

# Minutes of East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Lavery Room, City Hall, Tuesday, 3rd July, 2012

## Political Members

Cllr Claire Hanna (Chair)  
Cllr Deidre Hargey  
Cllr Mervyn Jones  
Cllr Niall Ó Donnaghaile  
Ald Gavin Robinson

## Independent Members

Gareth Beacom  
Mark Houston (Vice Chair)  
Olwen Lyner  
Andrew Moorehead

## Staff Present

Eve Bremner, Safer City Manager  
Sean McCormick, DPP Officer

## Apologies

Lynda Gibson  
Cllr Adam Newton

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- i. The Chair, Councillor Hanna, welcomed Members to the meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP and asked that each Member briefly introduce themselves to the Partnership.

### 2. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

- i. Apologies for inability to attend were received from Cllr. Newton and Lynda Gibson.
- ii. The Chair noted that Cllr. Newton was unable to attend due to a family bereavement and requested that a letter of condolence be sent to him on behalf of the East Belfast DPCSP membership.
- iii. The Chair read out the Declaration of Interest statement to the Members as per Council policy.

### 3. Proposed Meeting Schedule

- i. Members were given an overview of the proposed East Belfast DPCSP Meeting Schedule by support staff up to and including December, 2012. Copies of the Schedule had previously been circulated to Members.
- ii. Members were asked to consider the Schedule and agree proposed dates, times and venues for their meetings.
- iii. After discussion, Members agreed to the proposed Meeting Schedule for East Belfast DPCSP meetings. Members also agreed that Private Meetings would commence at 4.45pm and that rooms in the City Hall should be used for such meetings.

- iv. Members also agreed that the proposed date for the Planning Day of 15th August be changed to 20th August and that the timings for this meeting should be from 2.00pm to 5.00pm.
- v. Members also agreed that all perspective 'designated bodies' should be invited to the Planning Day meeting of 20th August.

#### **4. Policing Committee Procedures**

- i. Members were given an overview by support staff of the functions of the East Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee and were asked to consider procedures for holding such meetings. Copies of a report outlining recommendations had previously been circulated to Members.
- ii. After discussion Members agreed that Policing Committee meetings would take place prior to each Private Meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP. Members also agreed that Policing Committee meetings would commence at 4.45pm, followed immediately by the Private Meeting.
- iii. Members agreed that the inaugural Policing Committee meeting should take place on 29th August at 4.45pm in the City Hall, room to be confirmed at a later date. Members requested support staff to invite the police Area Commander of East Belfast, Chief Inspector Mark McEwan, to this meeting.
- iv. After further discussion the Members also agreed that as this was the first Policing Committee meeting, there would be no set agenda. They requested that Chief Inspector McEwan brief them on the following issues-
  - o Overview of the summer events in East Belfast.
  - o Update on the East Belfast Local Policing Plan.
  - o Update on community engagement in East Belfast.
- v. Members further agreed that discussion for the provision of a set Policing Committee agenda be deferred to a future meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP.

The Chair, Councillor Hanna, invited the Vice-Chair, Mark Houston, to take over the duties of the Chair. The Vice-Chair then assumed the duties of Chair.

#### **5. Obtaining the Co-operation of the Public with the Police - Budget Proposal**

- i. Members were reminded that at their Private Meeting on 11th June, they had allocated funds for small grants initiatives in East Belfast. Members were also advised that further allocation of resources and funds would be discussed at the forthcoming Planning Day. Ultimately, any resulting Delivery Plans would be submitted to the Belfast PCSP for approval before submission to the Joint Committee.

- ii. Members were advised that as Delivery Plans were at a development stage, they may wish to consider setting in place interim arrangements to facilitate the release of funds to communities or organisations during this transitional period, a report of which had previously been circulated.
- iii. In particular, Members were advised that such arrangements would fulfil the DPCSPs legislative Policing Committee 'restricted function' of 'obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police'.
- iv. Members were asked to consider the allocation of £5,000 to the 'obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police' budget proposal, with a cap of £500 to any one initiative or scheme. They were also asked to consider the following-
  - Funding would only be awarded on the basis that there would be police involvement or endorsement.
  - Delegatd authority for applications to this fund to the Policing Committee.
  - Approval of a draft pro forma application for funding.
  - The draft application to be countersigned by the relevant Police Commander.
- v. After discussion Members agreed to the following
  - Allocation of a £5,000 budget to the 'obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police' with a cap of £500 to any one initiative or scheme.
  - The Policing Committee should consider applications for funding from this budget.
  - Funding should not be available to statutory organisations to fulfil their core functions.
  - Funding would only be awarded on the basis that there would be police involvement or endorsement.
- vi. With regards to the draft pro forma application to be used when applying for funding, the Members agreed that the following amendments should be made-
  - Simple guidelines of how to complete the form should be created.
  - Page 3, Box 3 to be amended to include, 'List the specific outcomes that you wish to achieve to enhance community safety and prevention of crime'.
  - The application process needs to be outcome orientated.
  - All community groups alerted to the funding process by way of email.

## **6. Development of a Delivery Plan for East Belfast DPCSP**

- i. Members were reminded that following the Private Meeting of East Belfast DPCSP held on 11th June, they agreed to have further discussions in relation to the development of a Delivery Plan. The Members were advised of current research being carried out to aid the development of a Delivery Plan. A report outlining the next stages had previously been circulated.
- ii. A Member expressed disappointment that necessary information needed to track year on year crime trends and patterns, and the impact they had on local priorities and events was not available.
- iii. Another Member indicated that there would need to be time spent on creating a robust Delivery Plan.
- iv. It was agreed by Members that prior to the Planning Day on 20th August, Members would submit to support staff any views or proposals for inclusion in the Delivery Plan for East Belfast.

## **7. Local Designated Bodies to East Belfast DPCSP**

- i. Members were reminded that at the Private Meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP on the 11th June, Members were asked to consider groups, bodies or organisations that they would deem suitable for participation on the East Belfast DPCSP as 'Local Designated Bodies'. Members were asked to consider the information, previously circulated to them, and discuss what groups, bodies or organisations should be invited to join the East Belfast DPCSP.
- ii. Members were also advised to note that a number of the proposed formally designated organisations had agreed to waive their voting rights until 1st April, 2013. However, locally designated organisations had retained their voting rights. Furthermore, an organisation for the time being locally designated by a DPCSP, must nominate a person to attend the meetings of the DPCSP. A person so nominated and who attends the meetings will be treated as a Member of that DPCSP or committee.
- iii. Notwithstanding the above, Members were advised that from time to time they could invite an organisation to work alongside it in an informal capacity without that organisation having to be designated per se.
- iv. After discussion, Members agreed not to designate any local groups, bodies or organisations to the East Belfast DPCSP until such times that the partnership was established and functioning in accordance with agreed procedures and protocols.

## **8. Draft Standing Orders for Belfast PCSP and DPCSPs**

- i. Members were advised that to ensure the Belfast PCSP and its four DPCSPs were regulating their business in line with legislative requirements stipulated in the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, a set of draft Standing Orders had been produced for Members consideration. A copy of the said Standing Orders had previously been circulated to Members.
- ii. Members were also advised that at a meeting of the Belfast PCSP held on 27th June, the said Standing orders were agreed.
- iii. Accordingly, Members noted the draft Standing Orders.

## **9. Response to Draft Code of Practice**

- i. Members were informed that a draft Code of Practice for Belfast PCSP and its four DPCSPs had been issued by the Department of Justice, copies of which had already been circulated to Members. Members were asked to forward any comments to the support staff in order that collation of responses could be forwarded to the PCSP for onward transmission to the Joint Committee.
- ii. Responses were duly collated from the consultation process and a response to the draft Code of Practice was compiled by Belfast PCSP from comments collated. Copies of the response from Belfast PCSP to the draft Code of Practice had previously been circulated to Members.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the draft Code of Practice response and made the following observations-
  - o The City Centre of Belfast should remain geographically within the remit of South Belfast police and Belfast City Council boundaries.
  - o A separate Code of Practice was necessary for Belfast due to the unique make up of the Belfast PCSP and its four DPCSPs.

## **10. Response to the Consultation on the Formal Designation of Bodies**

- i. Members were advised that PCSPs and DPCSPs are required to have a minimum of four designated organisations on their partnership. Designated organisations become full members of the Partnership with voting rights; though it is understood that those designated by the Minister of Justice will waive their voting rights for the first year of operation.
- ii. A draft Code of Designation, previously circulated to Members, was issued by the Joint Committee for consultation and responses to the consultation are required by 20th August. Due to the summer break, Members were asked to submit comments by 15th June, in order that a report would be brought before the PCSP at its meeting on 27th June.

- iii. Members were advised that the Joint Committee were recommending the following organisations for 'formal' designation:
- PSNI
  - NIHE
  - PBNI
  - Youth Justice Agency
  - Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
  - Education & Library Boards
  - The Health Family
- iv. The feedback received from the Belfast PCSP and its four DPCSPs indicated that the Members support the recommendation of the Department of Justice in that the seven aforementioned organisations are formally designated to the PCSP and DPCSPs.
- v. Accordingly Members noted the content of the report.