

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY
10 MARCH 2016 AT 2.00 PM WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

- (5) Mrs Dolores Kelly (Chairperson)
Ms Catherine Pollock (Vice-Chairperson)
Professor Brice Dickson
- (3) Ms Caitríona Ruane
- (2) Mr Robin Newton
Mr Ryan Feeney
Ms Wendy Osborne
Mr Trevor Lunn
Mr Pat Sheehan

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

- (1) Professor Joanne Hughes
- (1) Dr Danielle Blaylock

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

- (4) Mr Edgar Jardine (Interim Chief Executive Officer)
Mrs Siobhan Fisher (Acting Director of Partnership)
3 Board Officials

- (1) Item 5.2 only
- (2) Item 3.1 to close
- (3) Item 4.1 to close
- (4) Item 5.2 to close
- (5) Open to item 5.2

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies for today's meeting were received from Mrs Brenda Hale.

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

2.1 DRAFT MINUTES OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2016

It was:

AGREED:

To approve the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 11 February 2016.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2016

3.1 Draft Policy on the Police Property Fund (Item 3.2 of minutes refers)

Members considered the paper included at agenda item 5.4.

3.2 Terms of Reference for an Independent Evaluation of PSNI Policing with the Community delivery plan (Item 3.6 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted correspondence received from the PSNI advising that the independent evaluation of the PSNI Policing with the Community Delivery Plan is now being progressed by PSNI's Internal Auditors. An update will be brought to a future meeting of the Partnership Committee. NOTED.

3.3 Correspondence (Item 4.1 of minutes refers)

Officials advised that they had spoken with the individual PCSP Member and sought to discuss with the Council Chief Executive Officer issues raised in a letter of resignation from a PCSP Independent Member. An update will be brought to a future meeting of the Partnership Committee.

3.4 Perceptive Insight Presentation (Item 5.1 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted that a paper providing a summary of research carried out by the Board on Young People's Confidence in Policing will be considered at agenda item 5.1. NOTED.

3.5 TALK Cross Border Strand (Item 5.4 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted a paper tabled at the meeting providing further information and a draft itinerary for the TALK Dublin trip taking place in April 2016. NOTED.

3.6 PCSP Member/Staff Exemption from Jury Service (Item 5.5 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted a response received from the Minister of Justice to correspondence issued requesting a review be conducted in respect of PCSP Member/Staff Exemption from Jury Service. Members noted that the Minister currently has no plans to add to the list of persons who are ineligible for consideration to sit as jurors. NOTED.

3.7 PCSP Member Expenses Review (Item 6.1 of minutes refers)

Officials advised the outcome of the Department of Justice review of PCSP Member expenses will be brought to the Committee in due course.

3.8 Correspondence to the Minister of Justice regarding Cross Border Policing Strategy (Item 6.3 of minutes refers)

Following an update received from the Department of Justice the Committee was advised that the Cross Border Policing Strategy was likely to be launched in May 2016 following the elections. Officials also advised that the Board Chair and Vice-Chair would receive an invitation to attend and a copy of the strategy prior to the launch. Further details will be brought to a future meeting of the Partnership Committee.

3.9 Update on PSNI Continuous Improvement Projects 2015/16

The Committee noted the draft Terms of Reference including Membership, of the PSNI Culture and Ethics Committee. NOTED.

3.10 Questions to the Chief Constable (Item 7 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted a response received from the PSNI to a question to the Chief Constable submitted for the 3 March 2016 Board meeting. NOTED.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Correspondence

The Chairperson raised the issue of the publication of the Northern Ireland Audit Office Report regarding PSNI performance against the Policing Plan. The Committee expressed concern that Board members had not had sight of the report prior to media reporting. Members discussed the Board's internal processes with regard to the review and distribution of NIAO reports and considered that a review of these processes may be necessary to ensure Board Members are fully sighted on NIAO reports prior to publication.

The Committee also discussed:

- Internal Policing Plan monitoring arrangements;
- The Board Committees' Terms of Reference, and;
- The agreement reached at Performance Committee to establish a working group in respect of Policing Plan monitoring.

Following discussion

It was:

AGREED:

- To issue correspondence to the Chair/CEO regarding the internal processes for the consideration of NIAO reports, and the Terms of Reference for Board Committees, and;
- To arrange for the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of Partnership Committee to be included in the working-group agreed at Performance Committee regarding the monitoring of the Policing Plan.

4.2 Engagements

No engagements were noted.

5. ITEMS FOR DECISION

5.1 Summary of Research on Young People's Confidence in Policing

The Committee noted a paper providing Members with a summary of information from previous relevant research by the Board regarding Young People's confidence in Policing. Members noted the various research projects and their associated costs. Officials advised that representatives from Queens University, Belfast would be joining the Committee for agenda item 5.2 to discuss the interim findings of the most recent research - Focus Groups and Interviews on Confidence Levels of Young People in Policing.

5.2 Focus Groups and Interviews on Confidence Levels of Young People in Policing

The Chairperson welcomed Professor Joanne Hughes and Dr Danielle Blaylock of the Queens University Belfast Centre for Shared Education to the meeting and invited them to update the Committee on the focus groups and interviews conducted in respect of confidence levels of young people in policing.

Dr Blaylock and Professor Hughes provided the Committee with a summary of their interim findings from interviews conducted with individuals with insights into youth/police relations and focus groups with young people from more marginalised groups including, minority ethnic groups, recent offenders, loyalist and republican communities and young people currently in care.

In response to questions from Members Professor Hughes and Dr Blaylock discussed with the Committee the provision of more detailed information on the groups and interviewees involved in the research and some disparities between the opinions of interviewees and the focus groups.

Members also discussed insights from the focus groups including:

- Young people's responses to the police, both positive and negative;
- The positive interaction of young people with local police officers;
- How more positive encounters with police officers may be encouraged, and;
- Young people's views on social media in relation to the police.

The Chairperson thanked Dr Blaylock and Professor Hughes and they left the meeting.

The Chairperson apologised to the Committee that she had another appointment to attend and requested the Vice-Chairperson assume the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The Committee went on to discuss the establishment of a baseline for young people's confidence in policing and how measurement of that target would be reflected in the Policing Plan. Following discussion, It was:

AGREED:

- The Queens University Final Report on the Focus Groups and Interviews on Confidence Levels of Young People in Policing is brought to a future meeting of the Partnership Committee, and;
- To provide the Committee with more detailed information on the groups and interviewees involved in the research.

5.3 Policing Board Partnership Strategy

The Committee considered a paper seeking Members views on a draft Partnership Strategy for the Policing Board in support of the Board's Strategic Outcomes for Policing 2016-2020.

The Committee considered proposals to conduct scoping exercises to:

- identify opportunities to engage with key stakeholders from all sectors with an interest in policing, and;
- capture work ongoing by other organisations with an interface with the PSNI.

Members discussed existing relationships between the PSNI and external organisations such as OPONI, HMIC and CJINI and how engagement with these and other strategic partners can assist the Board in ensuring the PSNI are meeting their objectives.

Members were also of the view that references should be included in the draft strategic document to engagement conducted with organisations working in the Children's and Youth sectors and to make reference to PCSPs as strategic partners. Following discussion, It was:

AGREED:

To amend the draft NIPB Partnership Strategy 2016-2020 as agreed by the Committee and bring the revised strategy document to a future meeting of the Partnership Committee.

5.4 Police Property Fund

The Committee considered a paper seeking Members views on a proposal in respect of a potential flagship project to be supported by the Police Property Fund.

Members noted the details of the submission received by the Partnership Committee sub-group however expressed reservations about the proposal's scope and reach. Members discussed future requirements for tendering and procurement in terms of a flagship project.

Members discussed the Committee's priorities in respect of the allocation of funds from the Police Property Fund and were of the view that the policy in respect of the Police Property Fund considered by the

Committee in September 2015 should be brought to a future meeting of the Partnership Committee. Following discussion, It was:

AGREED:

- To update and recirculate to Partnership Committee Members the paper from September 2015 regarding the Draft Policy on the Police Property Fund;
- To consider whether a project could be identified that could be rolled out across PCSPs to deliver an impactful message using the Police Property Fund.

5.5 Draft Research Requirements 2016/17

The Committee discussed a paper regarding 2016/17 Research projects in support of the 2016/17 Annual Policing Plan and the 2016/2020 Strategic Outcomes for Policing. The Chairperson asked Members to consider whether discussion on this paper should be deferred pending the findings of the Performance Committee Working-group to review and consider monitoring of the Policing Plan. Following discussion, It was:

AGREED:

To await the findings of the Performance Committee Working Group on the Policing Plan and bring to a future meeting of the Partnership Committee a paper regarding the delivery of research to support the Board's Strategic Outcomes and the Annual Policing Plan.

6. INFORMATION PAPERS

6.1 Qualitative Reports against the 2015/16 Policing Plan

The Committee noted several in-year reports from the PSNI relating to various measures in the 2016-16 Policing Plan. A Member noted that in certain instances while percentage figures were provided no actual

numbers were included to provide context to the percentage being quoted.

Following discussion,

It was:

AGREED:

To seek clarity from the PSNI and provide contextual figures regarding the percentages included in the PSNI Qualitative Reports against the 2015/16 Policing Plan.

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

There were no questions arising from the meeting.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

No communications issues were raised.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further business was conducted.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Partnership Committee will be held on Thursday 14 April 2016 at 2.00 pm.

(Meeting closed at 4.00pm)

BOARD SUPPORT

March 2016

Chairperson