

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 2.00 PM WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

Professor Brice Dickson
Ms Caitríona Ruane
Mr Robin Newton
(4) Professor Ryan Feeney
(5) Mrs Brenda Hale
Ms Wendy Osborne
Mr Pat Sheehan
(6) Ms Debbie Watters

PSNI IN ATTENDANCE

(1) T/ACC Noble
(2) Supt Singleton
(2) 2 PSNI Officers

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

(3) Ms Gwen Savage
(2) Dr Jonathan Howarth

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Siobhan Fisher (Acting Director of
Partnership)
4 Board Officials

- (1) Items 5.1 and 5.2
- (2) Item 5.1 only
- (3) Item 5.3 only
- (4) Part item 5.3 to close
- (5) Open to item 5.2
- (6) Item 2.1 – Item 5.3

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Owing to the absence of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, the Committee elected Ms Wendy Osborne to Chair today's meeting of the Partnership Committee.

Apologies for today's meeting were received from Mrs Dolores Kelly, Ms Catherine Pollock and Mr Trevor Lunn.

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 8 OCTOBER 2015

It was:

AGREED:

To approve the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 8 October 2015.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2015

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

The Committee considered correspondence received from the PSNI following the briefing at the 8 October 2015 Partnership Committee on Policing with the Community (PwC). The Committee discussed having a PwC specific meeting early in 2016. Members also discussed the branding of Policing with the Community and how PwC briefings are delivered to officers and staff internally.

Following discussion,

It was:

AGREED:

- Correspondence from the PSNI dated 10 November 2015 regarding Policing with the Community is brought to the December meeting of the Partnership Committee, and;
- To progress arrangements for a specific Policing with the Community meeting in early 2016.

3.2 Update on PSNI Continuous Improvement Projects (Item 5.2 of Minutes refers)

The Committee considered correspondence received from the PSNI providing an interim update on the Review of Public Administration – District Policing change programme. Members noted the changes in respect of the makeup of Local Policing Teams and that the PSNI offered to brief the Committee following the full implementation of the programme. Following discussion,

It was:

AGREED:

- Correspondence is issued to the PSNI regarding the range of management information being developed to assess the impact and success of the District Policing change programme, and;
- To progress arrangements for an update to be provided to the Partnership Committee regarding the implementation of the District Policing change programme in early 2016.

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

The Committee noted that comments regarding homophobic crime, incivility in relation to young people and the views provided by youth organisations in respect of PSNI stop and search have been included in the Outcome of Public Consultation on Policing Plan Priorities report. Members also noted that the Outcome of Public Consultation on Policing Plan Priorities report has been published on the Policing Board's website. NOTED.

3.4 PSNI Qualitative Reports relating to the 2015-16 Policing Plan (Item 5.7 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted that a revised format for PSNI Qualitative Reports relating to the 2015-16 Policing Plan would be sought for future reports. NOTED.

3.5 Committee Programme of Work (Item 5.8 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted that their recommendation to the Board proposing a meeting with the Policing Authority was agreed at the 5 November 2015 Board meeting and that arrangements in that regard will be progressed in due course. NOTED.

3.6 Questions to the Chief Constable (Item 6 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted responses received from the PSNI to questions submitted by the Partnership Committee for the 5 November 2015 Board meeting. NOTED.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence for consideration.

4.2 Engagements

The Committee noted several engagements attended by the Committee Chairperson and that upcoming engagements included:

- A Youth Advisory Panel meeting on 25 November 2015 to be chaired by Committee Vice-Chairperson, Catherine Pollock, and;
- A meeting of the Strategic Consultation Group on 9 December 2015 to be chaired by Committee Chairperson Dolores Kelly.

5. ITEMS FOR DECISION

5.1 Update on the PSNI Youth Volunteering Scheme

The Committee discussed a paper providing Members with an update on the progress of the PSNI's Youth Volunteering Scheme. Members considered several areas such as the safety of participants, accreditation

of the scheme and work already completed which may assist in the development of this programme. Officials advised that T/ACC Noble and his colleagues would be joining the meeting to provide further details and discuss the scheme with Members.

The Chairperson welcomed T/ACC Noble and his colleagues to the meeting and invited them to update the Committee. Following a brief introduction the Committee received briefings from PSNI officers piloting the Youth Volunteer Scheme in their local areas. Issues discussed with Members included:

- Engagement with local community groups and parents to gain support for the scheme;
- Engagement with the young people regarding the scheme's programme;
- The need for diversity in scheme participants, and;
- How the PSNI will bring along partner agencies

Members expressed support for the concept of the PSNI Youth Volunteer Scheme, however were particularly concerned that the safety of children taking part in this scheme should be paramount. They discussed with the PSNI how the risk could be mitigated. The Committee was of the view that the inclusion of other "Blue Light" organisations and the participation of Local Councils may help to reduce this risk to scheme participants. The PSNI acknowledged this concern and advised that engagement with parents, youth workers and young people was ongoing in order to promote confidence in the scheme and ensure the safety of the young people taking part in the scheme.

The Committee also discussed with the PSNI the potential for accreditation of the scheme in order that completion of the programme will assist young people with employability. The PSNI updated the Committee on work with the OCN (Open College Network) towards accreditation of the scheme and advised of their aspiration to work towards a Youth Leadership qualification for young people taking part in the scheme.

The Chairperson thanked T/ACC Noble and his colleagues for attending the meeting and advised that the Committee would seek a further update on the scheme in due course.

Following discussion,

It was:

AGREED:

- Correspondence is issued to the PSNI requesting a paper on the issues raised by the Committee regarding the PSNI Youth Volunteering Scheme, and;
- To invite PSNI to the February meeting of the Partnership Committee to provide an update on the PSNI Youth Volunteering Scheme.

5.2 Research Consortium Conference

The Committee considered a paper seeking Members views on a PSNI proposal regarding the possibility of the PSNI and NIPB hosting a conference with the Open University Policing Research Consortium (OUPRC).

T/ACC Noble provided Members with a brief outline of the proposal and highlighted the interest which exists in Northern Ireland's approach to Ethics and Human Rights based policing. Committee Members were supportive of the proposal and following discussion,

It was:

AGREED:

- To progress with T/ACC Noble, a partnership with PSNI regarding arrangements for the hosting of an Open University Policing Research Consortium (OUPRC) Conference/seminar/workshop.

5.3 Report from the Board's Impartial Assessor on the campaign to appoint Independent Members to the PCSPs

The Chairperson welcomed the Board's Impartial Assessor, Ms Gwen Savage, to the meeting and invited her to deliver her report to the Committee on the Board's recruitment competition for Independent Members of PCSPs.

Ms Savage thanked the Committee for the invitation to present her report and began by advising Members that she had found the recruitment process to be robust, conducted in a fair manner and compliant with the Code of Practice issued by the Department of Justice. Areas the Committee discussed with the Impartial Assessor included:

- The decision of District Councils not to take responsibility for Stage 2 of the recruitment process and the implications of that decision;
- The tender process and appointment of an HR provider to support Stage 2 of the recruitment process;
- Panel Member Training and recommendations within her report regarding this;
- Information available to appointment panel members at Stage 3 of the process, and;
- A fuller explanation of the Guaranteed Interview Scheme to panel Members.

Following discussion,

It was:

AGREED:

- A recommendation is made to the December Board meeting that the Impartial Assessors Report is accepted and published, and;
- To distribute the Impartial Assessors Report to all stakeholders and ensure relevant issues are flagged for their attention.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Savage and she left the meeting.

5.4 Report from the Joint Committee meeting held on 14 October 2015

The Committee noted the draft minutes of the Joint Committee meeting held on 14 October 2015.

The Committee considered a paper providing Members with an update on the Joint Committee meeting on Wednesday 14 October 2015. Members noted that regarding the review of Strategic Objectives, it was agreed to carry forward the current strategic objectives pending the completion of the strategic objectives review for introduction in 2017/18.

Officials briefed the Committee on the meeting held between the Joint Committee and Council Chief Executives on 6 November 2015. Members noted that £1.5 million would be released back to PCSPs to be spent before 31 March 2016 and that the letters of offer now being drafted to PCSPs will seek assurance that this level of funding can be utilised by year end. NOTED.

5.5 TALK forward Programme of Work

The Committee considered a paper seeking Members' agreement in respect of a forward programme of work for the TALK participants.

The Committee noted the proposed programme of work would include:

- TALK participants conducting presentations to their PCSPs;
- Local engagement with PSNI;
- A Cross Border strand with the Department of Foreign Affairs, and;
- Engagement with the Partnership Committee throughout the programme.

The Committee also agreed a proposal to invite other young PCSP Members (aged 18-31 years) not currently participating to join the remainder of the TALK Programme. Members noted that, should all eligible independent members accept this invite, a further 7 participants would be joining the programme. Following discussion,

It was:

AGREED:

- Correspondence is issued to all eligible PCSP Independent Members regarding their participation in the remainder of the TALK programme, and;
- Correspondence is issued to the PSNI regarding Members agreement to extend an invitation to 7 additional PCSP Independent Members to participate in the remainder of the TALK Programme.

6. INFORMATION PAPERS

6.1 Committee Programme of Work

The Committee noted the Partnership Committee's updated Programme of Work from November 2015 – March 2016. Members asked for the issues of Road Safety to be added to the Programme of Work. NOTED.

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

A question is drafted from the Partnership Committee to the Chief Constable regarding:

- The risk assessment processes in place to ensure the safety of young people participating in the PSNI Youth Volunteering Scheme.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1** Officials ask for two Partnership Committee Members to assist with the refining of the draft policy on the Police Property Fund prior to the re-drafted policy being brought to the December meeting of the Committee. Following discussion,
It was:

AGREED:

Committee Members Robin Newton and Ryan Feeney will assist the Director of Partnership in respect of the draft policy on the Police Property Fund.

- 9.2** Officials also requested a Board Member attend the 18 November 2015 meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP to give an overview of the induction evenings made available to other PCSPs in June and September. Following discussion,
It was:

AGREED:

Committee Member Professor Brice Dickson will attend the 18 November 2015 meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP with the Director of Partnership.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Partnership Committee will be held on Thursday 10 December 2015 at 2.00 pm.

(Meeting closed at 4:05pm)

BOARD SUPPORT
November 2015

Chairperson