

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Monday, 23rd March, 2015

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Colin Keenan (Chair)	Frank Mulhern (Vice Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin	Valerie Allen
Councillor Matt Garrett	Claire Canavan
Councillor John Hussey	Liz Groves
Councillor Mervyn Jones	John MacVicar
Alderman Frank McCoubrey	John Topping

Designated Organisations	
Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw, PSNI	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Alan Hamill, NIFRS	Trevor Murphy, BELB
Ian McCrickard, NIHE	T/Superintendent Bobby Singleton, PSNI
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI	

Staff Present	Apologies
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager	Councillor Kate Mullan
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	Alderman Jim Rodgers
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Harry Maguire
	Carmel McKinney
	Cecil Worthington, H&SC Trust

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. PSNI Update

- i. T/Superintendent Singleton provided Members with a recap of the presentation that he delivered to the Policing Committee outlining the new Local Policing Teams and Neighbourhood Policing Teams.
- ii. In response to questions regarding how the new teams would be selected and how the changes would affect Reducing Offending Units (ROU), T/Superintendent Singleton advised that a de-selection process would be used to reduce the number of Neighbourhood Officers from 64 to 24. He added that the PSNI would now follow the Council boundaries and as such operate as 11 Districts. Members were advised that there would be 3 Area Commanders covering the Districts, Belfast being 1 of these, with ROU's operating at an Area Level.
- iii. Chief Superintendent Grimshaw advised that the new teams would be fully operational by October, 2015, with District Commanders in place by 1st April. He added that the existing Area Commanders would now be the Local Policing Team Commanders.

- iv. Members were also advised that Belfast City Council's Court District Electoral Area would be split between North and West Belfast due to the legacy of the estate in that area.

4. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP meeting held on 16th February, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. In response to a query regarding the review of the Bonfire Project, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the minutes stipulated that the project would be funded subject to the pending review and so it would be for Members to approve at a Committee and Council level before any PCSP funds would be allocated to the project.
- iii. A Member commented upon the lack of local advertising that was included in the PCSPs 'Drug Dealers Don't Care' Campaign and suggested that this should be considered in the future.

5. 2014/2015 PCSP Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that a final progress report against the PCSP Action Plan was contained within the papers which detailed the key outcomes and spend against each item.
- ii. In response to a query regarding the management of the Car Simulator, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that this would be operated in a similar way to the Ur Zone Cage with a booking diary held by the PCSP Office. Members were advised that the delivery of the car had been delayed due to a large number of orders however DOJ had extended the period of the grant and so it was expected to be delivered towards the end of May, 2015.

6. PCSP and DPCSP Annual Reports

- i. The Safer City Manager presented Members with Annual Reports for the PCSP and DPCSPs covering the period of April to December, 2015.
- ii. Patricia Muldoon requested that her attendance at PCSP Briefings and Events be reviewed again.
- iii. Members approved the submission of the Annual Reports to the Policing Board.

7. Safer Belfast App

- i. The Safer City Manager circulated the specification for the Safer Belfast Mobile App which included its purpose and functionality.
- ii. A Member welcomed the App given that the existing platform was useful for reporting issues within communities. He suggested that it would be useful to have a way of mapping hotspots as currently reports are directed to the relevant service rather than collated by a central unit.

- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that this was hoped for in the future with the evolution of the App and by using the Council's Flare System which logs service requests.
- iv. Members noted the contents of the report and the progress to date.

8. Hate Crime Update

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the Hate Crime Conference would commence on Wednesday 25th March and finish on Friday 27th March, 2015.
- ii. Members were advised that the Conference would encompass both a strategic and grass roots focus on Social Cohesion and Inclusion. Members were further advised that satellite sessions would be held in each area of Belfast and that places were still available.

9. Neighbourhood Watch Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the Community Safety Unit was working alongside the PSNI and Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and that meetings had been held in North, South and East Belfast during February and March, with the West Belfast staff team meeting directly with the Coordinators.
- ii. Members were further advised that a letter to incoming Coordinators from the new areas of East and West Belfast would be issued in the coming weeks giving the contact details of the Community Safety Team and PSNI Officers.
- iii. T/Superintendent Singleton advised that the PSNI wished the contact details to be those of the Crime Preventions Officers in order to provide continuity in a time of change.
- iv. Members noted the update provided.

10. Anti-Social Behaviour Project Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the study visit to Community Safety Glasgow took place on 4th March at which Members were provided with an overview of the team, its structure, strategic priorities, service provision and engagement strategy.
- ii. Members were further advised that in the absence of the PCSP structure, staff would continue to move forward with the project in consultation with statutory partners once the evaluation from RSM McClure Watters had been received.
- iii. Members who took part in the visit advised that it had been very worthwhile and that the operation was impressive in its size and vision however the local government structure was very different from that in Northern Ireland.
- iv. A Member suggested that the model used by Newry Council should be considered given that they have defined hotspots and partner agencies have come together to share information.

- v. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that this had been considered however Newry had paid an external company to deliver their model while Glasgow can collect their own data and were therefore able to use it more effectively.
- vi. The Safer City Manager advised that a debrief would be done to understand what each partner got from the visit.

11. Small Grants 2015/2016

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that an independent panel of officers would be convened to approve the first tranche of 2015/2016 PCSP Small Grants in the absence of the usual Member panel. She advised that it was important that projects continue to be delivered on the ground whilst the PCSPs are being reconstituted.
- ii. Members were advised that this decision had been taken as a result of advice received from the Town Solicitors Office.
- iii. Members agreed with this course of action.

12. City Centre Responsibility

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that while the South Belfast DPCSP currently led on issues within the City Centre, following consultation it had been suggested that the area was of significance to the economic and social development of the city and therefore a priority for the Belfast PCSP.
- ii. Members were therefore asked to approve the proposed future framework for the management of policing and community safety issues in the City Centre by the PCSP including night-time economy issues.
- iii. In response to a query regarding consultation with Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM), the Safer City Manager advised that key stakeholders including BCCM had been consulted with through the Safer Belfast Coordination Team.
- iv. Members approved the proposal as outlined within the report.

13. Local Government Reform Update / (D)PCSP Recruitment Process Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the recruitment process was unlikely to be finished before late June, 2015 given the difficulty in selecting dates to suit the 7 members of the panel, particularly given that an election is to be held during May.
- ii. A Member raised concerns at the timeframe and the delays to date.
- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the initial delay was due to the recruitment of an HR Consultant by the Policing Board and that while she had contacted the Board regarding the difficulty of interviewing during the election, they had advised that this portion of the process was the Council's responsibility.

- iv. A Member advised that she had recently received a letter from the Policing Board to say that candidates would be advised by the end of March about interview dates, however this did not seem to be the case for Belfast.
- v. The Chair asked staff to make contact with NIPB to ask for letters to be re-issued to candidates in Belfast correcting the timescales.

14. Strategic Issues

Statutory Partner Updates

- i. Representatives from the NIFRS, Probation Board and Education and Library Boards provided members with an update on their planning for 2015/16 and anticipated budget for the year ahead.

15. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Chair advised Members that this was the last meeting of the current PCSP and thanked the staff, statutory partners and independent Members for their hard work and contributions over the 3 years of the Partnership.
- ii. Councillor Garrett added his thanks to the Chair for his work in the PCSP and Belfast City Council over the past number of years.