

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward, Belfast
Tuesday 25th February, 2014

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Adam Newton (Chair)	Ms Lynda Gibson
Alderman Gavin Robinson	Ms Olwen Lyner
Councillor Clare Hanna	Mr Andrew Moorhead
Councillor Mervyn Jones	
Councillor Niall O'Donnghaile	
Designated Organisations	
Chief Inspector Mark McEwan, PSNI	Jane Lappin, PBNI
Gary Ballantyne, NIHE	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT	Pauline Smart, BELB
Chief Inspector Darrin Jones, PSNI	
Staff Present	Apologies
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator	Mr Gareth Beacom
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Mr Mark Houston

1. Welcome and

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting including Patricia Muldoon (newly appointed Member) and the new Area Commander, Chief Inspector Darrin Jones. The Chair offered congratulations on behalf of the Partnership to Chief Inspector Mark McEwan on his recent promotion. The Chair also noted the apologies provided.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Minutes of East Belfast DPCSP Private and Public Meetings

- i. The Minutes of the East Belfast Private Meeting held on 28th January, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.

4. Tension Monitoring Overview and Future Plans

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that at the last DPCSP Meeting, Members requested an update in relation to Tension Monitoring.
- ii. The Safer City Corodinator introduced Richard McLernon to Members. He advised Members that Richard McLernon is the officer responsible for managing the Belfast Tension Monitoring Project.
- iii. Richard McLernon, provided Members with an overview of the Belfast Tension Monitoring Project. He advised Members that funding for the project had been extended until 31st March and that this extension allowed for local community tension monitoring plans to be delivered.

- iv. He asked Members to note that following the 31st March, local tension monitoring groups in their area may wish to form a link with the DPCSP and requested Members to consider integrating local groups.
- v. A Member commented that following a recent local tension monitoring meeting, he had concerns regarding the issues that groups were identifying. He further commented that he felt that there is a need to re-evaluate why people were attending tension monitoring meetings and also that tension monitoring needs to extend beyond interfaces.
- vi. Richard McLernon informed Members that tension monitoring can adapt any local context required. He further advised Members that an independent evaluation is currently being undertaken and findings from the evaluation may be useful to Members.
- vii. A Member asked if costs would be incurred for the sustainability of tension monitoring to DPCSP's. Richard McLernon advised Members there is no actual cost necessary to support local tension monitoring groups, DPCSP's could assist local groups through information sharing.
- viii. A Member asked if tension monitoring needs to focus on cross community themes or can it include other themes. Richard McLernon commented that other areas include various themes however advised Members that tension monitoring is not the solution to addressing all issues in Belfast but that it is a vehicle of best practice.
- ix. A Member suggested that discussions could be had to review how tension monitoring had been analysed and how information had been shared.
- x. Following a discussion, Members agreed they would be supportive of meeting with the local tension monitoring group. Members agreed for Richard McLernon and Andy Moorhead to discuss how the DPCSP could support the local tension monitoring group.

5. Small Grants

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised the Partnership that Members had participated on the Small Grants 2014/15 assessment panel.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that six applications had been considered by the panel, however only three applications were recommended for funding. He further advised Members, that the panel has requested clarification on one project regarding facilitation fees and room hire cost.
- iii. Following a discussion, Members agreed to fund all three applications. However, requested for clarity regarding queries identified and for information regarding the queries to be forwarded to Members for review before confirmation of funding had been notified to the applicant.
- iv. It was agreed that the Safer City Coordinator would seek clarity on these issues and forward the information to all Members for review.

6. Unwanted Bonfires

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that due to unforeseen circumstances, there had been no update regarding unwanted bonfires available. However, once a report is available it will be forwarded to Members for review.

7. Audit and Governance Arrangements

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on the Audit and Governance Report.
- ii. Claire O'Prey, Audit Governance and Risk Services Manager, Belfast City Council advised Members of the Councils audit requirements and commented that all (D)PCSP's are required to be complaint with the Letter of Offer from the Department of Justice ad also the associated financial guidelines.
- iii. The Audit Governance and Risk Services Manager, informed Members that there had been an audit for 2014/15 to which all (D) PCSP's would be eligible for.
- iv. The Chair thanked Claire O'Prey for her attendance and for providing Members with an update regarding audit and governance procedures.
- v. Members noted the report.

8. Electoral Paper

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members on the forthcoming electoral period.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to note the recommendations to adopt Belfast City Council's Electoral Protocol and for all DPCSP's meetings to be cancelled during Purdah.
- iii. Members noted the report and agreed its recommendations.

9. Any Other Business

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that a Planning Day had been scheduled for 6th March and that a Draft Action Plan had been circulated to Members for review in advance of the Planning Day.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Annual General Meeting of the Victoria PACT had been scheduled for 11th March at 7pm in the Park Avenue Hotel. He advised Members that he will be delivering a presentation regarding the City Wide Drugs Campaign at the AGM and also invited Members to attend.
- iii. He further advised Members of the forthcoming Domestic Violence Event on 21st March from 9.00am-3.30pm. He requested that in addition to the Chair attending for another Member to attend. Members requested that the agenda for the event to be circulated.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator also updated Members on the Confidence in Policing Conference on 25th and 26th March. He asked for two Members to attend the conference on behalf of the East Belfast DPCSP. Members requested information regarding the event to be circulate for review.

- v. He also provided an update to Members regarding legal highs and also the recent Belfast PCSP Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign.

10. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members noted that the date of next East Belfast DPCSP Meeting would be on Thursday 20th March, 6.00pm in the East Belfast Network Centre.
- ii. Members also noted that following the Private Meeting, a Public Meeting would commence at 7.00pm.