

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY
28 MARCH 2019 AT 10.30AM**

PRESENT:

Mr Gerry Kelly (Chair)
Mrs Wendy Osborne (Vice-Chair)
Mr John Blair
Mr Keith Buchanan
(1) Mr Alan Chambers
Mrs Linda Dillon
Mr Doug Garrett
Mr Gary Middleton

**POLICE SERVICE OF
NORTHERN IRELAND IN
ATTENDANCE**

(2) Mr Stephen Martin, T/Deputy Chief Constable,
District Policing
(2) Mr Mark McNaughten, T/Director of Finance &
Support Services & Human Resources
(2) One PSNI Officer

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Tim Logan, Director of Resources
Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Partnership
Two Board Officials

- (1) From part item number 3.1 to close (arrived at 10.40am)
(2) Part item number 3.2

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Tom Frawley and Dr Paul Nolan.

The Committee agreed the agenda for the meeting.

The Chair asked Members to advise of any issues they wished to raise at item number 6 under "Any Other Business". Members indicated that they had no issues to raise under any other business.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 NIPB Budget 2019/20

Officials presented a paper which provided Members with details of the Board's budget settlement for the 2019/20 financial year and the implications for the delivery of the Board's business needs.

Officials advised the Committee of unfunded pressures at present including PCSP recruitment, increased employer pension contributions and legal cases against the Board which could conclude.

Members noted the potential consequences of outstanding and any new legal cases against the Board which could be concluded during the 2019/20 financial year and the need to make adjustments to the budget in year should they arise. NOTED.

In response to a question from a Member Officials outlined details of the costs relating to PCSP re-constitution.

Members discussed the role of PCSPs and expressed concern that there was no guarantee of funding from DOJ for the recruitment of new Independent Members and the re-constitution of the Partnerships.

Members considered options to meet the unfunded pressure in relation to PCSP recruitment and it was:-

AGREED:

That option 3 in the paper which stated that the budget risk should be carried by the Board with potential impact to PCSP funding was the most appropriate way to proceed in view of the current lack of funding for PCSP re-constitution.

It was also agreed to:-

RECOMMEND:

That the Board approve the NIPB budget for 2019/20 at the Board meeting on 3 April 2019.

3.2 PSNI BUDGET 2019/20

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of proposals to achieve a balanced budget for PSNI for 2019/20.

The Chair welcomed the T/Deputy Chief Constable and Mr Mark McNaughten, T/Director of Finance & Support Services & Human Resources to the meeting.

The Chair advised the representatives from PSNI that Members shared the PSNI's frustration regarding the late notification of the opening budget settlements for 2019/20. He acknowledged the challenges that this presents for the PSNI in terms of strategic financial planning for the year ahead. He also recognised that a one year budget was less than ideal particularly for the PSNI in view of the size, scale and complexity of the budget and advised that the Board had written to the Department of Justice to ask what consideration could be given to a more timely confirmation of budgets next year.

The T/Deputy Chief Constable provided the Committee with an overview of the PSNI Resource Plan. He advised that the PSNI was constrained by both a one year budget settlement only and late notification. The T/Deputy Chief Constable also explained some of the high level challenges that were a result of the PSNI budget allocation for 2019/20.

The T/Director of Finance & Support Services & Resources outlined details of the proposed PSNI Resource Plan and Budget for 2019/20 which had been approved by the PSNI Service Executive Board on 20 March 2019. He explained that the budget settlement represented a £11m increase in cash terms but a decrease in real terms taking account of pay and price inflation.

During discussion, Members received information regarding:-

- A recent Court of Appeal ruling in relation to the McQuillan case
- Rising pressures in relation to retrospective injury on duty awards, legacy costs, the Police Estate, Transport and IT.
- The benefits of a multi-year budget settlement.
- Innovation in the management of the PSNI Budget and the establishment of a PSNI Innovation and Standards Department.
- The PSNI Corporate Plan.
- The use of overtime and the development of a PSNI overtime strategy.
- Fleet and Estate Strategies.
- EU Exit Additional Funding.
- PSNI Procurement Processes. It was considered that the PSNI should be invited to brief the Committee on this issue.

(AP1)

- The Bear Scotland ruling in relation to overtime and holiday pay.

In response to a question from a Member, PSNI undertook to provide the Committee with information in relation to future costs arising from the Bear Scotland ruling. (AP2)

- Expenditure on IT which will focus on maintaining existing systems rather than on development and transformation.
In response to a question from a Member, PSNI undertook to examine whether a value for money assessment had been carried out. (AP3)

- Additional security funding.
In response to a question from a Member, PSNI undertook to provide the Committee with further information on the additional security funding. (AP4)

- The number of new recruits compared to the number of Police Officers leaving the Service.
In response to a question from a Member, PSNI undertook to provide information on the cost to the PSNI of losing the knowledge and experience of PSNI Officers. (AP5)

- Direct Award Contracts.

During discussion Members indicated that it would have been beneficial to have received more detailed budget information at an early stage which would have assisted the Committee in providing a more informed decision regarding the budget proposals.

During discussion, Members were of the view that in the absence of more detailed budget information it was difficult for the Committee to provide strategic input regarding the budget proposals. Members and the representatives from PSNI considered that there was a need for better information sharing at an early stage and that efforts should be made to engage earlier on the budget planning process next year and

that this could be a matter for wider discussion with the DOJ in terms of the potential for more timely confirmation of budget settlements for the next financial year.

The Chair thanked the representatives from PSNI for attending the meeting and they left.

Members suggested that the Committee should hold a discussion at a future meeting regarding budget planning processes and the Committee's expectations.

Members referred to the development of a PSNI Overtime Strategy which had been commissioned by the Overtime Steering Group and it was:

AGREED:

That the PSNI should be asked to provide the PSNI strategy on overtime for consideration at the May 2019 Committee meeting.

(AP6)

It was also agreed to:-

RECOMMEND:

That the Board approve the PSNI budget for 2019/20 at the Board meeting on 3 April 2019.

4. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Committee agreed that a question should be drafted to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting for a breakdown of the incidental expenses of £29,589k in the PSNI Resource Plan 2019/20. **(AP7)**

5. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communication issues arising from the meeting.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 18 April 2019 at 2.00pm.

(Meeting closed at 12.20pm).

CORPORATE SERVICES

Date: April 2019

Chair