

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
- (1) Mr Alex Attwood
- (2) Mr Joe Byrne
- Mr Brendan Duddy
- Mr Willie Hay
- (2) Mrs Dolores Kelly
- Mr Danny Kennedy
- Ms Deirdre Mac Bride
- (3) Mrs Pauline McCabe
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- Ms Dawn Purvis
- Mr Brian Rea
- Mr Trevor Ringland
- (4) Mr Peter Weir

PSNI IN ATTENDANCE:

- (6) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (6) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (5) Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Rural Region)
- (6) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)
- (6) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice Department)
- (6) Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Crime Operations)
- (6) Mr Alistair Finlay (ACC Historical Enquiries)
- (6) Ms Sinead McSweeney (Director of Media & PR)
- (7) DCU Commander, Dungannon
- (6) Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat
- (7) Inspector, Sector Commander Coalisland
- (6) 1 representative from PSNI

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

- (2) Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)
- (8) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
- (8) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)
3 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 3.2 to close
- (2) Item number 1 - 9, 15, 17 & 19
- (3) Item number 5 to close
- (4) Item number 19 only
- (5) Item numbers 15 & 17 only
- (6) Item number 17 only
- (7) Item number 15 only
- (8) Item numbers 1 - 9, 15 & 17

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Cobain, Ms Foster and Mr Sharma.
NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 29 June 2006

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 29 June 2006 be approved.

2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 29 June 2006

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Board meeting in public held on 29 June 2006 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 Community Restorative Justice (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

There were no further developments to report. NOTED.

3.2 New Police Training College (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised that a Ministerial response was not anticipated until after the next meeting of the Police College Project Board, which had been arranged for 15 September 2006. NOTED.

3.3 Organised Crime Task Force Stakeholder Group (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised that the NIO had replied to the Board's request for increased representation on the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) on 6 July 2006. NIO had accepted that the Board should be given an additional seat on the OCTF Stakeholder Group, bringing the Board's total representation to 3 members. NIO had required that at least 2 of the Board's nominees be independent Members. As agreed at a previous Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting in June 2006, the Board's representation would be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the 3rd seat would be rotated between Mr Attwood and Mr Paisley. NOTED.

3.4 Independent Monitoring Commission (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman reminded Members that the meeting with the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC) had been rearranged for 26 September 2006. A letter of invitation to the meeting and a background briefing paper had been issued to all Members on 25 August 2006. NOTED.

A copy of the 11th Report of the IMC, published on 6 September 2006 was circulated to Members at the conclusion of the meeting.

3.5 HMIC Review Of The Use Of Firearms (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

Arrangements have been made for the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting to receive a presentation on 14 September 2006 from ACC Operational Support on the HMIC Review of the Use of Firearms. All Board Members will be invited to attend the presentation. NOTED.

3.6 Board Meeting with Historical Enquiries Team (Item 3.7 Of Minutes Refers)

A visit to the offices of the Historical Enquiries Team was in the process of being arranged for 19 October 2006. All Members of the Board would be invited to attend the visit. NOTED.

3.7 Blakey, Crompton And Stevens Reports (Item 6.1.1 Of Minutes Refers)

As previously outlined to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee, a report had been received by the Chairman on the remaining 5 recommendations from the Blakey, Crompton and Stevens Reports and all 5 are being progressed. NOTED.

3.8 Station Review – Coalisland Police Station (Item 10.2 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at Item 15.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman highlighted and commented on the following engagements which he had undertaken on behalf of the Board:-

- Meeting with the Oversight Commissioner – 28 June 2006.
- Meeting with the Security Minister – 3 July 2006. The Chairman advised he had discussed the issue of the PSNI Northern Ireland Special Duty Allowance. The Chairman outlined the circumstances leading to the negotiations which led to an agreement being reached between the NIO and the police staff association representatives that a 25% reduction in the allowance would be phased over September 2007 September 2008 in equal amounts of 12½%.
- Meeting with the Police Ombudsman – 6 July 2006. The Chairman outlined the main issues that had been discussed between the Police Ombudsman and members of the Board at the meeting.
- Counter Terrorism Conference for the FBI Executive Institute – 19 July 2006.
- PSNI versus Belfast Harlequins GAA match – 31 August 2006.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

The Chairman advised the Board that the following publications had been placed in the library:-

- Council on Foreign Relations – 2005 Annual Report.
- Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission – Business Plan – 2006/07.
- Lagan Corporation Annual Report – 2005/06.

- Criminal Cases Review Commission – Annual Report and Accounts – 2005/06.
- Teacher Education for Citizenship in Diverse Societies – The Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South – 2005 Conference and Annual Reports.
- The History of Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary – 1856 – 2006.
- Police Negotiation Board – Sixth Annual Report of the Independent Chair – 2005 – 2006.

NOTED.

4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman highlighted the following correspondence he had received:-

- Letter from NIO regarding the work of Organised Crime Task Force – 11 August 2006.
- Letter from the Deputy Chief Constable regarding the retention of DNA – 31 August 2006.
- Letter from NIO seeking the Board’s views on the renewal of 50/50 provisions of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 – 4 September 2006.
- Correspondence from the Police Ombudsman advising that her Report into the complaint regarding the investigation into the abduction and murder of Jean McConville had been published on the OPONI website.

NOTED.

4.4 News Releases

The Chairman highlighted the following news release:-

- Significant Failings in attempted murder investigation, and lack of Police Resources on night of attack – Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland – 8 August 2006.

NOTED.

4.5 Visit To Washington And New York

The Vice-Chairman referred Members to a paper that gave an overview and assessment of the programme that he and the Chairman had undertaken on their 4 day visit to Washington and New York from 24 to 27 July 2006. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman provided further details about the visit and the follow up action that had subsequently been taken. NOTED.

During discussion of the visit, a Member advocated the merits of new independent Members of the Board participating in similar visits in the future, to highlight that the membership had changed and the new energy that had been introduced to the Board. The Member also highlighted the need to reflect on the tone and style of such visits and outlined benefits of the Board initiating visits to opinion formers in London and Dublin.

Arising from a meeting in Washington, it was:

AGREED:

That the Board should host a dinner for the US Congregational Committee representatives during their next visit to Northern Ireland.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Conferences/Seminars

The Chief Executive advised Members about the following conferences and seminars:-

- 6th Annual Criminal Justice Management Conference – London – 12 October 2006.
- Seminar on Developing Effective Community Planning – Stormont Hotel, Belfast – 17 October 2006.
- Seminar on Effectively Implementing The Reform of Public Administration – Stormont Hotel, Belfast – 18 October 2006.
- Conference on Building Confidence in the Criminal Justice System – London – 26 October 2006.

NOTED.

5.2 Policing Board Workshop

The Chief Executive outlined the main points arising from the Members' Workshop on Developing Strategic Priorities held on 31 August 2006 in Cookstown. He advised that a detailed paper in relation to the proposals discussed was being developed and will be presented to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee in due course. NOTED.

5.3 Incident Newtownabbey DPP

The Chief Executive outlined the circumstances surrounding a suspect device being left outside the building where a meeting of Newtownabbey District Policing Partnership meeting was due to be held. NOTED.

The Board expressed support for Newtownabbey DPP in continuing to hold the meeting.

5.4 NIO – Restructuring Of Police Division

The Board was informed about the content of a letter received from the Assistant Director, Policing regarding the restructuring of Police Division within the NIO. NOTED.

5.5 Invitation To RUC George Cross Memorial Garden

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Board had received an invitation from the Trustees of the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation to visit the RUC GC Garden on 6 September 2006 and that due to other commitments this was not possible. Officials would liaise with the Foundation to arrange another suitable date. NOTED.

5.6 Death Of A Serving Police Officer

The Chief Executive informed the Board about the death of a serving police officer and advised that a letter of condolence would be sent to the family of the officer, on behalf of the Board.

6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Meeting Held On 18 July 2006

The Chairman of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussion/recommendations:-

6.1.1 Co-ordination Of PSNI Inspections (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

6.1.2 Allocation Of Special Responsibility Allowance (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 18 July 2006.

Change Of Date Of Meeting

The Chairman sought the agreement of Committee Members to change the date of the November Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

It was:

AGREED:

To reconsider the proposed change of date of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting from Thursday, 16 November to Tuesday, 14 November 2006, in light of PCSO events scheduled for 14 November 2006.

7. AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

7.1 Minutes Of The Audit And Risk Management Committee Meeting Held On 24 August 2006

The Chairman of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussion/recommendations:-

7.1.1 Audit And Best Value Progress Report 2006/07 (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

7.1.2 Report By the NIAO On The NIPB's Financial Expenditure for 2005/06 (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

7.1.3 Funding Of Ballynahinch CCTV Scheme (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

7.1.4 Presentation By The Chairman OF The PSNI Audit Committee (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee held on 24 August 2006.

8. COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING

8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community And Human Rights Committee Held On 8 August 2006

The Chairman of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussion/recommendations:-

8.1.1 Board Members Support For DPPs (Item 3.7 Of Minutes Refers)

A draft letter informing DPPs of the arrangements being put in place in relation to the support provided to DPP s by Members was circulated.

It was:

AGREED:

That the letter should be issued to DPP Chairmen and Managers.

8.1.2 2nd Human Rights Annual Report (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.3 AEP Impact Rounds – Consideration Of The Need For A Child Impact Assessment (Item 16 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.4 Discussion Paper For DPPs Future Structures Following Post Review Of Administration Re-structuring (Item 17 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.5 Role Of Independent Community Observers (Item 20 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.6 Merger of Belfast And Antrim Custody Visiting Panels (Item 23 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.7 Review Of PSNI Code Of Ethics (Item 28 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee held on 8 August 2006.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

9.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 9 August 2006

The Chairman of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussion/recommendations:-

9.1.1 Human Resources Planning Strategy (Report 12) And Staff Orientation Project (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board was updated on progress towards the introduction of Police Community Support Officers. NOTED.

9.1.2 PSNI Management Of Sickness Absence (Item 4 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.3 Payment Of Allowances To PSNI Officers (Item 6.1 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.4 Visit To The PSNI Crime Analysis Centre (Item 6.4 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.5 Police Negotiating Board – Briefing Paper (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.6 Tendering Exercise For Appointment Of PSNI Recruitment Consultant (Item 26.4 Of Minutes Refers)

A Member enquired about Item 24 of the minutes, concerning the measures being taken by PSNI to appoint a new Head of Training. Following discussion, it was

AGREED:

To discuss the matter with the Chief Constable later in the meeting.

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 9 August 2006.

9.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources (Quorum) Committee Held On 9 August 2006

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources (Quorum) Committee held on 9 August 2006.

9.3 Staffing Within Crime Operations Department

The Chairman of the Human Resources Committee referred Members to a paper considered by the Committee at the August 2006 meeting. The paper related to proposals made by the PSNI to address the issue of a shortfall of detectives in Crime Operations Branch. The Committee had sought the views of HMIC and Sir Dan Crompton as to whether the PSNI proposals compromised the recommendations in the Blakey, Stevens and Crompton Reports and both had indicated that the proposals did not compromise the reports. HMIC Ken Williams noted the need to revert to the recommendations in Blakey, Stevens and

Crompton reports when the staffing shortfall has been addressed. The Committee was recommending to the Board that the PSNI's proposals, including to externally recruit experienced detectives for the PSNI should be approved and that PSNI should implement the proposals within the paper. It was noted that there was a need for legislation to enable the external recruitment of experienced detectives and Members supported this.

The Board discussed the proposals and it was:

RESOLVED:

- To endorse the proposals within the PSNI paper, and
- To endorse the need for legislation to enable the external recruitment of experienced detectives, subject to Human Resources Committee consideration of the detail of the provisions.

10. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

10.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Held On 18 August 2006

The Chairman of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussion/recommendations:-

10.1.1 Independent Validation of the PSNI IS Strategy by PITO – Presentation Of 5th Progress Report (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)

10.1.2 Presentation By The DCU Commander – Crossmaglen And Newtownhamilton Land Vesting Update (Item 3 Of Minutes Refers)

10.1.3 Comprehensive Spending Review And Value For Money Review Of Police Numbers (Item 19 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman of the Committee suggested that further contact should be maintained between the Board and senior NIO officials regarding the

Comprehensive Spending Review and the Value For Money Review of Police Numbers.

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 18 August 2006.

11. CONTEXT FOR FUTURE POLICING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman referred Members to a paper which highlighted recent policing activity relating to the context for future policing arrangements in Northern Ireland.

NOTED.

Following discussion, it was:

AGREED:

That a further paper should be prepared for consideration at the October 2006 Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

12. COMMUNITY BASED RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (CBRJ) DRAFT PROTOCOL

The Chairman referred Members to a paper in relation to the draft Protocol on Community Based Restorative Justice (CBRJ) issued by the NIO. Members considered the draft Protocol in the light of the response submitted by the Board to the Minister following the consultation on the Draft Guidelines for Community Based Restorative Justice Schemes.

The Board discussed the paper.

It was:

AGREED:

That a small working group should be established to consider the draft Protocol and report back to the Board.

13. INTERNATIONAL POLICING CONFERENCE

The Chairman referred Members to a paper that provided an update on proposals for taking forward the arrangement of the international policing conference in February 2007. NOTED.

Following discussion, it was:

RESOLVED:

To endorse the initial draft objectives and outline programme for the conference.

14. INFORMATION PAPERS

There were no information papers presented.

15. STATION REVIEW – COALISLAND POLICE STATION

The Chairman reminded Members that the Resources and Improvement Committee had referred the Coalisland station review to the Board and it had been considered at the 29 June 2006 Board meeting. At that meeting it had been agreed to defer making a decision and that ACC Rural Region should be invited to

attend the September meeting to further discuss the PSNI proposal to close Coalisland station.

The Chairman welcomed ACC Rural Region and her colleagues to the meeting. The DCU Commander, Dungannon gave a detailed presentation regarding the current policing arrangements in Coalisland, the rationale for closure of the station, the financial and staffing savings that would follow closure, the consultation process that had been undertaken and PSNI plans for the future policing of Coalisland. A copy of the slides used in the presentation is attached at Appendix 'A'.

Members requested and received further information from the PSNI officers regarding a number of issues, including:-

- The omission of Coalisland station from those originally listed as under review in the PSNI Estates Strategy.
- Future plans for other stations in the area.
- The extent of the consultation process that had been undertaken.
- The possibility of building a more modern, smaller station on the existing site.
- The allocation of a mobile station to the area.
- Planning for extending neighbourhood policing in Coalisland.
- The opportunities that closure of the station would bring for a new style of policing in the area.

In light of the plans for alternative policing arrangements for the Coalisland area, PSNI's consultation with the local community and the views of Dungannon and South Tyrone District Policing Partnership, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Board endorse the PSNI's proposal to close and demolish the police station at Coalisland, County Tyrone and that PSNI should provide a detailed plan on the delivery of policing in the medium and longer term,

including consideration on the future requirement of the site for policing purposes.

16. PRESS ISSUES

It was:

AGREED:

To issue a news release in respect of:-

The Board's decision to endorse the PSNI's proposal to close and demolish the police station at Coalisland, County Tyrone

17. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The meeting discussed questions to be put to the Chief Constable and decided whether they should be asked at the Board meeting in public, in the private session, or by way of written reply.

The Board received further information in relation to:-

- Police investigations into the murder of Mr Mark Christie.
- The appointment of a new Head of Training in PSNI.
- The level of threat posed by republican dissident groups following a fire bomb attack in Newry.
- The security implications and border co-operation with the Garda Siochana following an attack on property in County Louth.
- Arrangements regarding the allocation of a PSNI officer to investigate allegations made against the Office of the Police Ombudsman.
- The decision level of command regarding the issue of a caution in specific case. The Chief Constable indicated he would write to the Member with further details.

- The background to the withdrawal of charges against Mr Philip Johnston.
- The PSNI approach to the use of child informants.

The Board moved into its meeting in public and following this session the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was conducted.

19. JOINT BRIEFING FROM PSNI AND THE SECURITY SERVICES

Members received a confidential briefing from the Director and Co-ordinator of Intelligence and the Assistant Chief Constable Crime Operations concerning the transfer of responsibility of national security. The minute of this meeting is attached at Appendix 'B'.

Following the meeting, the Director and ACC Crime Operations left the meeting.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Board confirmed the date of the next meeting for Thursday, 5 October 2006 in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed at 5.20pm).

Secretariat

September 2006

CHAIRMAN

Trim54812