

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 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
Prof Ryan Feeney
(1) Mrs Brenda Hale
(1) Mrs Dolores Kelly
Mr Trevor Lunn
Ms Roisin McGlone
Mr David McIlveen
(3) Mr Robin Newton
(2) Dr Paul Nolan
Mrs Catherine Pollock
Ms Caitriona Ruane
Mr Pat Sheehan.

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Barney McGahan, Interim Chief Executive
(5) Mrs Siobhan Fisher, T/Director of Partnership
(5) Mrs Amanda Stewart, Director of Policy
(5) Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services
(5) 3 Board Officials

- (1) Part item number 17
- (2) Item number 1 – part item number 17
- (3) Item numbers 1, 8 – 16 and part item number 17
- (4) Item number 17
- (5) Except item number 3.2

1 APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received from Mr Ross Hussey, Mr Gerry Kelly and Mrs Wendy Osborne.

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 1 OCTOBER 2015

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 1 October 2015.

A Member raised a query regarding the wording in the Performance Committee's Terms of Reference and said that the phrase "procedures and" in paragraph 6.1 had not been agreed.

The Board discussed the wording in the Terms of Reference relating to procurement and suggested that Committee Terms of Reference should be brought back to a future Board meeting. In conclusion it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 1 October 2015 be approved subject to the Member's query being resolved.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

The Board considered a matter in relation to a PSNI Senior Staff Member matter.

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

3.2 Human Resources Issues (Item 3.4 of minutes refers)

The Interim Chief Executive updated the Board on human resources issues.

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

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 noted a list of the Chairperson's engagements during the period 2 October – 2 November 2015. NOTED.

5.2 Correspondence

The Board noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 12 October 2015 from PSNI regarding the R.A.D.A.R Centre.
- Letter dated 20 October 2015 from the Minister of Justice regarding legacy inquests.
This letter was also dealt with at item 8.1.
- Letter dated 21 October 2015 from PSNI regarding costs incurred in policing parades, protests and related disorder.
- Letter dated 23 October 2015 from the Chief Constable regarding a request

from the DPP under section 35(5) of the Justice (NI) Act 2002.

NOTED.

Members noted that letters of condolence had been issued by the Chair on behalf of the Board following the deaths of Constable Phillips in Merseyside and Garda Officer Golden in Omeath. NOTED.

5.3 Report on Meeting of the Business Co-Ordination Group held on 30 September 2015

The Board noted a note of a meeting of the Business Co-Ordination Group held on 30 September 2015. NOTED

6 AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

6.1 Draft Minutes of a meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee held on 2 October 2015

The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the draft minutes of the meeting and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

6.1.1 Roles and responsibilities of the Audit and Risk Management Committee (Item 7 of the minutes refers)

6.1.2 Discussion with the Chair of the PSNI Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (Item 9 of minutes refers)

6.1.3 NIPB Year End Financial Accounts 2014/15 (Item 10 of minutes refers)

6.1.4 NIPB Draft Accounting Officer Stewardship Statement for the period 1 April – 30 September 2015 (Item 14 of minutes refers)

7 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

7.1 Draft Minutes of a meeting of the Partnership Committee held on 8 October 2015

The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the draft minutes of the meeting and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

7.1.1 Briefing from PSNI on Policing with the Community (Item 5.1 of minutes refers)

7.1.2 Report on Public Consultation on identification of Policing Priorities 2016-2020 (Item 5.3 of minutes refers)

7.1.3 Engagement with (Garda) Policing Authority (Item 5.8 of minutes refers)

The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee advised the Board that the Committee had discussed engagement with the (Garda) Policing Authority as part of its role in relation to Cross Border Policing Operations.

The Board:-

AGREED:

That a meeting should be arranged between the Board and the (Garda) Policing Authority to discuss issues of common interest.

7.2 Update on the TALK Programme – International Study Visit

The Board noted a paper which provided Members with an update on the TALK Programme following completion of the international element of the programme.
NOTED.

The Board noted that eight Members of the TALK programme had completed a short questionnaire regarding their experiences of the visit to Washington. Members suggested that the other participants on the visit should be asked to complete the survey.

During discussion Members congratulated the Board Vice-Chairperson on securing

funding from the United States Consulate for the TALK Programme.

Members also commended the Chair of the Partnership Committee and the T/Director of Partnership on partaking in the international element of the TALK Programme.

8 PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

8.1 Draft Minutes of a meeting of the Performance Committee held on 15 October 2015

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the draft minutes of the meeting and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

8.1.1 Establishment of the Historical Investigations Unit (Item 4.2 of minutes refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 8.2.

8.1.2 Evaluation of the Body Worn Pilot Scheme (Item 5.1 of minutes refers)

8.1.3 Police Federation Independent Workforce Survey (Item 5.2 of minutes refers)

8.1.4 PSNI Performance against the Policing Plan (Item 5.3 of minutes refers)

8.1.5 Legacy Inquest Issues (Item 5.4 of minutes refers)

The Board noted a letter dated 20 October 2015 from the Minister of Justice regarding legacy inquests. NOTED.

Some Members asked to be provided with a copy of the legislation referred to in the letter that there is a statutory obligation on HMIC to undertake an Efficiency and effectiveness inspection on an annual basis.

Members considered a proposal contained in the letter regarding the Minister commissioning Criminal Justice Inspectorate Northern Ireland (CJINI) to progress a wide inspection of the Criminal Justice system, including how PSNI responds to legacy inquests.

The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee briefed the Board about a meeting which had been held on the 27 October 2015 with representatives from the PSNI, Department of Justice (DOJ) and the NI Courts and Tribunal Service when it was proposed that the Minister of Justice would invite CJINI to undertake the wider inspection on this issue.

The Board discussed the Minister of Justice's proposal to invite CJINI to undertake an inspection and not to commission HMIC to carry out the work. Recent public comments by the Lord Chief Justice around legacy issues and a review which was being undertaken by Judge Weir were also discussed.

Following discussion it was considered that this issue was still not resolved to the satisfaction of the Board and that the Chair would request an urgent meeting with the Chief Constable and Minister to try to move this issue forward. In conclusion it was:-

AGREED:

That the Chair would write to the Chief Constable and the Minister to seek an urgent meeting.

8.1.6 Omnibus Survey (Item 5.5 of minutes refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 8.3.

8.2 Correspondence regarding the establishment of HIU

The Board noted the content of a letter from the Chair of the Performance Committee to the Head of DOJ Legacy Unit regarding the Board's oversight powers in relation to the Historical Investigations Unit and the issue of resources afforded to the Board in respect of the additional oversight responsibilities. NOTED.

8.3 Omnibus Survey Questions

Members considered a recommendation from the Performance Committee to include a list of proposed questions in the April 2016 Omnibus Survey.

The Board:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the list of questions for inclusion in the April 2016 Omnibus Survey.

9 RESOURCES COMMITTEE

9.1 Draft Minutes on the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 24 September 2015

Mr Pat Sheehan referred Members to the minutes and advised the Board that a verbal briefing on the meeting had been given at the Board meeting on 1 October 2015. NOTED.

9.2 Draft Minutes on the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 22 October 2015

Mr Pat Sheehan referred Members to the draft minutes of the meeting and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

9.2.1 Process for developing the NIPB Accommodation Business Case (Item 4.9 of minutes refers)

Mr Pat Sheehan advised the Board that the Resources Committee

had noted confirmation that there was no capital funding available to purchase Waterside Tower. Accordingly the Committee recommended that Officials should begin negotiations for a 5 year lease on the Building.

The Board:-

RESOLVED:-

To approve the Committee's recommendation.

A matter relating to the disposal of Ballynafeigh PSNI Station was dealt with at item 9.3.

9.2.2 NIPB 2016/17 Budget Scenario Planning (Item 7.3 of minutes refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 9.4.

9.2.3 Progress Report on the implementation of the PSNI People Strategy (Item 8.4 of minutes refers)

9.2.4 Revised Business Case for the NI Community Safety College (Item 8.7 of minutes refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 9.5.

9.3 Disposal of Ballynafeigh PSNI Station

The Board considered a paper which recommended that the Board approves the disposal of Ballynafeigh PSNI Station.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve that PSNI should proceed with the disposal of Ballynafeigh PSNI Station in line with the original Board decision taken in May 2012.

The DUP Members asked that it be recorded that they disagreed with the decision taken in May 2012.

Members discussed the proceeds from the sale of Ballynaveigh PSNI Station and land at another NIPB owned site and considered that this money could be used towards the purchase of Waterside Tower and that a letter should be sent to DOJ regarding the matter.

9.4 NIPB Report on Potential Budget Cuts for 2016-17

The Board noted a scenario planning return which had been provided to DOJ in respect of 5% and 10% cuts to the NIPB 2016-17 budget. NOTED.

9.5 Northern Ireland Community Safety College – Revised Outline Business Case

The Board considered a paper regarding the final version of the Outline Business Case which had been agreed by the Northern Ireland Community Safety College Programme Board and Project Steering Committee.

Members discussed the outline business case and it was:-

RESOLVED:

To accept the preferred option for the Northern Ireland Community Safety College.

10 PSNI GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Board noted a paper which provided information on PSNI Governance arrangements in line with the oversight arrangements which had been agreed at the September 2015 Board meeting. NOTED.

Officials advised the Board that the Deputy Chief Constable would provide an update on the PSNI Governance arrangements in the private session of a forthcoming Board meeting. NOTED.

11 SIX MONTHLY UPDATE ON PROGRESS TOWARDS BOARD BUSINESS PLAN TARGETS

The Board considered a paper regarding the six month assessment of progress in relation to the targets contained in the 2015 – 2016 NIPB Business Plan.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve publication of the six month assessment of progress of targets in the 2015-2016 NIPB Business Plan on the Board website.

12 UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND STRATEGIC POLICING PLAN 2016 – 2020

The Board considered a paper which provided Members with an update on the development of the Strategic Policing Plan 2016 – 2020.

The Board noted the strategic themes outlined in the paper as agreed at the Strategy Event on 16 September 2015 which would form the basis of the 2016 – 2020 Policing Plan. NOTED.

The Board:-

AGREED:

- The strategic priorities outlined in the paper subject to them being re-numbered.
- That the fifth strategic priority regarding Efficiency and Effectiveness should be retained. The detail should be included as an annex to the annual Policing Plan.

Members noted the timetable for development of the Strategic Plan. Some Members expressed concern that only four weeks was being given for consultation on the draft Strategic Policing Priorities Pan (to include equality screening).

Members asked for the specific dates in December 2015 and January 2016 to be inserted in the Plan timetable.

13 INFORMATION PAPERS

The Board noted the following papers:-

13.1 Schedule of Events – November 2015

13.2 Schedule of Meetings – November 2015 – June 2016

13.3 Members Attendances at Meetings and Events during the period 1 July – 30 September 2015 and Members Expenses

13.4 Policing Plan 2015-2016 Quarter 2 Performance Report

NOTED.

14 COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Board noted details of communication issues. NOTED.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Partnership Committee

It was:-

AGREED:-

That Mr Ryan Feeney would in future serve on the Partnership Committee.

15.2 NCA Sub-Group

In response to a question from a Member, Officials advised that a meeting of the NCA Sub-Group would meet on a future date to complete its work in relation to a number of Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) relating to the operation of NCA in Northern Ireland.

15.3 Draft Scheme of Delegation

In response to a question from a Member, the Interim Chief Executive advised that the Draft Scheme of Delegation would be considered at the next meeting of the Business Co-Ordination Group and then brought to the Board for approval.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 3 December 2015.

17 PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Constable and the Senior Executive Team to the meeting and invited Members' questions to the Chief Constable.

In response to a question regarding the roll out of Body Worn Video referred to in the Chief Constable's Report, the PSNI provided additional information in relation to the procurement of equipment and the scheduled roll out of the technology as a standard piece of equipment for all patrol officers. Members also discussed with the PSNI the areas of priority for the use of Body Worn Video and whether or not funding for this project would be ring-fenced from any potential in-year budget cuts. The PSNI advised that, while they are committed to the project and the business case has been approved, they could not guarantee the project would be protected from any future cuts. PSNI would keep the Board informed on its progress towards the roll out of the Body Worn Video project.

In response to a Member's concern that the report on Paramilitary Groups in Northern Ireland jointly drafted by PSNI and MI5 made no reference to or assessment of paramilitary involvement in racist violence, the PSNI explained the structure of the report commissioned by the Secretary of State and advised the Board that specific Terms of Reference had been applied in the drafting of the report.

In response to a question regarding flags which have been put up in shared housing developments in Newtownabbey and Carryduff and the circumstances under which the PSNI would act directly to remove these flags, the PSNI advised that they only have

powers to intervene if there is imminent risk to public safety. The PSNI acknowledged concern within communities and highlighted to Members areas where local community engagement had led to resolution regarding flags.

In respect of the scenario planning exercise commissioned by the DOJ referred to in the Chief Constable's report, a Member asked the PSNI to comment further regarding the specific areas to which the 5%-10% cut in the 2016-2017 budget may be applied. The PSNI highlighted the challenges of year to year budgeting with no carry forward however assured the Board of the PSNI's commitment to responding to crime and that any cuts would be assessed against potential risks. The PSNI also discussed with the Board the Priority Based Resourcing Project being undertaken by the PSNI.

In response to a question from a Member regarding the Spotlight programme relating to the murder of Arlene Arkinson, the PSNI advised the Board that, following his trial and acquittal and up until his death, Robert Howard remained a suspect in this case which continued to be investigated by the PSNI. The PSNI advised that, as per HM Government policy, they could not comment on whether Mr Howard was or was not a Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS).

In response to a question from a Member the PSNI provided an update regarding ongoing operations to tackle organised criminality by paramilitary groups. The PSNI discussed a range of ongoing activities and provided Members with an update on recent successes in the disruption and disbanding of organised crime gangs. The PSNI acknowledged the frustration within communities at the appearance of some criminality going unpunished but assured the Board of their commitment to follow the evidence and seek prosecutions where possible.

In response to a question from a Member regarding the murder of Garda Tony Golden and information passed from the PSNI to An Garda Síochána in respect of Adrian Crevan Mackin's background, the PSNI advised the Board they were aware of his previous criminal convictions and involvement with Social Services and that An Garda Síochána were also aware.

The Chief Constable advised the Board that the Director of Finance & Support Services would be retiring on 30 November 2015 and paid tribute to the work of the Director.

A Member referred to the retirement of the Board's Interim Chief Executive and thanked him for the work he had carried out on behalf of the Board.

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 3.40 pm)

Board Support

Date: November 2015

_____ **Chairperson**