

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 2.00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

Mr Gerry Kelly (Chairperson)
Mrs Wendy Osborne (Vice-Chairperson)
Ms Deirdre Blakely
Mr Keith Buchanan
(1) Mrs Brenda Hale
Ms Jennifer McCann
Ms Roisin McGlone
Dr Paul Nolan

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(2) Mr Drew Harris, Deputy Chief Constable
(3) C/Superintendent Peter Farrar
(4) Mr Mark McNaughten, T/Director of Finance &
Support Services & Human Resources
(4) Ms Denise Teer, T/Head of Finance

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

(5) Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive
(6) Ms Jenny Passmore, T/Director of Policy
Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services
Three Board Officials

- (1) Item number 6.4 – item number 7.8
- (2) Item numbers 7.1 & 7.4
- (3) Item number 7.4
- (4) Item number 7.1
- (5) Item numbers 1 – part item number 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 & 7.4
- (6) Item numbers 1 – 6, 7.2 & 7.3

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received from Dr Stephen Farry and Mr Ryan Feeney.

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 28 JULY 2016

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 28 July 2016.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 28 July 2016 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 Twinning Proposal (Item 5.1.1 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a letter dated 22 August 2016 from the Deputy Chief Constable regarding the twinning proposal between the PSNI and the Lebanese Internal Security Fund. NOTED.

3.2 Incidents of Impropriety at the Police College, Garnerville (Item 5.3 of Minutes Refers)

Officials reminded the Committee that at the September 2016 Board meeting Members had considered a position paper and revised Terms of Reference in respect of a review of the Police College, Garnerville following incidents of impropriety at the College. NOTED.

3.3 PSNI Managed Services Contract (Item 5.4 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a letter dated 22 August 2016 from the Deputy Chief Constable in relation to the Fujitsu contract. NOTED.

Members discussed the letter and it was:-

AGREED:

That information should be sought from PSNI regarding equality monitoring data relating to the Fujitsu contract.

3.4 PSNI ICT Strategy – End of Year Report (Item 7.4 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a letter dated 8 August 2016 from the T/Director of Finance & Support Services & Human Resources in relation to the PSNI ICT Strategy. NOTED.

3.5 Update on the Implementation of Scofield Recommendations (Item 7.6 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a letter dated 5 September 2016 from the Director, Safer Communities, Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding the implementation of recommendations 1 and 3 in the Scofield report. NOTED.

Members discussed the content of the letter and it was:-

AGREED:

That DOJ Officials should be invited to meet the Committee to discuss the implementation of the recommendations in the Scofield Report.

3.6 PSNI Equality, Diversity and Good Relations Strategy – End Year Update (Item 7.7 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that a letter had been sent to PSNI seeking further information on issues relating to the PSNI Equality, Diversity and Good Relations Strategy Update. A response was awaited. NOTED.

4. COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK

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

NOTED.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.1 Procedural Matter

The Chairperson advised Members that following feedback from other Committees it had been agreed that Committee Chairs should facilitate a short discussion prior to receiving presentations from PSNI to consider the information provided and to understand what the Committee is being asked to do. This new approach would be facilitated before the presentations later in the meeting.

6 ITEMS FOR DECISION

6.1 Direct Entry Superintendent Scheme

The Committee considered a paper which outlined details of a proposal relating to direct entry to PSNI at Superintendent level.

Officials advised Members that a programme allowing direct entry to Police Services at Superintendent level was in existence in England and Wales under the stewardship of the College of Policing (the Direct Entry Superintendent Programme) and that the Chief Constable had written to the DOJ requesting that consideration be given to the PSNI joining England and Wales Forces in adopting this programme.

Members discussed the proposal relating to direct entry to PSNI at Superintendent level and it was:-

AGREED:

- To inform DOJ and PSNI that although the Committee supported the proposal in principle, that the associated costs did not justify the anticipated benefits.
- That the issue should be discussed with PSNI at the private session of the October 2016 Board Meeting.

6.2 1988 Police Pension Scheme Members: Restriction on Commutation

The Committee considered a paper which included a draft response from the Board to proposals by the DOJ to amend the Royal Ulster Constabulary Pensions Regulations 1988, permitting members to commute up to 25% of their pension.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the draft response should be issued to DOJ.

6.3 Police Pensions – Reinstatement of a Child Allowance

The Committee considered a paper regarding an application for the reinstatement of a child allowance.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That the child allowance should not be reinstated to the applicant.

6.4 HMIC Peel Inspection – Efficiency Theme

The Committee considered:-

- A paper which provided Members with a copy of the Report on HMIC Peel Inspection of PSNI (EfficiencyTheme).
- A letter from PSNI dated 7 September 2016 which outlined the PSNI's response to the report.

During discussion Members were of the view that further detail was required in the PSNI action plan to take forward the recommendations from the Efficiency and Effectiveness Inspections and that a Sub Group should be set up to discuss this report.

It was:-

AGREED:

- Subsequent to this, PSNI should be asked to provide a more substantive action plan.
- That a Sub-Group comprising of Ms Deirdre Blakely, Professor Paul Nolan and Ms Roisin McGlone should be set up to consider the specific measures/outcomes required to address areas for improvement.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 PSNI Report on Expenditure to August 2016

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Mark McNaughten, T/Director of Finance & Support Services and Ms Denise Teer, T/Head of Finance.

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

	Profile £k	Actual £k	Variance £k
Staff costs	224,151	223,875	276
Non Staff costs	52,664	48,806	3,858
Receipts	(2,287)	(3,015)	728
Cash Payment of Provisions	13,580	12,475	1,105
Loss on Disposal	0	7	(7)
Hearing Loss	4,140	2,827	1,313
Ringfenced Depreciation and Diminution	15,417	14,429	987
Voluntary Exit Scheme	0	8	(8)
TOTAL RESOURCE DEL	307,664	299,413	8,251

During discussion Members raised issues with PSNI including overtime working in the PSNI.

The T/Director of Finance & Support Services advised the Committee that the Department of Finance had commissioned an information gathering exercise in relation to Resource DEL position for the 3 years 2017-18 to 2019-20 and outlined the impact on PSNI on a range of potential budget reductions based on 3% - 6% reductions from the baseline.

The Chairperson thanked 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 Policing Board Report on Expenditure to August 2016

The Committee noted the Board's Management Accounts to August 2016. NOTED.

7.3 Policing Board submission for the October 2016 In Year Monitoring Round

The Committee noted a paper in relation to the Board's in-year monitoring round to the DOJ. NOTED.

Officials referred to an information gathering exercise which had been commissioned by the Department of Finance in relation to Resource DEL position for the 3 years 2017-18 to 2019 – 20 and outlined the impact of a range of potential budget reductions based on 3%, 6% and 10% reductions from the baseline.

7.4 PSNI Demand

The Chairperson welcomed the Deputy Chief Constable and Chief Superintendent Peter Farrar to the meeting.

The Chief Superintendent gave a presentation to the Committee on a PSNI Demand Profiling Project. 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 demand placed on PSNI.
- The Priority Based Resourcing Project.
- Costs associated with dealing with crime.
- The numerous incidents that PSNI have to deal with at Hospital A&E Departments and Muckamore Hospital.

During discussion it was

AGREED:

- That a further briefing on the demand placed on PSNI should be given at the November Committee meeting regarding the detailed first findings of the Assessing Demand project.
- To seek further information from PSNI and the value added by PSNI in attending numerous incidents at Muckamore Hospital.

The Chairperson thanked the Deputy Chief Constable and C/Superintendent Farrar for attending the meeting and they left.

7.5 Delegated Authority for Ill Health and Injury or Death Benefits Decisions

The Committee considered a paper which:-

- Advised Members of the provision under the Police Pension Regulations and the PSNI and PSNI Reserve (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Injury Benefit Regulations) which require a decision.
 - Highlighted decisions that will be taken under delegated authority, in line with the Committee's Terms of Reference.
- NOTED.

7.6 Pension Credit Members: 1998 Police Pension Scheme

The Committee noted the Board's response to proposals by the DOJ to amend the Royal Ulster Constabulary Pensions Regulations 1988, permitting pension credit members to take their pension early. NOTED

7.7 In Year Report – PSNI Procurement/Contract Management

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with a progress report regarding PSNI Procurement and Contract Management. NOTED.

7.8 In Year Report – PSNI Estate Strategy

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with a progress report from the PSNI on the implementation of the PSNI Estate Strategy. NOTED.

7.9 NIPB Equality Annual Progress Report 2015/16

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with the NIPB Annual Progress Report to the Equality Commission for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. NOTED.

8, QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

That questions should be drafted to ask the Chief Constable at the next 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.

9. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communication issues arising from the meeting.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was:-

AGREED:

- That information should be sought from PSNI in relation to where police officers are deployed and the cost of individual PSNI functions.
- That PSNI should be asked to provide an update on the financial assumptions included in the 2016/17 budget allocation approval.
- That PSNI should be asked to increase the font size in the PSNI Monitoring Financial Report.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed that the next meeting should take place on 27 October 2016 at 9.30am and that future meetings of the Committee should be held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 9.30am.

(Meeting closed at 5.00pm)

BOARD SUPPORT

September 2016

Chairperson