

Minutes of Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership Conor Room, City Hall, Wednesday, 27th June, 2012

Members Present

Councillor Jim McVeigh (Chair)	John MacVicar (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin	Valerie Allen
Alderman Tom Ekin	Michael Cunningham
Councillor Matt Garrett	Eva Grosman
Councillor Claire Hanna	Harry Maguire
Councillor Colin Keenan	Frank Mulhern
Councillor Gareth McKee	Mark Vinton
Alderman Jim Rodgers	Alan Wardle

Staff Present

Eve Bremner, Safer City Manager
Lorna Somers, DPP Manager
Siobhan Toland, Head of Service

Apologies

Liz Groves

1. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the meeting of 31st May and the 7th June, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct.

2. Declaration of Interests

- i. The Chairman read a statement regarding the declaration of interests to all present.

3. Meetings/Events Schedule and Planning Process

- i. The Members considered a proposed meeting schedule for future meetings including sessions for the development of the Partnership's strategic and local delivery plans.
- ii. Members agreed that future private meetings of the Partnership would be held in City Hall; preferably in the Lavery Room when available and consideration would also be given to the use of the Reception Room for future meetings. Members agreed however that committee rooms were not suitable for the forthcoming planning workshop so agreed that an external venue would be used for the forthcoming session.

- iii. The Partnership agreed that its first Planning Workshop would be held on 5th July but that the August Workshop would be rescheduled and would be held during the evening. Furthermore, the Members agreed that August and September private meetings would be held on 28th August and 11th September respectively.
- iv. **ACTION:** Members agreed to discuss the format and timing of the September Policing Committee meeting at its August private meeting.
- v. **ACTION:** The Partnership agreed to discuss the possibility of holding Stakeholder Engagement Consultation sessions at its July Planning Workshop.

4. Draft Interim Standing Orders for the Belfast PCSP/DPCSPs

- i. The DPP Manager advised the Members that the Partnership is required to produce Standing Orders to regulate the transaction of the business of the Belfast PCSP and its four DPCSPs. She explained that a set of draft Interim Standing Orders including Conflicts of Interest policy had been produced for the Members consideration, copies of which had been previously circulated. She further explained that these Standing Orders would be revised once the Joint Committee had released finalised copies of the Financial Guidelines and Code of Practice for PCSPs.
- ii. The Members agreed to adopt Belfast City Council's Conflicts of Interest Policy and approved the Interim Standing Orders for the Belfast PCSP/DPCSPs.

5. Response to Consultation - Code of Practice for PCSPs/DPCSPs

- i. The Safer City Manager referred Members to the draft response to the Department of Justice's consultation on the draft Code of Practice for PCSPs/DPCSPs, copies of which had previously been circulated.
- ii. A Member queried point 7 of the recommendations which proposed that Belfast PCSP would assume responsibility for the City Centre. Following discussion the Partnership agreed that a decision regarding this issue had not yet been made to date and that this should be reflected in the response.
- iii. **ACTION:** The Partnership agreed to seek legal clarification regarding the policing boundaries in relation to the City Centre.
- iv. **ACTION:** The Partnership requested that maps of the four Police Area Commands be made available for the next private meeting of the Partnership.

6. Response to Consultation - 'Compulsory/Formal' Designation of Bodies

- i. The DPP Manager advised the Members that paragraph 7 of Schedules 1 and 2 of the Justice Act makes provision whereby the Department of Justice, after consulting all PCSPs and DPCSPs, may make an Order listing organisations as 'compulsory' or formally designated. She explained that such organisations must be represented on all PCSPs/DPCSPs and should be given full membership, including voting rights, of the PCSP/DPCSP to which they are appointed, though it is understood that those designated by the Minister will waive their voting rights for the first year of operation. They are then under a duty to attend the meetings of all partnerships and participate in the work of the PCSP/DPCSP.
- ii. She explained that the Department of Justice had launched a consultation on the formal designation of bodies onto PCSPs/DPCSPs, copies of which had previously been circulated to all Members of the PCSP/DPCSPs. The Department has recommended the following organisations for 'compulsory/formal' designation:
 - Police Service of Northern Ireland
 - Northern Ireland Housing Executive
 - Probation Board Northern Ireland
 - Youth Justice Agency
 - Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
 - Education and Library Boards
 - Health Family
- iii. Following discussion, the Partnership endorsed the Department of Justice's proposed list of 7 'compulsory/formal' designated bodies above. Furthermore the Partnership agreed to request that the Department maintain the flexibility with regard to the 'health family' title in order to provide the PCSPs/DPCSPs with the freedom to select the most appropriate body/bodies to sit on the partnerships.

7. Belfast PCSP/DPCSP Members Meeting Expense Policy

- i. The DPP Manager reminded Members that the Joint Committee had agreed that a Members meeting expense payment of £60 per meeting was available for up to a maximum of 20 meetings per year per Member. She explained that section 5.3 of the draft Financial Guidelines for PCSPs/DPCSPs stated that "meeting expense payments are available for PCSP Members in relation to official business which they undertake in the course of their duties. It is at the discretion of each PCSP to agree official business which may be claimed for. In the normal course of events the payment should be available to Members who attend for the full duration of the meeting/event, but in exceptional circumstances the payment may be made for part attendance at the discretion of the PCSP Manager".
- ii. Following discussion the Partnership agreed that the following meetings/events would be eligible for a meeting expense payment:

- Private meetings of the PCSP/DPCPs
 - Policing Committee Meetings
 - PCSP/DPCSP Induction event
 - PCSP/DPCSP Training events
 - PCSP/DPCSP Planning sessions
- iii. Furthermore, the Partnership agreed that any PCSP/DPCSP meetings/events that were held back to back would only receive one meeting expense payment.
- iv. It was also recognised that for varying circumstances Members may not be able to attend the full duration of any of the above meetings/events. Therefore, it was agreed that the claiming of each meeting expense payment will be left to the discretion of individuals and that this procedure will be reviewed by the PCSP Chair in six months time.

8. Policing Committee's Obtaining the Co-operation of the Public' Budget Proposal

- i. The Safer City Manager reminded Members that the Partnership had agreed to hold a Planning Day in July to discuss its priorities and to start to develop service delivery proposals and to consider the allocation of resources as appropriate. However, it was recognised that this process was only at the development stage which would result in a delay in the necessary governance arrangements being established in order to release any further monies over and above those previously committed in the Transitional Plan. She explained that Members may, therefore, wish to consider setting up some interim arrangements to facilitate the release of funding to communities or organisations, during the period of the Transitional Plan, in response to identified need and in particular to fulfil the PCSP's legislative function of 'obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police'.
- ii. Members were asked to consider as an interim measure, allocating a budget similar to that of the previous DPP's 'Gaining the Co-operation' budget. The PCSP would delegate authority to the Policing Committee Members to consider applications for funding of crime prevention and community safety initiatives/schemes.
- iii. **ACTION:** Clarification to be sought from the Joint Committee as to whether or not statutory agencies are eligible to access PCSP/DPCSP funding.
- iv. **ACTION:** 'Obtaining the Co-operation' proposal to be deferred to the PCSP Planning Day to enable further discussion.

9. Policing and Community Safety Small Grants, Summer 2012

- i. The DPP Manager reminded Members that the Partnership had agreed at its May meeting to allocate £150,000 towards a summer round of Policing and Community Safety Small Grants. She advised the Members that

subsequently the PCSP/DPCSP Chairs had approved a total of £8,890 towards the following projects/initiatives:

- Greater Shankill Community Council - Parades Forum
 - Newmill Football Association - the Christopher Shaw Cup
 - NOW Organisation - ID Card Project
 - Place of Victory for All Nations - Expo Nations 2012
- ii. She explained that the PCSP/DPCSP Chairs had agreed that any applications that had not been approved by their Steering Group would be referred back to the relevant PCSP/DPCSP for further consideration. She advised the Partnership that two applications met this criteria, details of which were as follows:
- Indian Community Centre, Belfast - Application was received late
 - Irish Congress of Trade Unions - Bank Account was not in the same name as the constitution
- iii. The Partnership agreed not to consider funding the Indian Community Centre as its application was received after the submission deadline.
- iv. **ACTION:** The Partnership agreed to delegate authority to the DPP Manager to seek clarification regarding the Irish Congress of Trade Unions bank account details and if satisfied to fully fund the application.
- v. The DPP Manager advised the Members that a maximum of 3 Members from each PCSP/DPCSP was required to form a Working Group which would review the small grants process and develop future Small Grants programmes.
- vi. Accordingly, the Partnership agreed the following PCSP nominations to the Small Grants Working Group:
- Councillor Janice Austin
 - Mr. Harry Maguire
 - Mr. Frank Mulhern