

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 9:30 AM, WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mrs Anne Connolly, Chairperson
Ms Deborah Watters, Vice-Chairperson
Ms Deirdre Blakely
Mr Jonathan Craig
Prof Brice Dickson
Mr Ryan Feeney
Mrs Brenda Hale
Mr Gerry Kelly
Mr Trevor Lunn
Ms Roisin McGlone
Mr David McIlveen
(1) Mr Robin Newton
(2) Dr Paul Nolan
Mrs Wendy Osborne
Mrs Catherine Pollock
Mr Pat Sheehan

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(3) Mr George Hamilton, Chief Constable
(3) Mr Drew Harris, Deputy Chief Constable
(3) Mr Will Kerr, ACC Crime Operations
(3) Mr Stephen Martin, ACC District Policing Command
(3) Mr Chris Noble, T/ACC Service Improvement
Department
(3) Mr Alan Todd, T/ACC Operational Support Department
(3) Mr David Best, Director of Finance & Support Services
(3) Ms Liz Young, Head of Corporate Communications
(3) Superintendent, Command Secretariat
(3) One PSNI Official

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Barney McGahan, Interim Chief Executive
Mrs Siobhan Fisher, T/Director of Partnership
Mrs Amanda Stewart, Director of Policy
Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services
3 Board Officials

- (1) Except part of item number 13
- (2) Item number 1 – part item number 11
- (3) Item number 13

1 APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received from Mr Ross Hussey, Mrs Dolores Kelly and Ms Caitriona Ruane.

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

2 DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICING BOARD HELD ON 30 JULY 2015

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Board meeting held 30 July 2015.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 30 July 2015 be approved.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 PSNI Senior Staff Member Matter (Item 3.1.1 of minutes refers)

The Interim Chief Executive updated the Board on a PSNI Senior Staff Member matter.

An official sensitive note of this matter is attached at Appendix A.

3.2 Coronial Inquests (Item 3.1.2 of minutes refers)

The Board noted correspondence regarding the proposed HMIC inspections of the role of the PSNI in supporting legacy inquests and PSNI efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy (PEEL). NOTED.

The Board discussed the Justice Minister's decision not to commission HMIC to undertake a review of the PSNI's role in supporting legacy inquests and the PSNI's position in relation to the proposed inspection. The Board still wants the HMIC

Inspection on the PSNI's role in supporting legacy inquests to take place and to pursue the issue with the Minister of Justice.

Members considered options for taking this matter forward and in conclusion it was:-

AGREED:

That Terms of Reference should be drafted to the Chief Constable seeking a report under section 59 of the Police (NI) Act 2000 regarding the PSNI's role in supporting legacy inquests. The procedure for requesting a report and potential wording for a section 59 request should be considered by the Performance Committee and brought back to the next Board meeting.

3.3 Discretionary Spend (Item 3.1.3 of minutes refers)

The Interim Chief Executive advised the Board that a letter was awaited from the Minister of Justice confirming that payment could be made for Members' travel from home to Waterside Tower. NOTED.

The Interim Chief Executive advised Members that the Resources Committee would be provided with a report for its next meeting including the business case for future NIPB accommodation. The Land and Property Services had been asked to consider a one year lease option on the rental of Waterside Tower. The Department of Justice (DOJ) had been requested to revisit the purchase option which was the preferred option in the Business Case. NOTED.

3.4 Human Resources Issues (Item 3.2.1 of minutes refers)

The Interim Chief Executive updated Members on the appointment of a Chief Executive for the Board. NOTED.

The Board considered a letter dated 1 September 2015 from the Chief Constable which outlined options for taking forward the competition for the recruitment of an Assistant Chief Constable.

The Board discussed the competition for the appointment of an Assistant Chief Constable and it was:-

AGREED:

- That the Board should advertise the post of Assistant Chief Constable following the publication of the results of the Senior Police National Assessment in November 2015 and advise applicants that their appointment would be subject to successful completion of the Strategic Command Course in 2016.
- That the Resources Committee should establish a Sub-Group to review the process for Senior Police Officers and Civilian Staff appointments.

The Interim Chief Executive updated the Board on the outcome of a grievance case which had been taken against the Board.

3.5 Correspondence (Item 4.1 of minutes refers)

The Board noted a letter dated 26 August 2015 which had been received from PSNI regarding the deployment of PSNI Part Time Officers. NOTED.

4 QUESTIONS TO RAISE WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Board noted:-

- A monthly report from the Chief Constable to the Board.
- Written responses from PSNI to questions raised by Committees and individual Members.

NOTED.

The Board agreed issues to be raised orally with PSNI later in the meeting.

5 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.1 Engagements

The Board considered a list of the Chairperson's engagements during the period 2 July – 1 September 2015. NOTED.

A Member briefed the Board on a meeting which had taken place with East Belfast Traders on 26 August 2015 and thanked the Chairperson for attending the meeting and acknowledged the support received from Officials.

5.2 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5.3 Meeting with Director of National Crime Agency

The Board noted that the Director of the National Crime Agency had been invited to attend the October 2015 Board meeting, NOTED.

5.4 Staff Movements

The Chairperson advised the Board that Mrs Amanda Stewart had taken on the role of Director of Policy and Mrs Siobhan Fisher had been appointed T/Director of Partnership. The Partnership Manager had transferred on a temporary basis to the Board's Police Administration Branch. NOTED

It was:-

AGREED:

That Members should be provided with a copy of the revised Board Organisation Chart.

6 NORTHERN IRELAND COMMUNITY SAFETY COLLEGE

The Board considered a paper which provided Members with an update on the development of the Northern Ireland Community Safety College, Desertcreat.

During discussion it was:-

RESOLVED:

That Mr Ryan Feeney should continue to represent the Board on the Northern Ireland Community Safety College Programme Board and Steering Group.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That a meeting of the Board Business Co-ordination Group should be held on 29 October 2015 to form a view on the outline business case for the College.
- That the Board's representative on the Northern Ireland Community Safety College Programme Board and Steering Group should be invited to attend the meeting of the Board Business Co-ordination Group.

7 UPDATE AND DEVELOPMENT OF POLICING PLAN

The Board considered a paper which provided Members with an update on the development of the Policing Plan.

Members discussed the process and timeline for the development of the Plan and noted that a Strategy Event would be held on 16 September 2015 to consider the draft strategic policing priorities. In conclusion the Board:-

AGREED:

- The process and timeline for the development of the Policing Plan 2016-2020.
- That consideration would be given to the process needed to update the Board's Corporate Plan.

8 POLICE PROPERTY FUND – DRAFT POLICY FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

This paper was withdrawn.

9 INFORMATION PAPERS

The Board noted the following papers:-

9.1 Schedule of Events – September 2015

9.2 Members Attendances at Meetings and Events during the period 1 June 2011 – 30 June 2015 and Members Expenses for the period 1 April – 30 June 2015.
NOTED.

10 COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Board noted that the Chair of the Board would refer to the new term of the Board, policing of parades, road deaths and the murder of Kevin McGuigan in her opening remarks at the public Board meeting. NOTED.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 PSNI Vetting Procedures Equality Impact Assessment

Following a comment from a Member regarding the Board not being able to reach a consensus view in relation to a response to the PSNI Vetting Procedures Equality Impact Assessment, the Board discussed the difficulties on reaching a consensus on certain issues.

11.2 Young Leadership Programme

In response to a question from a Member, Officials updated the Board on the Young Leadership Programme, including the selection of PCSP Members to participate in the programme and a forthcoming visit to the USA. The Chair of the Partnership Committee, a Policing Board Official and 2 representatives from the PSNI would also participate in the visit. An Induction Event for the programme would be held on 8 September 2015.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 1 October 2015.

13 PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Constable and the Senior Executive Team to the meeting.

In response to a question regarding matters arising from the Chief Constable's Report, the PSNI provided further detail regarding the ongoing review of the Crime Operations Department and the proposed introduction of a Priority Based Resourcing process across the Organisation. Members discussed with the PSNI the focus on areas of crime and vulnerability, the increasing volume of resources needed to address cyber-crime and virtual threats and the Board Committees to which reporting of progress in these areas should be made.

In relation to references in the Chief Constable's Report to the number of new reports of missing persons in August 2015 the PSNI responded to a Members question regarding comments made by Senior Officers from GB forces that Police should, to some extent, be relieved of this responsibility. The PSNI discussed the increasing role of the PSNI in this area, including reports received from hospitals regarding individuals who leave A&E without informing staff members. Members noted that increasingly the PSNI are dealing with an increasing volume of vulnerability issues rather than crime related issues.

In response to a question from a Member the PSNI provided an update on the targeting of organised crime and their strategy to counter and disrupt the activities of those involved in paramilitary activities, intimidation, drugs, extortion, racketeering and smuggling.

In response to a question from a Member regarding the involvement of Provisional IRA members in the murder of Kevin McGuigan, the Chief Constable advised that the murder investigation was ongoing and that the position of the PSNI remained unchanged from his previous public statements on the issue.

In response to a question from a Member the Board was updated on the investigation

into the murder of Danny McKay and ongoing PSNI engagement with the family regarding the investigation.

In response to a question regarding the Secretary of State's assertion in 2014 that it was the responsibility of the PSNI to provide an assessment of the Provisional IRA's existence and activities, the PSNI advised Members that, while it is not the PSNI's role to routinely monitor and report on any groups existence such as was the case by the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC), the PSNI would bring forward information regarding any group where it believed public safety would be affected by the group's activities.

In response to a question from a Member, the PSNI advised that the DOJ had indicated that in-year budget cuts could be in the region of 2.5% - 6%. A cut of 2.5% would equate to £16.6m for the PSNI.

In response to another question the PSNI referred to the Medium Term Resource Plan, Policing Plan and People Strategy and advised that the information contained in these documents would be incorporated into a PSNI Corporate Plan.

T/Assistant Chief Constable, Service Improvement Department updated the Board on the development of Policing with the Community and provided Members with a paper which highlighted the vision of the PSNI in "Keeping People Safe and Policing with the Community".

A Member referred to a meeting which had taken place with East Belfast Traders on 26 August 2015 and paid tribute to T/Assistant Chief Constable, Service Improvement Department for attending the meeting.

In response to a question from a Member the PSNI outlined details of how demand modelling sat alongside Policing with the Community.

Assistant Chief Constable, District Policing Command advised Members of a review which was being undertaken of the Police Estate and advised that proposals would be brought to the Board in relation to closure of Police Stations.

In response to a comment from a Member, ACC District Policing Command referred to lessons which had been learnt as a result of a photograph appearing on social media.

The meeting moved into public session. A verbatim recording of the Board meeting in public is available on the Board's facebook page at www.facebook.com/policingboard.

(Meeting closed 3.25pm)

**Board Support
September 2015**

_____ **Chairperson**