

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 2PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER AND ZOOM.

PRESENT: Mr John Blair (Chairperson)
Mr Michael Atkinson (Vice Chair)
(2) Ms Sinéad McLaughlin (Zoom)
(2) Ms Carmel McKinney (Zoom)
Ms Janet Gray
Ms Linda Dillon MLA
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA

PSNI: (1) (DCC Mark Hamilton
(1) ACC Bobby Singleton (Zoom)
(1) Supt Gordon McCalmont
(1) Supt Kelly Moore
(1) Fiona Hart, Deputy Principal, Strategic Partnerships & Prevention, PSNI
(1) Lianne Band – Observing only
(1) C/Insp Liam McPhillips– Observing only

OFFICIALS IN

ATTENDANCE: Mrs Sinead Simpson, Chief Executive
Mrs Dympna Thornton, Director of Partnership
Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Performance
7 Board Officials

(1) Present for Items 5.1 a, 5.1b and 5.2

(2) Present for all Items up to 5.2

The Committee Chair wished to observe a minute's silence in remembrance of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Joanne Bunting MLA, Maurice Bradley MLA and Mr Colm McKenna.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chairperson asked Members to declare any conflicts of interests arising from the agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG

The Director of Partnership provided Members with an update on the Committee's rolling action log:

AP 28.7 from November 2021 – Communication with PSNI ongoing to agree dates convenient for Members. Date will be shared with Members when we have confirmed date. **Members agreed to keep action open.**

AP 29.4 from December 2021– Engagement Webinar with PCSPs is being progressed in line with Engagement Programme of Work for 2022. This will be progressed by Board's new Engagement Manager. **Members agreed to keep action open.**

AP 32.1 – Letter of thanks issued to Dolores Kelly on 1st July 2022 and included in Chair's Correspondence at item 4.1. **Members agreed closure of this action.**

AP 32.2 – Attendance at PCSP meetings: Information on process for Members to attend PCSP meeting was sent to all Members on 1st July 2022. **Members agreed closure of this action.**

AP 32.3 – Partnership Committee Draft Terms of Reference: Draft Terms of Reference discussed and updated in line with Members' and Chief Executive requests. Further suggested updates provided by Members. This will be discussed in Committee Business 5.9. **Members agreed to keep action open.**

AP 32.4 – Police Property Fund approval to fund 13 applications was given at the July Board meeting, as well as approval to fund 3 reserve projects if funding is available to do so. This will be discussed in Committee Business 5.8. **Members agreed closure of this action.**

AP 32.5 – Custody Review update: PSNI were contacted to provide an update on the custody review. Letter issued to PSNI on 11th July 2022 and response received on 11th August 2022 included in Chair's Correspondence. **Members agreed closure of this action.**

AP 32.6 – Custody suite visit: Dates have been offered and are being finalised with Members. **Members agreed closure of this action.**

AP 32.7 – At their July Meeting the Board approved ICV Annual Report 2021/22 for publication on its website. **Members agreed closure of this action.**

AP 32.8 – Paper on Regional Events: Final event will be held in the Northwest in late October. A composite paper with information on all 4 events will be brought to November's Committee meeting. **Members agreed to keep action open.**

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Letter of thanks to Mrs Dolores Kelly

Members noted.

4.2 Response to ACC Alan Todd re: Review of Custody

This was discussed and members sought clarity on intentions for Strand Road.

4.3 Letter from ACC Singleton re: Update on South Armagh Review

Members discussed concerns that Recommendation 1 of the review is not to proceed. A Member indicated that they may raise this a question to the Chief Constable.

Liz Kimmons, MLA wished to record that as a local representative she objects to this proposal.

4.4 Letter to ACC Singleton re: Problem Solving Awards

This was noted for discussion at agenda item 5.2.

4.5 Letter from ACC Todd re: ICV Annual Report

Members noted.

4.6 Response to PSNI/ NICCY re: Development of Children/Young Person 's event.

Members noted the positive potential of this event, and it was agreed that frequent and regular feedback will come to Committee on progress when the Steering Groups commences meeting.

It was **AGREED**: -

- Board Officials will contact PSNI to seek clarification on their intentions for Strand Road Station custody suite. **(AP1)**

5. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.1 Policing Plan Measures 3.1.1 (Agenda Item 5.1a) and Measures 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 (Agenda Item 5.1b)

The Partnership Director provided Members with an update on the progress towards completion of those actions which remain open on the Local Policing Review (LPR) Implementation Plan (Policing Plan Measure 3.1.1) and provided a proposed infographic for publication.

The Performance Director then provided Members with an analysis of the PSNI Measure Report Cards against the Performance Plan Measures of 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 specific to neighbourhood policing and the impact of partnership.

In respect of Agenda Item 5.1a (Local Policing Review) Members discussed:

- The update on the Youth Champion's Forum and the consultation carried out with 100 young people by PSNI;
- Stop and Search as carried out by PSNI;
- Single Officer patrolling and framework for its delivery.

In addressing Members' comments, PSNI noted the following:

- The report noting the consultation would be shared with Members;
- Conversations which PSNI have had recently with the Board's Human Rights Advisor and the need for PSNI to be forensic about authorisation for Stop and Search;
- Guidance for Single Officer Patrolling will be provided to Members.

It was **AGREED**: -

- That the Report on the consultation carried out by PSNI with 100 young people will be shared with Members **(AP 2)**
- Guidance in respect of single officer patrolling to be shared with Members **(AP 3)**

5.1b The Director of Performance provided an overview of the information contained in the Report card, indicating that Officials are seeking direction in respect of future actions. PSNI then provided Members with contextual information to support the information contained in the report cards. ACC Singleton noted that increased crime figures may be reflective of increased reporting and noted an upswing in acquisitive crime, however those increases are below baseline averages. He also referred to the launch of the PSNI Hallmarks for Neighbourhood Policing and the reported ASB figures in the report card. The Deputy Chief Constable added that he wished to advise Members of issues of concern which are ahead, including inflation and increasing fuel costs and by extension possible impact on service delivery. He noted that he and Senior Colleagues will have difficult decisions to make in the coming months, noting that performance figures will be hard to predict in this uncertain environment.

Members Discussed:

- PSNI performance generally, asking the Deputy Chief Constable to confirm that the organisation is content in how performance is captured. In particular, Members were interested in the Force Management Statement.
- The involvement and voice of communities in seeking solutions and the need for future report cards to contain detail on Impacts.

- The need to ensure that before introducing quantitative questions in the Survey, there is clarity on the purpose such questions would serve.
- Which organisation should lead in respect of the survey, acknowledging that before making this decision the Committee would need to understand what a revised survey would look like and the capacity within the Board to be the lead organisation.
- The need for inclusivity of all sections of the community in future surveys.
- The possibility of amendments to the survey being introduced cautiously with the suggestion of a pilot rollout.

In addressing Members' comments, PSNI noted the following:

- In the last number of years PSNI were the only police service to retain a national accreditation for accuracy of their crime recording statistics, however it acknowledged that in the last number of years the organisation has been concerned about its crime recording.
- The organisation believes it now has accurate recording arrangements in place while accepting more could be done.
- PSNI acknowledged that work on the Force Management Statement is well advanced and within the next year PSNI anticipate being able to consider demand and risk as well as capacity to respond.

It was **AGREED**: -

- Board Officials will discuss options with PSNI on possible ways to progress survey work and will return to Committee with proposals at a future date **(AP4)**

5.2 PSNI Problem Solving Awards – verbal update

PSNI provided the committee with a verbal update on the progress to date regarding the Problem-Solving Awards.

The Board are a partner in the awards, which were launched internally within PSNI, and which closed at the end of August with 27 applications received. PSNI is pleased with this response level and is encouraged that this can expand in future years. PSNI also wished to formally thank the judges, one of whom is Partnership Committee Chair, and advised that a ceremony will take place on the 20th of October to recognise those whose submissions are to be awarded.

Members discussed:

- The positive aspects of this endeavour and were very pleased to note the level of engagement with the Board.
- The excellent examples of Neighbourhood policing which are regularly seen out in communities and wished to congratulate officers on this.
- The Committee Chair wished to recognise the input of PSNI Officers in arrangements for the funeral of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

NOTED

5.3 Update on PCSP Action Plans 2022/23

A Board Official provided the Committee with a summary of the PCSP Action Plans for the 2022/23 implementation year. An overview was provided of the action plans received and the key areas of focus for the coming year.

Members indicated that they were content to note the contents of the summary paper.

NOTED

5.4 Update on plans for recruitment of Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs)

The Engagement Manager introduced the item and gave an overview of the Report. She informed Members of the role of ICVs as well as outlining the remit of the Scheme and sought approval to progress a recruitment campaign for ICV Scheme Volunteers.

Members advised they were happy to approve, and the Chair and Committee Members wished to note thanks to the Engagement Manager as this will be her last time at Committee before leaving the Board.

It was **AGREED**: -

- To progress plans for ICV recruitment.

5.5 Draft Independent Community Observers (ICO) Annual Report 2021/22

The Engagement Manager introduced the item and provided an overview of the Report and identified the key findings within it. It was noted that this report covers the period of the PSNI recruitment campaigns which launched in late 2021.

Independent Community Observers (ICOs) carried out 53 visits to assessment centres in the period from January to April 2022 and observed and commented on procedures and facilities. It was noted that the information in the report shows very positive trends and feedback from those ICOs.

Members noted that this was very positive report and thanked the Engagement Manager for the update.

It was **AGREED**: -

- That the Board ratify the Committee decision to publish the report on the Board's website. **(AP5)**

5.6 Joint Committee – draft agenda for October meeting

The Partnership Manager provided the Committee with the draft agenda for the next Joint Committee meeting scheduled to take place on 13th October 2022. In addition, Members were provided with a brief summary of the proposed agenda items.

Members discussed:

- The Joint Committee meetings, with the Committee Chair noting that as the Co-Chair of Joint Committee he is happy to update members following Joint Committee meetings to outline what has been discussed.
- The possibility of future Joint Committee meetings being in person rather than virtual events, however Members did note that the option to work from home and meet virtually may be helpful at a time when the cost of living is increasing.

NOTED

5.7 Stakeholder Engagement – update paper

The Engagement Manager provided Members with a forward look at engagement opportunities for the recently re-constituted Policing Board to consider in support of the Board's Engagement Strategy 2020-2023.

A variety of Engagement options were noted, and Members were advised that Board Officials will schedule meetings with Members to discuss and explore engagement opportunities.

Members discussed:

- The encouraging range of ideas contained in the paper and suggested that a dedicated conversation about Engagement opportunities would be welcome.
- The need to ensure broad geographic and community group representation in engagement activity.

It was **AGREED**: -

- That the Engagement Manager will arrange to meet interested Members with a view to discussing future engagement opportunities. **(AP6)**

5.8 Police Property Fund (PPF) Small Grants Scheme (2nd call)

The Partnership Manager provided the Committee with an update on the outcome of the contracting phase of the second call of the Police Property Fund (PPF) Small Grants Scheme including the option to fund reserve projects.

It was noted that the Committee and the Board previously agreed to fund the 3 reserve projects subject to funding becoming available. The Partnership

Manager provided an overview of funding to date and funding ringfenced for the Large Grants Scheme. Given there is limited scope in re-opening the Small Grants Scheme soon, the Partnership Manager outlined the 3 options contained in the paper, which included an option to fund all 3 projects.

Members discussed:

- The worthy nature of all 3 reserve projects;
- The geographical profile of those reserve projects as well as the approved projects;
- The involvement of PCSP's in promoting applications to the fund.

In addressing Members' comments, Officials noted the following:

- The geographical profile remains similar, and it was noted that while most applications had been received from Belfast and the Northwest of the province, the spread of projects is generally even.
- The integral and critical role played by PSCPs was recognised. The role of the Board's Communications team in promotion of the calls for PPF funding was also acknowledged.

It was **AGREED**: -

- To fund all 3 reserve projects.

5.9 Draft Committee Terms of Reference

The Director of Partnership provided Members with an update on the Committee's Draft Terms of Reference noting that a small number of suggested additional revisions had been received as feedback further to previous discussions.

The Board Chief Executive also noted that some further suggestions may be helpful as the Committee's Terms of Reference do not reflect the relationship between Partnership Committee and Joint Committee. The Chief Executive indicated the need to clearly set out the delegated authority arrangements pertaining to Partnership Committee's relationship with Joint Committee.

Members discussed:

- The 4 changes noted in the Agenda Item, with the Committee Vice Chair highlighting section 1.2 of the version provided in today's papers and suggesting a slight further amendment.

It was **AGREED**: -

- The Director of Partnership to circulate a further revised draft version of the Committee Terms of Reference in advance of a paper to be brought to Committee in October **(AP7)**

6. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Committee agreed to ask the Chief Constable:

- Does the Chief Constable understand that the decision not to proceed with the Chief Inspector post for South Armagh could impact on community confidence in the area, particularly as the very first recommendation of the South Armagh Review, which he accepted, anticipated that the Chief Inspector post for South Armagh would be required for 3-5 years?

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES / OPPORTUNITIES

The Communications Manager outlined several communication issues and opportunities which will arise in the coming months, including the ICV and PCSP Recruitment processes and publication of the ICO Report.

It was also noted that Good Relations week is imminent, and an extensive programme of social media posts will support that including reference to Police Property Fund projects funded to date.

The Volunteer Recognition event which takes place next week was also noted.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Update on PCSP funding of Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI)

Prior to discussion of this item, a member declared an interest.

A Board Official then outlined work progressed by the Board to determine if any PCSPs currently fund CRJI. One PCSP indicated a connection to the organisation but advised that no funding has been provided to CRJI at this point.

The Board Official confirmed that Joint Committee have been consulted on this matter and have advised the PCSP that in their view it is not necessary to withdraw funding as the allegations have not yet been proven, however, it is prudent to suspend funding until such times as there is an outcome to the investigation.

NOTED

Further AOB Items not included in the agenda were also raised.

A Member noted their attendance at a PCSP managers meeting in Dungannon on 14th September 2022, advising that this was a very informative experience and commending PCSP Managers and their staff on the work which they carry out.

Board Officials noted that the Managers meetings are very operational in nature and have a focus on the administrative nature of the Manager's role.

The Board Chief Executive advised Members that she had received a verbal update today on the PSNI Force Management Statement from PSNI's Chief Operating Officer. The Chief Executive noted that this update will be presented to Resources Committee and suggested that it be open to all Board Members to attend for this agenda item at that meeting.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be on Thursday 20th October 2022 at 2pm in Waterside Tower.

(Meeting closed at 16.45PM).

PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE
SEPTEMBER 2022



Chairperson

