

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 16 MAY 2019, 10:00, WATERSIDE TOWER**

PRESENT: (1) Mrs Joanne Bunting
Professor Brice Dickson
Mrs Linda Dillon
Mr Philip McGuigan
Mr Colm McKenna
Mr Gary Middleton
Mrs Wendy Osborne
Ms Deborah Watters - Board Vice Chair

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE Mrs A Stewart, CEO
Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Partnership
4 Board Officials

PSNI IN ATTENDANCE: (2) T/DCC Stephen Martin
(2) Supt. Alywin Barton
(2) One PSNI Officer
(2) One PSNI Staff Member

(1) Item Number 5.1 (part) (10:25-close)

(2) Item Number 5.1 (10.05-11.30)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for the meeting were received from Mrs Dolores Kelly and Mr John Blair.

In the absence of the Chair, Mr Colm McKenna (Vice Chair) chaired the meeting.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked Members to declare any conflicts of interests arising from the agenda.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of 18 April 2019 were agreed.

4. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG

The Director of Partnership provided an update on the Action Log. He advised that Actions 3.3, 3.4 and 3.8 have been completed and closed and noted the following updates on the open Actions:

- AP3 and AP4 - will be raised at the next Joint Committee meeting (21 June);
- AP2.5 - currently being drafted for presentation at a future meeting;
- AP2.9 - will be addressed at 5.3 of the Agenda;
- AP3.1 - will be presented at a future meeting of the Committee;
- AP3.2 - will be addressed at 5.1 of the Agenda;
- AP3.5 - to be launched on 20 May 2019;
- AP3.6 - will be tabled for a future Committee meeting;
- AP3.7 - will be addressed at 5.2 of the Agenda; and
- AP3.9 - will be addressed at 5.5 of the Agenda.

5. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.1 Local Policing Review 2018 - Draft Board/PSNI Response

T/DCC Martin provided an update on progress with the Local Policing Review 2018 Draft Response, which included:

- PSNI are in listening mode and want to address the observations made;
- PSNI are committed to remaining coterminous with Councils, this includes a Superintendent in each district and a Chief Superintendent in Belfast;
- PSNI feel the initial Action Plan is a good start and are keen to hear the views of the Committee;
- There are currently 313 officers in Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT's) which represents 12% of all officers. 166 posts in Local Policing Teams (LPT's) have been identified which can be moved to NPT's resulting in 479 officers. This would increase representation officers to 18% in NPTs;

- Brexit funding of £16m is designed to enable a further 190 officers being allocated to NPT's totalling 669 which increases representation officers to 24%; equalling a £17.8m investment.
- Committed to a proportionate and appropriate selection process for officers in NPT's with increased investment in continuous professional development to ensure effective communication and engagement in communities; in line with the feedback from the local policing consultation;
- The additional resources would achieve an extra 34 NPTs resulting in a total of 71 NPTs across the Districts;
- The additional teams would be utilised to increase NPTs in current areas and create 11 new NPT areas;
- A Single Task Centre will be created which should be operational by the end of 2019; and
- A review of the 101 service is being led by C/Supt Simon Walls and should be completed within the next 6-8 weeks.

The Chair thanked T/DCC Martin for his update and opened discussion for questions and comments, these focused on:

- The quality of response and signposting process for 101 is vital and a return call to provide an update on action taken/outcome;
- A definition of Neighbourhood Policing is required;
- There is increased visibility of policing in some local areas and that it is important to build on the already good working relationships with the NPT;
- The Vice Chair of the Board commended PSNI for taking the consultation seriously, for being in listening mode and for responding positively by increasing the footprint of NPTs. However, she highlighted how the public do not see the difference between an LPT or NPT but they do notice the difference in service from officers. She questioned whether the Policing with the Community (PwC) ethos had landed with all PSNI Officers, in particular how Neighbourhood Policing was perceived and conveyed by others, e.g. LPT. She reinforced the importance of implementing PwC;

Joanne Bunting joined the meeting (10.25am).

- Clarity on the 11 new identified areas;
- Welcomed the potential increase but reinforced the importance of knowing what the PSNI was trying to achieve from the changes, a focus on outcomes;
- Welcoming the introduction of a selection process for NPT's;
- Visibility is not just about 'seeing' but requires meaningful engagement;
- Draft action plan requires targets, timelines and impacts and not all observations will specifically require actions;
- Annex B references too many acronyms;
- Queried single officer patrols;
- Tailoring policing for gender;
- Additional member comments would be submitted for consideration with regards to the draft action plan; and
- A query around why there is no provision of a NPT in Outer East Belfast.

T/DCC Martin provided the following responses:

- The ultimate goal around the culture of policing is to have a visible relationship within communities;
- All policing, including that from NPT and LPT, should be a responsive service whereby they may do different jobs but the style and tone is PwC;
- He anticipates that demand will outweigh availability with Neighbourhood Policing being a desirable place to work;
- Gave a breakdown of the proposed 11 new areas of NPT's;
- Provided the rationale for selection for these areas having been based on a balance of need and demand;
- He will raise the issue of Outer East Belfast NPT with the District Commander;
- Outlined the need for PSNI to examine other means of policing, e.g. volunteer roles/Police Community Safety Officer's/Part Time Reserves/Community Wardens as part of workforce modernisation along

with examining the potential for single officer patrolling where Officers are not exposed to risk; and

- There would be 30, or so, areas across NI that would not have a 'dedicated' NPT but they would most certainly receive a response/service when needed.

A member commended T/DCC Martin for the PSNI's and his response to the recent murder of Lyra McKee in L'Derry and stated that this was the best example of Policing with the Community with political and civic leadership standing side by side with the PSNI.

The Director of Partnership stated that the Committee's discussion will be taken into consideration and the action plan updated accordingly.

In relation to next steps, he welcomed members' views on the potential for running an event at which the Action Plan, including the final Ulster University report, inclusive of the engagement and geographical sub-reports could be launched. The T/DCC was supportive of this and Members agreed that an event would be important possibly in September/October. **(AP4.1)**

The Chair thanked T/DCC Martin for his openness in discussion and welcomed the positive actions identified in particular the increase to NPT's. He also welcomed the PSNI and the Board working in partnership to update the action plan and bring it to the June meeting **(AP4.2)**.

PSNI left the meeting at 11.40am.

5.2 Policing with the Community - Letter from T/ACC Tim Mairs

The Chair referred members to the correspondence received from T/ACC Tim Mairs, outlining that the PSNI required more time to finalise the report. It was agreed that the report will be brought to a future meeting **(AP3.7)**.

5.3 PCSP Reconstitution 2019 - Independent Member Recruitment update

The Chair introduced the item and invited the Partnership Manager to provide an update on the recruitment process for Independent Members. She advised

Members that following their agreement to re-advertise in the Mid Ulster District (due to a poor uptake in the first recruitment round) an additional 13 applications had been received resulting in a total of 24 applications which is sufficient. The total applications received across all Districts are 423. Board officials have commenced an eligibility sift which will be dip sampled by the Impartial Assessor. Procurement for an HR Service Provider to oversee the recruitment process at the Council level, will also commence shortly. It was agreed that a further update will be provided at the June meeting to include a report on the Communications Strategy **(AP4.3)**.

In relation to the process for replacing current independent PCSP vacancies which the Committee had previously agreed, the Director of Partnership advised that following the recent CPANI audit report, he wishes to seek advice on the Code of Practice from the Department before proceeding with the filling of vacancies and PCSP recruitment. Members agreed with this approach.

5.4 Strategic Consultation Group

The Chair introduced the item and the Engagement Manager provided background information on the Board's Strategic Consultation Group (SCG) including the rationale for bringing the item to the committee for discussion. This included remit and membership of the group as well as where SCG sits within the wider Board engagement package. Discussion with members included:

- Potential organisations not on the draft SCG membership;
- Conflict of Interest in relation to PSNI be represented or having observer status on SCG;
- Involving representatives from Community Groups to be involved;
- PSNI/Board reference groups, both in place makes it over onerous for community groups;
- Reason for Joint Groups;
- Information was asked for on the Board's two Volunteer Schemes;
- Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers

The Engagement Manager gave an update on the Volunteer Schemes and the Chair asked that the Committee looks at the Board's broader engagement which involves others. It was agreed for the Board's Equality Scheme distribution list to be made available to members on Sharepoint **(AP4.4)** and for a further paper to be presented on the Board's range of potential engagement. **(AP4.5)**

A discussion ensued in relation to PCSP's and the role of joint committee. The Director of Partnership agreed to bring a Criminal Justice Inspectorate Northern Ireland (CJINI) report on PCSP's to a future Committee meeting when it is completed. **(AP4.6)** The Director also informed members that they could attend six-monthly governance meetings with PCSPs if they wished to be more informed of the work of the PCSP in their area of interest.

5.5 Research Recommendations Report

The Director of Partnership provided an update on the recommendations and actions taken to date in respect of the QUB report and highlighted that the Local Policing Consultation, including its out-workings would address most of the recommendations. In relation to the UU report on Policing Committee effectiveness, whilst there is work in progress to develop workshops to address a number of the recommendations, key to this is to ensure strategic relationships between the development of the Regional and Local Policing Plans and Policing Committees.

The Chair invited questions and observations from members which included;

- Recommendation 2 of the QUB report, in relation to adopting an alternative policing model, is currently being addressed through the LPC Action Plan;
- Recommendation 3 of the UU report in respect of the position of PCSP/PC Chair should be discussed with the Board before any work is done on legislative changes - nothing should be done at this time;
- There is a need to increase the profile of PCSP Independent Members;

Members agreed that the paper should be updated, by tracked changes, to reflect all comments and be brought back to Committee for information. **(AP4.7)**

6. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

Members noted the following question for the Chief Constable:

Neighbourhood Policing was identified as a key issue in the Local Policing Consultation during 2018. Can the Chief Constable provide the Committee with:

- An outline of the proposed changes to Neighbourhood Policing as a consequence of the Consultation; and
- How additional Neighbourhood posts will be funded and sustained in future years given their importance to Policing with the Community.

Members agreed Chair's correspondence from the Committee to T/DCC Martin requesting further information in relation to the PSNI's current engagement work. Including information on the PSNI's Independent Advisory Groups or similar, incorporating their Terms of Reference and Membership; and a copy of the PSNI's Community Engagement Strategy **(AP 4.8)**.

7. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES

None

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Director of Partnership advised the Committee of a forthcoming PSNI/Board workshop on Hate Crime. PCSP members and PSNI District Commanders have been invited to attend to discuss and consider current work in this area. Details, including an agenda, have been tabled for Committee members and all are welcome to attend.

Wendy Osborne and Brice Dickson offered their apologies for the next meeting.

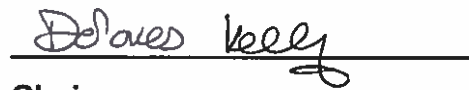
9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 20 June 2019.

(Meeting closed at 13:00)

PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE

Date: May 2019



Chair