

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre
Wednesday, 26th October, 2016

Political Members	Independent Members
Alderman Tommy Sandford (Chair) Councillor Deirdre Hargey Councillor Aileen Graham Councillor Mairead O'Donnell	Jonathan Currie (Vice-Chair) Michelle Bryans Lisa McMaster
Staff Present	Apologies
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Councillor Sonia Copeland David Geddis Councillor Carole Howard Stephen McMillen Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT Dermot Magorrian, YJA Alison Methven, NIHE Michael Roberts, NIFRS Pauline Smart, EA

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

2. Minutes, Actions and Matters Arising

- i. The minute of the East Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 30th August, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
Proposed: Lisa McMaster
Seconded: Jonathan Currie

3. Declaration of Interests

- i. Members were reminded of the need to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.

4. Local Policing Update

- i. As Chief Inspector David Moore was not in attendance, no update on policing was provided.
- ii. Members noted their concern at the lack of attendance from the PSNI.

5. Policing Committee Bi-Annual Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Policing Board had issued a bi-annual report template to be completed by each (D)PCSP Policing Committee in order to monitor effectiveness.
- ii. Members were advised that information on how often the Policing Committee met and the reports produced would be completed by Officers.
- iii. Members discussed the report, making the following comments:
 - Clarity was sought on what was required in response to the question ‘What is the view of the Policing Committee on local police process and attitude’. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the question came from findings within the Criminal Justice Inspection (CJINI) Report and was questioning the positive and negative aspects that influence confidence in policing, for example, experiences of using 101, feedback on the new policing structures.
 - Community policing has diminished and the connect between local Officers and communities lost. Attendance at local groups had also reduced. It was recognised that this is due to resourcing issues.
 - Changes in PSNI personnel has an impact on confidence and consistency. There has been a large number of changes across Belfast with little notice given to communities.
 - Legacy issues are still affecting confidence in communities.
 - Confidence in reporting issues to the police is being damaged due to lack of confidentiality. Often communities become aware of who reports or complaints originate from.
 - Restorative Justice processes need to be more effectively utilised.
 - Interface work carried out by the PSNI and communities has been very successful.
 - Responsiveness to issues at Walkway has been positive.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that he would populate the template and circulate to Members for approval before submission on 28th October.

6. Policing Committee Applications

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a Policing Committee funding application had been received from the Braniel Community Association. Members were provided with the application and a brief summary of the project which would comprise of a Christmas Safety Night on 9th December at a cost of £976, £200 of which would be funded by the group.

- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the event would be intergenerational and involve rebuilding relationships with police in the area.
- iii. A Member welcomed the project and noted that an application had never been received from the area, even when it fell within the old Castlereagh Council area. It was also suggested that Members attend the event in order to make connections with communities and promote the work of the DPCSP.
- iv. Members resolved to provide the funding of £776 as requested.
Proposed: Councillor Aileen Graham
Seconded: Michelle Bryans

7. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that as the Members had agreed to hold formal meetings every other month, a meeting of the Policing Committee would be held at each formal meeting. He advised that the dates, agreed during the previous Private Meeting, would be circulated to Members in the following days.