

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 10.00am

WATERSIDE TOWER

PRESENT: Mrs Dolores Kelly (Chair)
Mr Colm McKenna (Vice Chair)
Mr John Blair
Prof Brice Dickson
Mrs Linda Dillon
Mr Gary Middleton
Mrs Wendy Osborne

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Partnership
2 Board Officials

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for the meeting were received from Mr Philip McGuigan.
The Committee agreed the agenda for the meeting.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked Members to declare any conflicts of interests arising from the agenda. John Blair and Brice Dickson declared a Conflict of Interest at Item 6.5. The Chair noted their declarations and it was agreed both should stay for the item NOTED.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 14 August 2019. Clarification was sought in relation to item 6.2 bullet point 3. On discussion the Chair confirmed no changes were

required as this would be considered further at item 6.2 of the meeting's agenda.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 14 August 2019 be approved.

4. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG:

The Partnership Director provided Members with an update on the Committee's rolling action log. The Committee considered the update and with regards to 2.9 and 5.3, members requested that both action points be escalated to Claire Archbold, Director of Safer Communities in DOJ.

It was:-

AGREED:

That 2.9 and 5.3 of the action log will be escalated to DOJ and the action log should be approved **(AP1)**.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.1 Update on Joint Committee

The Chair gave an update on the previous day's Joint Committee meeting. A member requested sight of the minutes from 21 June 2019 meeting. The Director of Partnership confirmed that the private meeting of Joint Committee did not take place on 18th September 2019 and that minutes from 21 June will be made available when approved by Joint Committee members.

5.2 Engagement Response

The Chair confirmed that a response to her correspondence of 5th June 2019 had been received from PSNI. A member asked for an update on the status of the Engagement for Collaborative Working document including the status of the recommendations contained within. Board officials agreed to seek clarification from the Policing with the Community Branch in relation to this document.

It was:

AGREED:

For clarification to be sought from PSNI in relation to their Engagement for Collaboration Working document, in particular for the status of the document and the status of the recommendations **(AP2)**.

6. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.1 Tackling Paramilitarism Report

The Director of Partnership introduced members to the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme and provided an update on the four Policing Board Actions contained within the NI Executive Plan. The Director of Partnership outlined the current status of each of the recommendations as follows:

A5 – “The Executive, the Policing Board and the PSNI should review the resourcing and operation of policing in communities to ensure that policing is visible and resourced to fully engage in those communities most vulnerable to criminal control”.

Members discussed the role of the Board in advocating for additional funding for PSNI officers.

It was:-

AGREED:

To raise through the Chair’s report that the Board will request the evidence from PSNI for the extra resources recently articulated by the

Chief Constable. This will include the need for the resources and what impact they will have. Subject to analysis of the information received, the Board will consider advocating with PSNI for additional resources **(AP3)**.

A6 – “In setting the strategic objectives of PCSP’s, the Department of Justice and Policing Board should ensure that the partnerships focus on building community confidence in the rule of law and embedding a culture of lawfulness”.

Members discussed the contribution of PCSP’s in relation to the A6 recommendation specifically around PCSP outputs and impacts and the contribution this is making in reducing paramilitarism. The Director of Partnership confirmed that the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board will address this in their presentation at the October Partnership Committee meeting. NOTED

A7 – “The designated organisations should also ensure that their representatives are sufficiently senior to building effective partnerships”.

Members raised a number of concerns in regards to the role and representation of the designated organisations within PCSP’s. The Chair recommended that the Chief Executive and Chair of designated organisations are invited to the Joint committee meeting in November.

It was:-

AGREED:

Board officials will invite Chief Executives and Chairs to the Joint Committee in November **(AP4)**.

A8 – “The executive and the PSNI, in conjunction with the Policing Board, should review their protocols for engaging with representatives of paramilitary

groups. This change in approach should also apply to other public and community bodies and public representatives”.

The Director of Partnership highlighted the difficulties to date in implementing the recommendations in A8’s progression.

Members discussed the challenges in implementing this recommendation and agreed to continue the conversation at the October meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

The Chair will write to the PSNI requesting an outline of their current approach to engaging with paramilitaries **(AP5)**.

6.2 Police Property Fund

The Director of Partnership introduced the item and highlighted the issues raised in the paper. Following discussion with Members:

It was:-

AGREED:

- Projects must demonstrate engagement with PSNI and where appropriate the PCSP;
- Projects must be closely aligned to one or more of the following charitable purposes as outlined in The Charities Act 2008:
 - The advancement of education;
 - The advancement of health or the saving of lives;
 - The advancement of citizenship or community development;
 - The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science;
 - The advancement of amateur sport;

- The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity and
- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement.
- In relation to constituted organisations, officials will seek clarification from the Charities Commission on the appropriate wording to be used.

It was:-

AGREED:

- Officials will seek clarification from the Charities Commission on the appropriate wording to be used in relation to constituted organisations **(AP6)**.

In relation to what the Police Property Fund will not support:

It was:-

AGREED:

- Removal of Marketing costs for existing or planned activities;
- Projects funded by PCSP's in the last 12 months; and
- PSNI and PCSP's are not eligible to apply for funding.

In relation to Format and Quantum:

It was:-

AGREED:

- To run a small grants programme up to £10,000; and
- A larger grants programme up to £30,000.

In relation to Administrative arrangements:

It was:-

AGREED:

- Up to 20% of the available funding can be utilised to administer the PPF.

6.3 PCSP Recruitment 2019/20 Update

The Director of Partnership provided a brief update on PCSP Recruitment explaining that Board officials are awaiting a response from DOJ at the request of the committee which will be escalated to Claire Archibald, Director of Safer Communities in DOJ (as agreed at AP1).

6.4 PCSP CJINI Report

The Director of Partnership introduced the item advising Members of the recent publication of the CJINI review of PCSPs published in August 2019. Members noted that the report was positive and that the Joint Committee will take forward the recommendations. **NOTED**

6.5 North Belfast DPCSP Independent Member Complaint

The Director of Partnership gave a brief summary of the paper and members discussed the issues raised within the paper. Consideration was given to the options identified at stage 2 of the Policy. Members concluded that there was no evidence of damage being caused to the DPCSP as a result of the Members continuation in office.

It was:-

AGREED:

- To recommend to the Board that the PCSP Members circumstances are such as not to require their removal from office; and
- For Board officials to issue a letter to PCSPs to remind Members of their obligations in regards to social media use **(AP7)**.

6.6 **Sectarianism in Northern Ireland – A Review**

The Engagement Manager introduced the item and provided an overview of The Review of Sectarianism in Northern Ireland document by the Sir George Quigley Fund. Members discussed the options provided within the paper and;

It was:-

AGREED:

- That the Committee would adopt Option C - write to the author from the Partnership Committee to acknowledge the report and Actions for Consideration and provide a detailed update on existing activities and upcoming work which support the delivery of the four Board related Actions for Consideration. **(AP8)**.

6.7 **Updated Programme of Work**

The Director of Partnership provided Members with the updated Partnership Committee Programme of Work for September 2019 to March 2020, highlighting potential future visits and two areas of thematic work for Partnership Committee. Following discussion with Members.

It was:-

AGREED:

- To proceed with the Programme of Work as outlined.

7. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

The Chair asked Members to consider any questions for the Chief Constable arising from the meeting. A member requested that the following question be tabled for the Chief Constable:

In recent presentations the Chief Constable has referred to the PSNI being more responsive, visible and accessible. Could the Chief Constable outline further the role envisaged for Engagement Leads within the PSNI in contributing to this greater responsiveness, visibility and accessibility.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Communications Manager provided a verbal update to Member's noting the upcoming Custody Visiting Volunteer Recruitment Campaign and encouraged members to continue promoting this within their networks. She also noted upcoming events that Members may wish to attend, including:

- 4th November – Women in Policing Book Launch;
- 5th November – Local Policing Consultation Response Document Launch; and
- 12th November – Annual Tackling Paramilitarism Conference.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

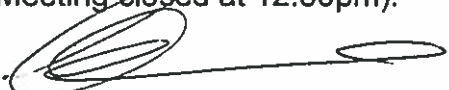
9.1 The Director of Partnership updated members on recent issues within Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP where members had requested intervention from Board officials. There has been some resolution of issues and the Director of Partnership encouraged Members to assist with supporting this.

9.2 The Director of Partnership informed Members that the Local Policing Review has been shortlisted for a World Class Policing Award. He will keep Members updated with regards to this.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 17th October 2019.

(Meeting closed at 12:50pm).

 — CHAIRPERSON
PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE
SEPTEMBER 2019

Chairperson