004 in the South Armagh area. A reconstruction of the incident had been carried out. The injured officer had returned to duty.

In response to a question from a Member, the Chief Constable gave further details about a recent robbery in the Dunmurry area.

The Chief Constable outlined the procedures in place for dealing with police officers and their families who came under threat from paramilitary or other sources.

A Member enquired why the PSNI flag was not flown throughout the police estate as was the case at PSNI Headquarters, Brooklyn and the PSNI Training Centre at Garnerville. The Chief Constable reminded Members of the legislation which governed the flying of flags and advised that should DCUs have a requirement to fly the PSNI flag for a specific event then this would be given consideration but it was not planned to fly the Service flag at other locations in the police estate.

The Chief Constable was advised that the Board had received a copy of a report from OPONI on its investigation of the Abernathy case. A Member asked if the Chief Constable was satisfied with the action taken to date and whether he was confident, that as a result of the remedial action, such a case could not reoccur in the future. ACC Crime Operations advised Members of the action that had already been taken in respect of the recommendations flowing from the PSNI internal investigation and from the OPONI report. The Chief Constable reminded Members that the case had been referred to OPONI by PSNI in the first instance.

A Member asked the Chief Constable to give the Board a progress report on the internal investigation into the circumstances surrounding the arrest and detention of a student officer accused of shoplifting, referred to in a recent newspaper article. The Deputy Chief Constable indicated that an investigation had been completed and papers forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecution and that he could not comment further on the matter as it was sub-justice.

A Member noted that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had received a report indicating that water cannons had been loaned to An Garda Siochana free of charge. The Chief Constable reminded the Board that it had borrowed water cannon from the Belgian police free of charge and advised that PSNI planned to charge for use of the vehicles in the future.

The Board moved to its meeting in public and following the completion of this session, the PSNI personnel left the meeting.

## **14. INFORMATION PAPERS**

### **14.1 Note Of Briefing Held On 20 May 2004 Regarding The HMIC Review Of Special Branch And Related Issues**

The Board noted the record of a briefing given by ACC Crime Operations regarding the HMIC review of Special Branch and related issues.

## **15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **15.1 Proposed Closure Of Andersonstown Police Station**

The Board noted correspondence received from the Chairman of Belfast District Policing Partnership and separate correspondence from 2 Belfast City Councillors concerning the future of Andersonstown station. The Board also noted a paper which advised that officials were in the process of developing a policy paper on the role of the Board in the closure of police stations and that legal advice on this issue was awaited.

The Vice Chairman reminded Members of the background to a PSNI proposal to close the Andersonstown station and previous Board discussion of this matter.

Members discussed the correspondence received and the consultation process that had taken place with the local community to date. The following issues were considered during the discussion:-

- The statutory responsibility on DPPs to consult the local community about such issues and whether the Belfast DPP had met this obligation concerning the proposed closure of Andersonstown

- The response to and results of the findings of the PSNI survey of the local community
- The stated position of the Belfast DPP regarding closure - that it is opposed to the closure of the station
- The value of a new survey being carried out by the Belfast DPP
- That legal advice to date indicating that the decision to close a police station is an operational decision to be made by the Chief Constable and that the Board's responsibilities lie with the acquisition, holding or disposal of the land
- The account that the Board should take of a recommendation by a DPP that a station should be closed or remain open
- The position of the Board should the Chief Constable follow his recommendation and close the station
- The need for the Board to agree a framework for a process in respect of station closures.

A motion was proposed and seconded that Andersonstown police station should remain open as proposed by Belfast DPP.

An amendment to the motion was proposed and seconded that the Board should defer taking a decision on the closure of Andersonstown station to consider legal advice more closely and consider a general framework on the role of the Board in the proposed closure of stations. Following a show of hands, the amendment was carried and the original motion fell. It was agreed that officials would prepare a paper for the relevant Committee.

## **16. PRESS ISSUES**

There were no matters arising.

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 2 September 2004.

(Meeting closed 5:00 pm).

**SECRETARIAT**

**July 2004**

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**CHAIRMAN**