

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 31 MAY 2007 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
Ms Martina Anderson
Mr Tom Buchanan
Mr Leslie Cree
Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson
Mrs Dolores Kelly
Mr Alex Maskey
Mr Basil McCrea
Mr Daithí McKay
Ms Mary McKee
Mrs Rosaleen Moore
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
Mr Brian Rea
Mr David Rose
Mr Suneil Sharma
Mr David Simpson
Mr Trevor Ringland

(1) Mr Peter Weir

OFFICE OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMISSIONER IN ATTENDANCE: OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

(2) Mr Al Hutchinson, Oversight Commissioner
(2) Mr Dean Coates, Oversight Commissioner's
Office

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

(1) Item numbers 1 to 6 only

(2) Item number 7 only

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

There were no apologies received.

The Chief Executive informed the Board, that a request had been made from the media to film part of the Board's proceedings. He proposed that the media be admitted for the initial part of item 7 for the meeting between the Board and the Oversight Commissioner.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the media be admitted for the initial part of the Board's meeting with the Oversight Commissioner.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN TO THE BOARD

The Chief Executive assumed the chair for the election of the Chairman of the Board. He referred Members to the briefing paper circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting, which set out the relevant Board's Standing Orders governing the election process for Chairman of the Board. The Chief Executive confirmed that as all 19 Members were present, that the statutory requirement in respect of a quorum for the meeting to which an appointment is to be made was duly satisfied. He reminded the meeting that the Chairman of the Board would be elected to serve for the next 2 years from 31 May 2007 to the scheduled monthly Board meeting in May 2009. NOTED.

The Chief Executive invited nominations for the post of Chairman.

Mr Leslie Cree proposed that Professor Sir Desmond Rea be appointed Chairman of the Policing Board. The proposal was seconded by Mr Gilligan.

The Chief Executive invited other nominations. There were no other nominations.

There being no other nominations, the Chief Executive declared that Professor Sir Desmond Rea was duly elected Chairman of the Board for the next 2 year period and invited him to sign the Declaration of Acceptance as Chairman of the Board and to take the chair.

Professor Sir Desmond Rea signed the Declaration of Acceptance and took the chair of the meeting. He expressed thanks to Board Members for their support.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN TO THE BOARD

The Chairman referred Members to a briefing paper circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting which set out the relevant Board's Standing Orders governing the election process for the Vice Chairman of the Board.

The Chairman invited nominations for the post of Vice Chairman.

Mr Trevor Ringland proposed that Mr Barry Gilligan be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Policing Board. The proposal was seconded by Mr Brian Rea.

The Chairman invited other nominations. There were no other nominations.

There being no other nominations, the Chairman declared that Mr Barry Gilligan was duly elected Vice Chairman of the Board for the next 2 year period and invited him to sign the Declaration of Acceptance as Vice Chairman of the Board.

Mr Gilligan signed the Declaration of Acceptance and expressed thanks to Board Members for their support.

4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

The Chief Executive referred Members to a draft paper which proposed the membership of the Board's Committees. The paper had been prepared following

discussion at the Board's Induction Day on 30 May 2007. The consensus view among Members was that the role and responsibilities of the existing Community and Human Rights Committee should be split and that 2 new Committees should be formed, with provisional titles of the Community Engagement Committee and the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee. The proposed membership reflected the increase from 5 to 6 Committees. During discussion, a number of amendments were made to the membership of Committees.

The Chief Executive informed Members that it was necessary that Standing Orders be suspended as follows, to facilitate the proposed Committee structure and Schedule of Membership – Standing Orders 20(c)(bullet point 1); 20(e); 20(f) and 20(n).

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To suspend Standing Orders 20(c)(bullet point 1); 20(e); 20(f) and 20(n).

The Chief Executive advised that it would be necessary to bring forward amendments to Standing Orders in due course once the new arrangements had settled down, including any necessary revisions to the roles of Committees.

4.1 Audit & Risk Management Committee

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To appoint the following Members to the Audit & Risk Management Committee.

Mrs Dolores Kelly
Mr Daithí McKay
Mr Trevor Ringland
Mr David Rose

Mr Suneil Sharma

Mr Peter Weir

and that Mr Trevor Ringland be appointed Chairman of the Committee and Mr Daithí McKay, Vice Chairman of the Committee.

4.2 Community Engagement Committee

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To appoint the following Members to the Community Engagement Committee.

Ms Martina Anderson

Mr Tom Buchanan

Mr Leslie Cree

Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson

Mr Barry Gilligan

Mr Alex Maskey

Ms Mary McKee

Mr Gearóid Ó hEára

Mr David Rose

Mr Suneil Sharma

and that Mr Alex Maskey be appointed Chairman of the Committee and Mr Barry Gilligan Vice Chairman of the Committee

The draft role of the new Community Engagement Committee tabled by the Chief Executive was accepted as an initial working document which the Committee would review in due course.

4.3 Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee

With regard to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee, the Board's Standing Orders determined that the Committee comprise the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board, Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees and up to 2 Floating Members.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the following Members be appointed to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson
Mr Barry Gilligan
Mrs Dolores Kelly
Mr Basil McCrea
Mr Daithí McKay
Ms Mary McKee
Mr Alex Maskey
Mrs Rosaleen Moore
Mr Brian Rea
Professor Sir Desmond Rea
Mr Trevor Ringland
Mr David Simpson

and that Professor Sir Desmond Rea be appointed Chairman of the Committee and Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson Vice Chairman of the Committee.

4.4 Human Resources Committee

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To appoint the following Members to the Resources and Improvement Committee.

Mr Tom Buchanan
Mr Basil McCrea
Mr Daithí McKay
Ms Mary McKee
Mrs Rosaleen Moore
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
Mr Brian Rea
Mr David Rose
Mr David Simpson

and that Mr David Simpson be appointed Chairman of the Committee and Mrs Rosaleen Moore Vice Chairman of the Committee.

4.5 Resources and Improvement Committee

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To appoint the following Members to the Resources and Improvement Committee.

Mr Tom Buchanan
Mr Leslie Cree
Mrs Dolores Kelly
Mr Alex Maskey
Mrs Rosaleen Moore
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára

Mr Brian Rea
Mr Trevor Ringland
Mr Peter Weir

and that Mrs Dolores Kelly be appointed Chairman of the Committee and Mr Brian Rea Vice Chairman of the Committee.

4.6 Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To appoint the following Members to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee.

Ms Martina Anderson
Mr Basil McCrea
Ms Mary McKee
Mrs Rosaleen Moore
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
Mr Brian Rea
Mr Suneil Sharma
Mr Peter Weir

and that Mr Basil McCrea be appointed Chairman of the Committee and Ms Mary McKee Vice Chairman of the Committee.

The draft role of the new Human Rights & Professional Standards Committee tabled by the Chief Executive was accepted as an initial working document which the Committee would review in due course.

The Chairman suggested that each individual Committee review its role and responsibilities and that these could be amended in the light of future experience.

During discussion, it was suggested that officials bring a paper to a future Board meeting regarding the terminology to be used for the Office Bearers in Committees.

5. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Board considered a paper which provided a guide in appointing Members to serve on a number of outside bodies, working groups, steering groups etc as representatives of the Board.

5.1 Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) Stakeholder Group

The Board was advised that it could appoint 3 members to the OCTF Stakeholder Group, at least one of which should be an independent Member of the Board.

Following discussions:-

It was:-

RESOLVED:-

- that 3 Members should be appointed – the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board and one political Member;
- that the attendance of the political member of the group should be rotated;
- that 2 political Members be appointed in the first year of rotation – a representative from the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and a representative from the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) who would attend alternate meetings during the year.

5.2 New College Steering Group

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That Mr Gilligan be appointed as the Board representative on the Steering Group for the new Police College, along with the Chief Executive.

5.3 CORE Project Steering Group

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That an official from the Board should serve on the CORE Steering Group.

5.4 PSNI Procurement Project Board

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That Mr Ringland and Mr Gilligan should serve on the PSNI Procurement Project Board.

5.5 Crimestoppers

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chairman and Chief Executive should reflect further on Board representation on the Crimestoppers organisation.

5.6 Women's Criminal Justice Network

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That Ms McKee should be appointed to the Women's Criminal Justice Network.

5.7 PSNI Diversity Steering Group

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That Mr Sharma and Mr Ó hEára should serve on the PSNI Diversity Steering Group.

5.8 Association Of Police Authorities - Plenary

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman (Professor Sir Desmond Rea) and the Vice Chairman of the Board (Mr Gilligan) should represent the Board at plenary sessions of the Association of the Police Authorities.

The Chief Executive advised that the Board previously agreed a scheme of special allowances payable to independent Members in respect of some of the above positions. Officials planned to bring a paper to a future Board meeting with proposals for the allocation of special allowances when appointments to outside bodies are finalised.

6. SCHEDULE OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2007

Officials drew attention to the programme of Board and Committee meetings that had been agreed by the outgoing Board. Members considered a schedule of dates for Board and Committee meetings during the period June to December 2007.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- to hold the Policing Board meeting arranged for 6 June 2007 as planned.
- that officials should check with Members if the meeting planned for 27 June 2007 was suitable or if an alternative date in week beginning 2 July 2007 would be more suitable.
- that the Policing Board should continue to meet in private session at 9:30am.
- that the Committee meetings already arranged for June 2007 should be held as planned.
- that the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee and the Community Engagement Committee should meet on 14 June 2007.
- that Committees should consider the programme of meetings for the period July to December 2007 at their first meeting.

The Chief Executive drew the attention of Members to a Schedule of Board Events for the month of June 2007 and requested Members to indicate their interest in attendance to Secretariat.

During discussion of Board and Committee meetings, the consensus view of Members was, that the Board should no longer sit in alphabetical order and that the arrangement of seating should be resolved by individual Members.

7. PRESENTATION BY THE OFFICE OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMISSIONER – LEGACY DOCUMENT

The Chairman welcomed the Oversight Commissioner to the meeting.

The Oversight Commission briefed Board Members on his final report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Independent Commission on Policing.

The Oversight Commissioner highlighted the following strategic future challenges in his report:-

- Community Engagement.
- Sustainability and capacity.
- Policing the Past.
- Accountability.

The Oversight Commissioner advised that of the 175 recommendations made by the Independent Commission, 140 had been completed with 16 of the 35 remaining recommendations substantially complete.

Members discussed a range of issues with the Oversight Commissioner including:-

- recommendations concerning information technology, particularly technology acquisition and training.
- Policing the Past.
- oversight of the remaining recommendations by the Policing Board.
- the monitoring and oversight of policing issues relating to overlap areas of policing and national security.
- the role of District Policing Partnerships and other police/community engagement bodies.

- the objective of a routinely unarmed police service.
- Matters relating to civilian support staff, including composition.

The Chairman thanked the representatives from the Office of the Oversight Commission and they left the meeting.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

Press releases to be issued on:-

- election of Board Chairman and Vice Chairman.
- appointment of Committees
- meeting with Oversight Commissioner.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the date of the next Policing Board meeting should be Wednesday, 6 June 2007.

(Meeting closed 12:50 pm).

Secretariat

May 2007

Chairman

Record No: 69026