

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Policing Committee Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall  
Monday, 11th March, 2013

| <b>Political Members</b>                      | <b>Independent Members</b>               |
|---|--|
| Councillor Jim McVeigh (Chair)                | John MacVicar (Vice Chair)               |
| Councillor Janice Austin                      | Valerie Allen                            |
| Alderman Tom Ekin                             | Claire Canavan                           |
| Councillor Matt Garrett                       | Liz Groves                               |
| Councillor Claire Hanna                       | Harry Maguire                            |
| Councillor Colin Keenan                       | Frank Mulhern                            |
| Councillor Gareth McKee                       | Mark Vinton                              |
| Alderman Jim Rodgers                          | Alan Wardle                              |
| Councillor Guy Spence                         |  |
| <b>PSNI Representatives</b>                   |  |
| Chief Inspector G. Moran, PSNI                |  |
| Chief Inspector A. Freeburn, PSNI             |  |
| Superintendent B. Gray                        |  |
| <b>Staff Present</b>                          | <b>Apologies</b>                         |
| Eve Bremner, Safer City Manager               | Eva Grosman                              |
| Lorna Somers, DPP Manager                     | Chief Superintendent George Clarke, PSNI |
| Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer | Chief Superintendent Alan McCrum, PSNI   |

### 1. Routine Matters and Matters Arising

- 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. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 28th January were taken as read and agreed as correct.

### 4. Update on St Patrick's Day Operation by PSNI Representatives

- i. Chief Inspector Gabriel Moran provided Members with a briefing on the planned police operation on St Patrick's Day and the surrounding days along with the wider partnership work that was taking place with Belfast City Council, University representatives and landlords.
- ii. Members were advised that no problems were forecast in relation to ongoing flag related protests during this period however this was still possible.

- iii. Superintendent Barbara Gray added that additional patrols would be in place in both North and West Belfast and that Operation Echinus and interface patrols would be the key priorities.
- iv. In response to a Member's query, the Safer City Manager advised that the Community Safety Wardens would be deployed in the Holylands area on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March and would return to their planned deployment in the Lower Falls/Divis area following this. She agreed to circulate the operations brief to Members once completed.
- v. Several Members expressed concern at the large scale deployment of police personnel and vehicles in retail areas of the City and asked if these were in response to intelligence and if this could be scaled down.
- vi. Chief Inspector Moran advised Members that the PSNI would welcome a return to normalised policing at the earliest possible opportunity however in order to be responsive to the current unrest, the increased presence was necessary. He added that police were sensitive to their position where possible, but advance notice could not always be given to shop keepers for security reasons.

## **5. Matters Arising**

- i. In response to a Member's query regarding communication with the Chief Constable, the DPP Manager confirmed that no response had been received to the letter sent from the Belfast PCSP and agreed to follow up this action again.
- ii. A Member made comment on the continuity of the District Commanders attendance at PCSP Meetings.
- iii. The DPP Manager confirmed that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May.