

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre, Templemore Avenue, Belfast
Thursday, 5th June, 2014

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Mervyn Jones (Chair)	Mr Andrew Moorhead
	Mr Gareth Beacom
	Mrs Lynda Gibson
	Mr Mark Houston
	Mrs Olwen Lyner
Police Service of Northern Ireland Representatives	
Chief Inspector Darrin Jones	
Staff Present	Apologies
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator Andrew Charles, Project Officer Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Councillor Clare Hanna Councillor Adam Newton Councillor Niall O'Donnaghaile

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were noted.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meetings held on 20th March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Area Commanders Update

- i. The Area Commander provided Members with an update on crime statistics for East Belfast.
- ii. The Area Commander commented that performance against the Local Policing Plan had been going well and that there had been a small increase in overall crime rates.
- iii. The Area Commander advised Members that burglaries had been static and that domestic burglaries had decreased.
- iv. He further commented that criminal damage crime had increased. A total of 37 additional crimes had been reported.
- v. The Area Commander also advised Members that hate crime had increased.

- vi. He also provided Members with an update regarding PSNI and the policing of interface areas within East Belfast.
- vii. The Chair commented that the Newtownards Road had been very quite recently regarding unrest. The Area Commander commented that this had been noted by the PSNI and commended the local community representatives for their role in assisting with this.
- viii. Following a discussion regarding how unrest occurs within East Belfast, the Area Commander commented that if people break the law they would be arrested.
- ix. A Member commented that rather than prosecution being used, if an alternative method could be implemented to deal with people who are involved in public disorder.
- x. A Member raised her concerns that if the PSNI plan to move people further up the road it could result in further protests.
- xi. Following a discussion regarding hate crime in East Belfast, the Area Commander informed Members a hate crime plan had now been implemented which included the secondment of a Polish PSNI Officer to assist and support the Polish community which included victim support and translating.
- xii. The Area Commander commented that local residents who live within the Ravenhill area had raised their concerns regarding traffic around Ravenhill.
- xiii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that residents had voiced their concerns regarding traffic around Ravenhill at an East Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting. He further commented that following the Meeting, East Belfast DPCSP forwarded a letter to DRD regarding their concerns.
- xiv. Members requested that a further letter be forwarded to DRD regarding residents concerns.
- xv. The Area Commander commented that Service First had been fully implemented and very positive feedback had been received to date.
- xvi. Following a discussion around Hate Crime within East Belfast, the Chair suggested for a statement to be issued in relation to number of hate crime incidents to be made. The Area Commander commented that he would speak with the PSNI Media Officer regarding issuing a possible statement.
- xvii. A Member asked that following the recent cannabis seizure, had the seizure been a result of evidence based or report? The Area Commander commented that the seizure had been a result of a report being made.
- xviii. The Area Commander provided Members with an update regarding Crimestoppers procedures. Members requested for Crimestoppers literature to be available at the next East Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting.
- xix. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that one drug bin had been located in Connswater. He requested Members to suggest a location for the second drug bin. Members suggested Knocknagoney or Woodstock Medical Centre.

- xx. A Member asked if Neighbourhood Policing Teams would change to reflect the new Council boundaries? The Area Commander commented that no decision had been in relation to this and that the PSNI had still been reviewing this.
- xxi. A Member asked if the PSNI had a policing plan for the July period? The Area Commander commented that this information would not be available until closer to the time and will provide Members with an update at the next meeting.
- xxii. The Chair commented that in the past, there had been meetings facilitated between the PSNI and local community representatives on how the PSNI should police parades. He commented that the meeting had been very productive in resulting in parades passing off without any incidents.
- xxiii. The Area Commander advised Members that the PSNI would like to redistribute the questionnaire that had been circulated previously regarding what people wanted from their local police team. Members welcomed this suggestion and for Officers to link with the Area Commander regarding the recirculation of the questionnaire.
- xxiv. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding changes to Policing Committee Applications. He advised Members that changes would include tighter governance procedures and for applications to demonstrate linkage to be made with the PSNI. He advised Members that a total of £15,000 had been allocated to Policing Committee Fund.
- xxv. Members requested for an evaluation report of Policing Committee Applications to be presented at the next East Belfast DPCSP Meeting.

5. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members agreed not to facilitate a meeting during July.
- ii. Date, venue and time for next East Belfast DPCSP to be agreed and circulated to Members.
- iii. Members agreed if Policing Committee Applications are submitted during July that a quorum of Members will meet to review and assess.