

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2016 AT 9.30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

- (1)** Mr Gerry Kelly (Chairperson)
Mrs Wendy Osborne (Vice-Chairperson)
Mr Keith Buchanan
- (2)** Mr Stephen Farry
- (3)** Mr Ryan Feeney
- (4)** Mrs Brenda Hale
Ms Roisin McGlone

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (5)** Mr Stephen Martin, ACC District Policing Command
- (5)** Mr Mark McNaughten, T/Director of Finance &
Support Services & Human Resources
- (5)** Ms Denise Teer, T/Head of Finance
- (6)** Mr Mervyn Clarke, T/Head of Estates Business Unit
- (6)** One PSNI Officer
- (6)** One PSNI Official

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive
- (7)** Ms Jenny Passmore, T/Director of Policy
Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services
Two Board Officials

- (1)** Item number 1 to 7.6
- (2)** Item 6.1 to close
- (3)** Item number 3.3 to close
- (4)** Item numbers 6.1 and 6.6 to close
- (5)** Part item numbers 6.1 & item numbers 7.1 & 7.2
- (6)** Part item number 6.1
- (7)** Item numbers 6.5 and 6.6

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received from Ms Deirdre Blakely, Ms Jennifer McCann and Dr Paul Nolan.

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

2. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 15 September 2016.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 15 September 2016 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 PSNI Managed Services Contract (Item 3.3 of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised Members that PSNI had requested information from Fujitsu in relation to equality monitoring data for staff engaged under the Fujitsu contract. When the information was received it would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee. NOTED.

3.2 Update on the Implementation of Scofield Recommendations (Item 3.5 of Minutes Refers)

Members noted that Department of Justice (DOJ) Officials had been invited to meet the Committee to discuss the implementation of the recommendations in the Scofield report. The DOJ had advised that an Official was prepared to meet the Committee. NOTED.

3.3 Direct Entry Superintendent Scheme (Item 6.1 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted correspondence between the Chair of the Committee and the Deputy Chief Constable regarding the Direct Entry Superintendent Scheme. NOTED.

The DUP Representative advised the Committee that the DUP did not support the Direct Entry Superintendent Scheme.

Members discussed the matter and

AGREED:

To retain the position that whilst the Committee supported the proposal in principle, the associated costs did not justify the anticipated benefits.

3.4 HMIC Peel Inspection – Efficiency Theme (Item 6.4 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a letter dated 29 September 2016 from the Chair of the Committee to the Deputy Chief Constable seeking a more substantive action plan to address the areas for improvement contained within the report on the HMIC Peel Inspection of PSNI (Efficiency Theme). NOTED.

A Member outlined details of the issues to be considered by the Sub-Group in relation to the HMIC Peel inspection. Officials undertook to arrange a meeting of the Group and report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

3.5 Questions for the Chief Constable (Item 8 of Minutes Refers)

Members noted the content of responses which had been provided by PSNI at the October 2016 Board meeting regarding the increase in

violent sexual crime and the costs associated with the issues raised in a letter to the Justice Committee Chair in relation to Brexit. NOTED.

3.6 Any Other Business (Item 10 of Minutes Refers)

Members noted that the information requested by the Committee at the last meeting was included at item number 7.1. NOTED.

Officials advised the Committee that the font size in the PSNI Monitoring Financial Report had been increased. NOTED.

4. COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK

Members noted a Committee Programme of Work for 2016/17. NOTED.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.1 Meeting with Police Federation

Officials advised the Committee that the Chair of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland had requested a meeting with the Committee to discuss issues relating to the freeze on PSNI recruitment and Police morale.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chair of the Police Federation should be invited to meet the Committee at a future meeting.

6 ITEMS FOR DECISION

6.1 PSNI Estate Strategy 2016

The Committee considered a paper regarding the PSNI Estate Strategy

2016 – 2019.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Stephen Martin, Assistant Chief Constable, District Policing Command and his colleagues to the meeting.

The T/Head of PSNI Estates Business Unit gave a presentation to the Committee on the PSNI Estate Strategy 2016 – 2019. A copy of the slides used during the presentation are attached at Appendix “A”.

During discussion the following main points were discussed with PSNI:-

- The backlog of maintenance of the PSNI Estate due to pressures on finance.
- The process for advising the public about PSNI Stations which will be disposed.
- Policing in areas where PSNI Stations are disposed of.
- The disparity between capital sales receipts and revenue savings as a result of the disposal of 12 PSNI Stations and the cost of the acquisition of lands at Tennent Street, Belfast.
- The PSNI’s long term strategy for the PSNI Estate.
- The closure of Custody Suites at PSNI Stations.
- The prioritisation of maintenance in PSNI Stations.
- Proposed closures of Enquiry Offices in PSNI Stations.

The Chairperson thanked the T/Head of PSNI Estates Business Unit and his colleague for attending the meeting and they left.

It was agreed to:-

RECOMMEND:

That the Board approves the PSNI 2016 – 2019 Estate Strategy.

6.2 NIPB Submission to the Senior Salaries Review Body

The Committee noted a paper regarding the outcome of the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) process for 2016/17 and considered a draft written submission to SSRB on behalf of the Board for the 2017/18 Review.

The Committee:-

AGREED:

That the draft written submission should be issued to SSRB for the 2017/18 review process.

6.3 NIPB submission to the Police Remuneration Review Body

The Committee noted a paper which outlined details of the outcome of the Police Remuneration Review Body (PRRB) process for 2016/17 and the pay award for the federated and superintending ranks of the PSNI which was implemented from September 2016. NOTED.

The Committee considered a draft written submission to the PRRB on behalf of the Board for the 2017/18 review.

The Committee:-

AGREED:

That the draft written submission should be issued to the PRRB for the 2017/18 review process.

6.4 Proposed acquisition of lands at Tennent Street PSNI Station, Belfast

The Committee considered a paper which had been received from PSNI which notified the Board of the intention to acquire lands adjacent to Tennent Street PSNI Station, Belfast.

It was agreed to:-

RECOMMEND:

That the Board approves the acquisition of lands adjacent to Tennent Street PSNI Station.

6.5 ESA Provisions

The Committee considered a paper which sought the views of Members and requested them to consider a draft letter in respect of the Board's response to a targeted consultation on proposed legislative amendments to the PSNI and PSNI Reserve (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006 to reflect the replacement of Incapacity Benefit with Employment Support Allowance (ESA).

Officials advised the Committee that consultees were being asked for their opinion on three possible options for legislative change to the regulations. During discussion Members considered that option 2 outlined in the paper was the most effective and reasonable option available. In conclusion it was:-

AGREED:

That the draft letter in respect of the Board's response to a targeted consultation on proposed legislative amendments to the PSNI and PSNI Reserve (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006 should be issued to DOJ.

6.6 Police Pension Forfeiture Case

The Committee considered a paper which requested Members to decide on whether to proceed with consideration of forfeiture of a former Police Officer's pension after his dismissal from the Service in respect of a conviction for contempt of court.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That the ex-Officer's pension should not be considered for forfeiture.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 PSNI Report on Expenditure to September 2016

The T/Head of Finance briefed the Committee on the September 2016 expenditure report.

	Profile £k	Actual £k	Variance £k
Staff costs	268,099	269,022	(923)
Non Staff costs	62,957	59,608	3,349
Receipts	(3,139)	(4,210)	1,071
Cash Payment of Provisions	16,180	14,991	1,190
Loss on Disposal	0	(18)	18
Hearing Loss	4,659	3,058	1,601
Ringfenced Depreciation and Diminution	18,500	17,276	1,224
Voluntary Exit Scheme	12,000	5,578	6,422
TOTAL RESOURCE DEL	379,256	365,305	13,952

During discussion Members raised issues with PSNI including:-

- The direct award contract for helicopters service and maintenance.
- The budget for Legal Services and Justice Department outlined in Annex “E” of the paper.

In response to a query from a Member, the T/Director of Finance & Support Services & Human Resources undertook to provide the Committee with more information in relation to budgets contained in this annex.

- Overtime working in the PSNI.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Stephen Martin, Assistant Chief Constable, District Policing Command, Mr Mark McNaughten, T/Director of Finance & Support Services and Ms Denise Teer, T/Head of Finance for attending the meeting and they left.

7.2 PSNI October Monitoring Outcome

The Committee noted a paper in relation to the PSNI’s submission to the October 2016 monitoring round. NOTED.

7.3 Policing Board Report on Expenditure to September 2016

The Committee noted the Board’s Management Accounts to September 2016. NOTED.

Members discussed an underspend in the PCSP Budget and the monitoring which was being undertaken regarding expenditure.

Members also discussed PCSP effectiveness and noted that Internal Auditors would be undertaking an audit around governance arrangements of PCSPs in the near future.

7.4 NIPB October Monitoring Outcome

The Committee noted a paper in relation to the Board's submission to the October 2016 monitoring round. NOTED.

7.5 PSNI Continuous Improvement Project Update

Members noted progress reports on three PSNI Continuous Improvement Projects which fell within the remit of the Committee. NOTED.

7.6 NIPB Human Resources Update

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with an update on human resources issues within the Board. NOTED.

7.7 PSNI ICT Strategy In Year Review

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with an in-year report from PSNI on the implementation of the PSNI ICT Strategy 2014/2017. NOTED.

It was:-

AGREED:

That PSNI should be asked to provide more detailed information regarding the implementation of the PSNI ICT Strategy.

7.8 Police Pensions – Delegated Authority Cases

The Committee noted a paper regarding:-

- Actions which had been taken by Officials under delegated authority in respect of ill health retirement and injury award applications, following Selected Medical Practitioner's (SMP) examinations.
- Decisions on appeals reached by Independent Medical Referees (IMRs) appointed by DOJ for the period 1 July – 30 September 2016.

NOTED.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To ratify decisions taken under delegated authority in relation to ill health pensions and injury awards for the period 1 July – 30 September 2016.

8 INFORMATION PAPERS

The Committee noted the following papers:-

- 8.1 DOJ Asset Management Plan
- 8.2 PSNI response to the Budget Information Gathering Exercise
- 8.3 Health and Wellbeing Services available to PSNI Officers and Staff
- 8.4 NIPB Response to the Budget Information Gathering Exercise

NOTED.

Members referred to the DOJ Asset Management Plan and discussed the Board being independent of the DOJ and the Board's preference for stand alone accommodation.

9. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

That a question should be drafted to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting regarding the PSNI's long term vision for the PSNI Estate.

10. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communication issues arising from the meeting.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was conducted.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed that the next meeting should take place on 24 November 2016 at 9.30am.

(Meeting closed at 12:05pm)

BOARD SUPPORT

October 2016

Chairperson