

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and  
Community Safety Partnership  
Policing Committee  
Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015, 5.00pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

<b>Members Present</b>	
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Independents</b>
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell (Chair)	Jenni Cornell
Councillor Patrick Convery	Bronach Graham
Councillor Guy Spence	Winston Irvine (Vice Chair)
Councillor JJ Magee	Ian McLaughlin
Councillor Naomi Thompson	Pat McLarnon
<b>PSNI</b>	
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick	
Chief Inspector Robert Singleton	
Inspector Roy Watton	
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	
Edele Cleary, Project Officer	
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	

**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 14<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> February, 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 scramblers/quads seized in the last year to be provided at the next DPCSP Meeting.
- iv. The Chief Inspector further advised Members that an update regarding York Road Police Station to be also provided at the next DPCSP Meeting.

- v. A Member raised his concerns regarding information only being presented to Members at the DPCSP meeting for consideration. He commented that all information to be discussed at the Partnership Meeting should be circulated to Members in advance.

#### **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 4% in overall crime across Belfast. He commented that North Belfast had the lowest increase of crime.
- iii. He advised Members that there has been a decrease of 15% in burglaries and a decrease of 10% in robberies.
- iv. The Chief Inspector advised Members that there had been an increase in the number of sexual offences reported. He informed Members that PSNI officers had been visiting local schools to raise awareness around sexual crime.
- v. He further advised Members that there had been an increase in domestic violence crime.
- vi. He informed Members that there had a reduction in the number of complaints made against the PSNI.
- vii. The Chief Inspector commented that following the recent crime and anti social behaviour statistics released, it had been evident that North Belfast had been leading in these two areas.

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

- i. The Chief Inspector advised Members of recent a hate crime incident in the Shankill area.

#### **6. Forthcoming policing events/issues**

- i. The Chief Inspector advised Members of forthcoming policing events.
- ii. He informed Members that a 600<sup>th</sup> Night Ligonell Combined Parade had been scheduled for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March. He advised Members that there would be a police presence at the parade.
- iii. He commented that the PSNI had been preparing for the forthcoming St Patricks Day Parades.
- iv. He further advised Members that a planned protest had been scheduled to take place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February in Tigers Bay and confirmed that PSNI officers will be present at the parade.
- v. A Member asked for an update regarding the new PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Team structures.
- vi. The Chief Inspector provided Members with an overview of the Neighbourhood Policing Team structures across the City.

- vii. The Chief Inspector advised Members that there would be 24 Neighbourhood Police Officers in North Belfast, 26 in West Belfast, 18 in South Belfast and 10 in East Belfast.
- viii. He advised Members of the selection process for the Neighbourhood Officers and commented that the new structure would be implemented by 1<sup>st</sup> October.
- ix. A Member advised that following Council Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it had been agreed that Court Ward would go in to West Belfast. The Chief Inspector commented that the PSNI had requested for Ballygomartin to be moved in North Belfast. Following a conversation a Member requested that PSNI speak to Belfast City Councils CEO regarding city boundaries.
- x. Following a discussion regarding call handling and Service First, the Chief Inspector advised Members of the processes of how calls received by the call handling team had been managed and further commented that Service First will remain in place for the next twelve months.
- xi. A Member asked the Chief Inspector for an update regarding the National Crime Agency. The Chief Inspector advised Members that he would provide an update on the National Crime Agency at the next DPCSP Meeting.
- xii. A Member asked the Chief Inspector if he had an update around the ongoing incidents on building sites in the New Lodge area. The Chief Inspector commented that the PSNI had been looking in to this and an update can be provided at the next DPCSP Meeting if required. The Member commented that he had a meeting scheduled with Sergeant Brian Caskey to review the current situation.

## 7. **Members Written Questions and Responses**

- i. The Chief Inspector provided Members with an update on the written questions submitted.

### **When was a third camera installed at the Ardoyne Road/Alliance Avenue site?**

**Response:** The additional camera head went up on the 14th October 2015. There were technical issues and the camera was not functioning properly. The head unit was replaced and became fully operational on the 23rd November 2015.

### **Were and are the two existing cameras in working order?**

**Response:** Yes, this was merely an enhancement of our CCTV capability

### **What consultation took place with elected representatives and the local communities?**

**Response:** After the initial installation of a camera mast and camera we would not consult any further, these cameras are regularly maintained, repaired, upgraded, and replaced, it would simply not be possible to go through a consultation process on each occasion

### **Representations were made for a new camera at the Alliance Road/Deerpark Road. This was rejected as there was no space on the system for a new camera. Why did this area not receive the new camera?**

**Response:** The current CCTV coverage for the whole of Belfast is currently under review. The installation of a new camera is much more than space on the system, the main issue is the cost, approx. £30K and finding a suitable site for the camera as there is considerable

underground work for the mast foundation and cable work to be laid. We have had considerable problems in the past erecting cameras as the site is simply not appropriate.

### **Questions regarding incident 1206 on 27/07/13 - attack on a home in Glenbryn Park**

**What was the nature of the device thrown at this property?**

**Response:** A beer bottle was thrown at the property. It caused no damage

**Was forensic material collected from this incident?**

**Response:** Yes, the beer bottle was recovered

**In the examination of this material were any fingerprints or DNA recovered?**

**Response:** Yes, fingerprints were located on the bottle

**Was the incident deemed sectarian/hate crime?**

**Response:** Yes, the incident was deemed a hate crime

**Was a file sent to the PPS? If so did this file include a recommendation from the PSNI? What was the decision of the PPS?**

**Response:** Yes, a file was sent to the PPS in relation to the male whose fingerprint was on the bottle. The recommendation from PSNI was "No prosecution, as there was no evidence linking the person whose fingerprint it was, to the actual act of the crime, and in interview he was able to give an account of why his print would have been on the bottle. The decision of the PPS was to say there should be no prosecution as following the evidence submitted, there was no realistic prospect of a prosecution

- ii. The Chair thanked the Chief Inspector for the responses provided to the written questions submitted.
- iii. Following a discussion regarding the risk assessment conducted for the previous North Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting, the Chair acknowledged that information regarding a potential protest had not been communicated to all Members. The Chair confirmed that any information regarding North DPCSP Public Meeting should be circulated to all Members in the future.
- iv. A Member congratulated the PSNI on their role in relation to the recent drug seizure in Newtownabbey. He commended all officers who were involved in the seize.

### **8. Policing Committee Funding**

- i. At the North Belfast DPCSP Meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Members requested further information regarding the budget provided in relation to a Policing Committee Application submitted by Intercomm.
- ii. The Project Officer provided Members with a detailed overview of the associated budget for the proposed project.

- iii. Following a discussion regarding the project proposal, a Member commented that the project should not be targeted at a dispute but at the people. He commented that he had concern regarding the role of the Duncairn Partnership in relation to the delivery of the project.
- iv. The Chief Inspector gave assurances that the costs provided had been realistic and the project would be managed internally by the PSNI Communication Officer.
- v. A Member commented that the Belfast Community Telegraph no longer exists and requested for this to be reviewed with the applicant and updated accordingly.
- vi. Following a discussion, Members agreed to support the policing committee application form submitted by Intercomm.
- vii. A Member also requested for information to be provided at the next DPCSP Meeting regarding the throughputs of the PCSP Drug Campaign.

9. **Date of next meeting**

- i. Members noted that the next North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast.