

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Policing Committee
Wednesday, 14 January 2015, 5.00pm
Youth Justice Agency, Belfast**

Members Present	
Councillors	Independents
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell (Chair)	Bronach Graham
Councillor Patrick Convery	Ian McLaughlin
Councillor Guy Spence	Pat McLarnon
Councillor JJ Magee	
Councillor Naomi Thompson	
PSNI	
Inspector Oli Connolly	
Chief Inspector Robert Singleton	
Inspector Roy Watton	
Staff Present	Apologies
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick
Edele Cleary, Project Officer	
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Inspector Robin Gouk

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Chair, Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell, welcomed Members to the Policing Committee of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership and noted Members apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy.
- ii. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Policing Committee Meeting held on 24th November, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members on the actions from the previous North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting.
- iii. Chief Inspector Bobby Singleton advised Members that an update regarding the number of community meetings attended by the PSNI would be circulated as soon as possible.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the cost of the recruitment exercise for the appointment of Independent Members in 2012 cost £222,000. Members clarified that they had requested the cost for the recruitment of Independent Members for the period 2015 and for this information to be circulated when clarified.

4. **Area Commanders' Update Report**

- i. Chief Inspector Singleton provided Members with an update on crime statistics to date.
- ii. Chief Inspector Singleton advised Members that there had been an increase of 2.7% in overall crime.
- iii. He advised Members that there has been a decrease of 0.2% in overall victim crime. He further advised Members that there had been a 3.8% decrease in violence with injury and an increase of 17.2% in violence without injury.
- iv. He informed Members that there had been an increase in sexual offences. He advised Members that this figure had greatly increased in comparison to the same time last year. He advised Members that this had been a concern for the PSNI.
- v. The Chief Inspector commented that there had been a decrease in the number of robberies against individuals. However, there had been an increase in burglaries against businesses.
- i. He advised Members that the number of anti social behaviour incidents had decreased by 45 incidents for the reporting period.

5. **Review of the previous month's policing**

- i. The Chief Inspector advised Members of recent events and commented all events had passed off without any major incidents.
- ii. He advised Members that all the Apprentice Boys Parade on the 6th December had passed off successfully and no major incidents had been reported.
- iii. He advised Members that there had been no police incidents to report following the success of the Shankill Xmas Market.
- iv. He informed Members that there had been 25 arrests made on New Year's Eve and no major incidents to report.
- v. He further advised Members that the three PSNI officers injured on 16th November had all returned to work and all officers had been back policing again at Twadell.
- vi. He advised Members of a high profile hate crime incident that had occurred on the 4th January. He informed Members that the incident had been mainly abusive reports and that the PSNI had been providing support to the local community to eradicate hate crime.
- vii. A Member commented that the suspects' name who had been involved in the hate crime incident had been widely circulated throughout the local community. He asked if the PSNI had any information that could link the suspect to the incident if they could pursue an arrest.
- viii. He provided Members with an update regarding the recent incident involving a local family being stuck on the Upper Hightown Road following bad weather. He commented that the PSNI recognised that call handler managed the situation incorrectly and that a full investigation had been ongoing.

- ix. A Member commented that this recent incident involving a family reporting a call to the PSNI, highlights the concerns of the local community more regarding the training of call handlers. The Chief Inspector Singleton commented that the PSNI acknowledges that the responsibility of call handling lies with the PSNI and acknowledges there are issues that need to be addressed with the service.
- x. Following a discussion regarding the memorial at Ligoneil, Members agreed that the attacks on the memorial needed to be stopped. However, Members did recognise there would be strong difficulties in stopping the attacks.
- xi. A Member congratulated the PSNI on a number of recent policing operations, particularly the fast response to the recent robbery on the Shore Road. The Member further asked if any consideration had been given to a facility or an area being identified that the local community go to when using their scramblers/quads. Chief Inspector Singleton commented that there had been ongoing discussions with the Council's Parks and Leisure Department regarding a possible area but there had been an issue regarding public liability insurance.
- xii. He commented that the PSNI had a successful policing operation over the Xmas period and advised Members of the operations that the PSNI had in place to combat any terrorist attacks in the City.

6. Forthcoming policing events/issues

- i. The Chief Inspector advised Members of forthcoming policing events.
- ii. He informed Members that a band competition will be held on 31st January and that the competition would involve a march from the City Centre to Twadell.
- iii. He advised Members that a media launch had been scheduled to be held regarding providing advice to the local community regarding the use of quads and scramblers in public space.
- iv. A Member asked how many scramblers/quads the PSNI would confiscate for misuse in any given year. The Chief Inspector commented that he would provide an update regarding statistics on the confiscation of scramblers/quads at the next North Belfast DPCSP Meeting.
- v. A Member asked for an update regarding York Road Police Station. He asked for an update to be circulated regarding what would be happening with the building and the land the Police Station is on and what would be put in place to alleviate the local communities fears when the police station is no longer there.
- vi. Following a discussion, Members agreed that any police station being sold should have positive benefits for the local community and value for money.
- vii. The Chief Inspector commented that it had not yet been confirmed how the station will be disposed off. He further commented that a mobile police station may be put in place and the PSNI had currently been looking at the possibility of facilitating community surgeries going forward. The Members asked for all this information to be published in the public domain to ensure that all information had been the relayed to the local community.
- viii. A Member commented if the PSNI had an update regarding a report by a resident within the Whitewell area of a suspicious car. Chief Inspector Singleton commented that he had

not been aware of the report but would provide an update at the next meeting. Inspector Roy Watton commented that the car may have been the same vehicle connected with a distraction burglary.

7. Members Written Questions and Responses

- i. No written questions were received.

8. Policing Committee Funding

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of a policing committee application submitted by Fortwilliam and Macrory Presbyterian Church, working in partnership with the Dean Clarke Foundation.
- ii. He advised Members that the total requested had been £887.50.
- iii. He provided Members with an outline of the projects that would be delivered and the timeframe for delivery.
- iv. Following a discussion, Members noted the report and agreed to allocate £887.50 towards the delivery of the project.

9. Date of next meeting

- i. Members noted that the next North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th February in the Probation Board, Antrim Road, Belfast.
- ii. The Chief Inspector circulated the draft Northern Ireland Policing Plan to Members and requested for Members to review the document and forward any responses to the Safer City Coordinator for collation before the next DPCSP Meeting.
- iii. A Member asked when the evaluation forms from policing committee funding would be available for review. The Safer City Coordinator advised that an evaluation report on policing committee funding would be presented to Members in March.