

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 JULY 2010 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Dominic Bradley (Chairperson)
Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Vice Chairperson)
Mr Jonathan Bell
Mr Leslie Cree
Mr Basil McCrea
Mr Daithí McKay
Mrs Rosaleen Moore
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
Mr Brian Rea (A/Chairman of the Board)
Mr Trevor Ringland
Mr Jimmy Spratt

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (1) Chief Constable, Mr Matt Baggott
- (1) Deputy Chief Constable, Mrs Judith Gillespie
- (1) Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Will Kerr (Criminal Justice Department)
- (1) A/Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alan Todd (Rural Region)
- (1) Mr Joe Stewart, Director of Human Resources
- (1) Mr Mark McNaughton, Head of Strategic Finance Services
- (1) Ms Liz Young, Head of Media & PR
- (1) Superintendent John McCaughan, Command Secretariat

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Adrian Donaldson, Chief Executive
- Mr Sam Hagen, Director of Corporate Services
- (2) Mr David Wilson, Director of Planning
- (2) Mr David Jackson, Director of Community Engagement
- (2) Mr Peter Gilleece, Director of Policy
- (2) 4 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 2,3 and 5
- (2) Item numbers 1,3, part 4 and 5-7

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received. NOTED.

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

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Jonathan Bell, who had replaced Mr Peter Weir as one of the DUP representatives on the Board.

2. PSNI BUDGET 2010 SCENARIO PLANNING SUBMISSIONS

The Chairperson of the Committee and the Director of Corporate Services briefed the Committee on the context for the PSNI Budget 2010 Scenario Planning Submissions before the Chief Constable and his colleagues joined the meeting.

Members were advised that PSNI would give details in relation to resource savings against the 5% and 8% scenarios.

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Constable and his colleagues to the meeting. The Chief Constable expressed concern at the significant impact any spending cuts would have on the PSNI. He stated that a case should be made to Westminster showing that policing within Northern Ireland is unique and therefore should be ring fenced and not included within determinations relating to decisions on the Block Grant for Northern Ireland.

The Chief Constable then spoke on the 4 key areas of policing:-

- officers on the street;
- capability to deal with organised crime;
- policing the past;
- personal policing

The Chief Constable presented the scenarios for a 5% and 8% cut and added a further scenario of a 2.5% cut.

2.5% Cut £177m cut in budget

5% Cut £350m cut in budget – this would mean no agency staff, no recruitment and a possible reduction in police numbers

8% Cut £540m cut in budget – this would mean compulsory redundancies and would diminish the crime fighting ability of PSNI leaving PSNI with only enough resources to deal with routine essential work

Members thanked the Chief Constable for the presentation on the scenarios and raised concerns about the level of detail they had been provided with.

Following further discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That a sub-group would meet with PSNI to discuss the details further. The sub-group would consist of one Member from each political group and one independent Member.

3. REPORT ON PSNI OPERATIONS WEEK COMMENCING 12 JULY 2010

The Chief Constable gave the Committee a confidential briefing on the police operation in Ardoyne, week commencing 12 July 2010.

The Chief Constable advised Members on the number of officers injured and that one officer remained in hospital. Members were also advised that a number of arrests had been made. The Chief Constable expressed concerns that some of those involved in the riots were as young as 8.

Following the Chief Constable's briefing, Members passed on the Board's best wishes to all officers who had been injured. Members also expressed concern at the age of some of the rioters and praised the PSNI for their restraint during the police operation.

The Chairperson thanked the Chief Constable and his colleagues for attending and they left the meeting.

4. NIPB BUDGET 2010 SCENARIO PLANNING SUBMISSIONS

The Board Chief Executive presented to the Committee, the NIPB Scenario Planning Submissions.

5% Cut a reduction in budget equal to £1.6m

8% Cut a reduction in budget equal to £2.5m

Following discussion, It was:-

AGREED:

That the Sub group to review the PSNI 2010 budget Scenario Submission would also review the Boards' Submission.

The Committee began to consider NIPB employees and Members agreed that this discussion should take place in the absence of Board officials.

5. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

It was:-

AGREED:

That a news release would be issued on the PSNI operation in Ardoyne.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee was arranged for Friday, 20 August 2010 at 10.00am.

(Meeting closed at 4:45pm).

Secretariat

July 2010

Chairperson