

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 MAY 2010 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Acting Chairperson)

Mr Leslie Cree

Mrs Rosaleen Moore

Mr Trevor Ringland

(1) Mr Peter Weir

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(2) Mr David Best, Director of Finance & Support
Services

(2) Mr Mark McNaughton, Head of Strategic
Financial Services

(3) Mr Campbell Browne, Head of Procurement

(3) Mr Dave Glover,

(4) Mr Bob McGarry, Head of Corporate Services

(4) Ms Jenny Passmore, Former Head of Inspection
& Review

(5) Ms Nicola Murphy, Head of Process
Improvement Unit

(5) Chief Superintendent Alan Todd

KEN REED CONSULTANCY IN ATTENDANCE:

(6) Mr Ken Reed

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Sam Hagen, Director of Corporate Services

Mr David Wilson, Director of Planning

4 Board Officials

(1) Item numbers 1 – 4 and 9 – 14

(2) Item numbers 5 – 8

(3) Item number 8 only

(4) Item number 15 only

(5) Item number 16 only

(6) Item number 17 only

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Gearóid Ó hEára and Mr Alex Attwood (Chairperson). NOTED.

In the absence of Mr Attwood, the meeting was chaired by the Acting Chairperson, Professor Sir Desmond Rea.

No conflicts of interest arising from the agenda were declared by Members.

2. MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2010

The Committee considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 March 2010.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 19 March 2010 be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 (Item 9 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that officers had liaised with PSNI and Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding the suggested amendment to the Framework document. NOTED.

3.2 PSNI Estate Strategy (Item 11 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was provided with details of where each new build project lay within the PSNI Estate Strategy.

Members also received a copy of a response from ACC Rural regarding an update on the 26 stations which the Board, in August 2009, had approved for disposal.

A discussion followed on the PSNI Estate Strategy. Members raised concerns regarding specific stations and their current status.

Following the discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That officials would draft a question for the Chief Constable on the existing arrangements for updating the Board on issues relating to the police estate.

3.3 Assisted Removals (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)

This item was dealt with under agenda item 13.

3.4 Questions For The Chief Constable (Item 16 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a question was asked at the April 2010 Board meeting on 'alternative policing arrangements' in areas where police stations had recently closed.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Acting Chairperson advised the Committee that the former Chairperson of the Resources and Improvement Committee, Mr Alex Attwood had now taken up his post in the Assembly as Minister for Social Development.

5. PSNI REPORT ON EXPENDITURE TO APRIL 2010

The Director of Finance and Support Services briefed the Committee on the Expenditure Reports to April 2010.

| | Actual £ | Budget £ | Variance £ |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Staff Costs | 44,676 | 43,695 | (981) |
| Non Staff Costs | 11,930 | 12,018 | 88 |
| Historical Enquiries Team | 325 | 495 | 170 |
| Receipts | (1,064) | (298) | 766 |
| Cash Payment of Provisions | 17,146 | 14,544 | (2,602) |
| Depreciation & Impairment | 2,766 | 3,279 | 513 |
| DEL Pensions | 2,235 | 2,235 | 0 |
| Hearing Loss & Equal Pay Provision | 1,034 | 0 | (1,034) |
| Total Resource | 95,978 | 110,838 | 14,860 |

| | Actual £m | Budget £m | Variance £m |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Capital Programme | 42.5 | 82.5 | 40 |

6. PSNI DRAFT ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2009 – 2010

The Director of Finance and Support Services briefed the Committee on the Draft Annual Financial Statement for 2009 – 2010.

Following the briefing, the Acting Chairperson thanked the Director of Finance and Support Services and his colleagues for the work involved in preparing the statements.

7. PSNI VALUE FOR MONEY SAVINGS TARGET

The Committee considered a paper which advised of the PSNI's achievement against the Value for Money (VFM) Savings Targets set within the 2009 – 2010 budget.

NOTED.

8. PROCUREMENT WITHIN PSNI

The Acting Chairperson welcomed Mr Campbell Browne to the meeting.

Mr Browne presented an overview of procurement within the PSNI and provided Members with the Annual Management Budget Spend across each PSNI Department.

Mr Browne also advised that when benchmarked against other public services, PSNI were rated in the best quartile in 14 categories and 1st in 3 categories. He pointed out that PSNI's performance was also rated significantly higher than other UK police forces.

9. NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD ACCOUNTS TO APRIL 2010

The Committee noted the details contained in the Board's management accounts to April 2010. NOTED.

10. POLICING BOARD DRAFT ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2009 – 2010

The Committee noted the Draft Annual Financial Statements for 2009 – 2010.

The Acting Chairperson thanked the Director of Corporate Services and his staff for their work in the preparing this document.

11. COMPENSATION INFORMATION – DECEMBER 2009 AND JANUARY 2010

The Committee considered the Compensation Schedule for December 2009 and January 2010.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the information provided in the Compensation Schedule for December 2009 and January 2010.

It was:-

AGREED:

That in future reports, Hearing Loss Claims should be summarised into a single page.

Members raised concerns at a few specific cases and requested further information which was provided by a Board official later in the meeting.

12. ASSISTED REMOVALS (PSNI)

The Committee considered a paper which sought a determination request from PSNI in respect of assisted removals.

It was:-

AGREED:

- to ratify decisions taken by Board officials;
- to consider a further 2 month extension to the police leased accommodation and storage costs – ADM41;

- to approve a 2 month extension to police leased accommodation and storage costs – ADM42;
- to grant an extension to police leased accommodation for up to a 6 month period from 31 May 2010 – ADM51;
- to grant a further extension up to 1 month to police leased accommodation and storage costs – ADM56;
- to pay the sum incurred for removals over the delegated limit – ADM54;
- to pay the sum incurred for removals over the delegated limit – ADM55;
- to reimburse the mortgage arrangement fee – ADM50.

Members also considered the application from ADM43 regarding a mortgage arrangement fee, but did not agree on reimbursement.

The Director of Corporate Services briefed the Committee on ongoing discussions with the DOJ regarding negative equity.

It was:-

AGREED:

That Committee would support the proposal for a police officer, who had been moved from their home, and was in negative equity on the property, to be asked to take the negative equity loan scheme up to a value of 50% of annual salary. The remaining amount of negative equity would become a request for special payment from PSNI to the DoJ for approval.

13. NORMAL AND ASSISTED REMOVALS (PSNI) SCHEMES

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members on:-

- the revision of the scheme applicable in the PSNI for normal and assisted removals;
- a revised set of delegated limits for both the PSNI Normal and Assisted Removal Schemes; and

- the discussions held with PSNI on those cases where officers are in negative equity.

It was:-

AGREED:

- to approve the revisions and delegated limits proposed by the PSNI and the Normal and Assisted Removals Scheme as detailed in the paper;
- to seek authorisation from the DOJ to implement the proposals.

14. GENERAL AND OCCASIONAL AUTHORISATIONS TO SELL, SUPPLY, KEEP AND CONSUME INTOXICATING LIQUOR AT POLICE ESTABLISHMENTS

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of the final revision of the PSNI Service Procedure which governs the selling, supply, keeping and consuming of intoxicating liquor at police establishments.

It was:-

AGREED:

- to approve the PSNI Service Procedure as detailed in the paper;
- to ratify the delegated authority taken by Board officials to approve:-
 - 2 requests for extensions to General Authorisations in police establishments; and
 - 5 requests for Occasional Authorisations in police establishments.

15. PSNI CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY 2009 – 2010

The Acting Chairperson welcomed Mr Bob McGarry and Ms Jenny Passmore to the meeting.

Mr McGarry and Ms Passmore briefed the Committee on the PSNI Continuous Improvement Strategy 2009 – 2010 report.

The Director of Planning thanked Mr McGarry and Ms Passmore for their work in completing this report, given that responsibility for Continuous Improvement has now transferred to the Process Improvement Unit. NOTED.

16. PSNI CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY 2010 – 2011

The Acting Chairperson welcomed Ms Nichola Murphy and Chief Superintendent Alan Todd to the meeting.

A presentation on the 2010 – 2011 PSNI Continuous Improvement Strategy was given to the Committee. Members were advised that the 2010 – 2011 Strategy will retain the 3 Strands approach but that the management of the Strategy will move to the Process Improvement Unit under the direction of the Deputy Chief Constable.

Following the presentation, it was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the PSNI Continuous Improvement Strategy for 2010 – 2011.

It was:-

AGREED:

That copies of a recent presentation to the Board on Mobile Data be sent to Members of the Resources and Improvement Committee.

17. NIPB'S APPROACH TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT 2009 – 2010

The Committee considered a report on the Board's Continuous Improvement activities during 2009 – 2010 and also the Post Implementation Review report for both NIPB and PSNI.

The Board's Continuous Improvement Critical Friend was in attendance to brief Members and to answer their questions.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the Post Implementation Review in respect of both NIPB and PSNI.

18. PSNI IS STRATEGY MONITORING INFORMATION

The Committee was asked to note a paper which provided Members with positive monitoring information in relation to Call Handling, Project Closure, ICS Business Case progress, ICS Spend Profiles and ICS Project Narrative.

Members raised concerns surrounding ongoing problems with Call Handling in stations.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That the Chairs of all Committees with an interest in Call Handling should meet with ACC Kerr.

19. INFORMATION PAPERS

19.1 BBC – Imminent Murder Forces PSNI Man Out

19.2 Signing of PSNI Estate Documents

19.3 NIPB Approach to Continuous Improvement 2010 – 2011 – Update

NOTED.

20. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That a question should be composed to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting regarding:-

- issues on the PSNI estate.

21. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22.1 Financial Governance Arrangements for Policing In a Devolved Administration

The Committee considered a paper which advised of a letter received from the Chief Constable in relation to the financial governance arrangements for policing in a devolved administration.

The PSNI Director of Finance and Support Services was in attendance to answer Members questions.

22.2 Case for Extending Retention of Full Time Reserve Officers

The Committee was presented with the case for extending the retention of Full Time Reserve officers.

Members discussed the issue and raised concerns and questions with the Director of Finance and Support Services.

Some of the issues raised were:-

- redeployment of officers from desks to uniform;
- funding of PSNI;
- stations/closures;
- Policing with the Community Strategy.

Following a discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That the Director of Finance and Support Services should report back to the Chief Constable advising that Members require an overall strategy on how to deal with the dissident threat, and not only one part of a tactical plan.

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee was arranged for Friday, 18 June 2010 at 10.00am.

(Meeting closed at 1:00pm).

Secretariat

May 2010

Chairperson