

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Policing Committee Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall  
Monday, 29th April, 2013

### Political Members

Councillor John Hussey (Chair)  
Councillor Janice Austin  
Councillor Patrick Convery  
Councillor Máire Hendron  
Councillor Colin Keenan  
Councillor Gareth McKee  
Councillor Adam Newton  
Alderman Jim Rodgers

### Independent Members

Frank Mulhern (Vice Chair)  
Valerie Allen  
Claire Canavan  
Liz Groves  
Harry Maguire  
John MacVicar

### PSNI Representatives

Assistant Chief Constable Will Kerr  
Chief Superintendent George Clarke

Chief Superintendent Alan McCrum  
Kellie McMillan

### Staff Present

Suzanne Wylie, Director, Environmental Health  
Siobhan Toland, Head of Service  
Lorna Somers, Assistant Safer City Manager  
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

### Apologies

Mark Vinton  
Alan Wardle

## 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 11th March were taken as read and agreed as correct.

## 4. Deputation from Assistant Chief Constable Kerr

- i. Assistant Chief Constable Kerr provided Members with an update on the policing of recent protests, crime and anti social behaviour statistics and the areas of challenge ahead for policing in Northern Ireland.
- ii. Members noted their support for the police but raised concerns regarding the difference between illegal and peaceful protests and questioned the deployment and behaviour of TSG Officers.

- iii. The Assistant Chief Constable stated that lessons were learnt from every deployment and that Commanding Officers endeavoured to reach the balance between low key yet responsive policing.
- iv. Members noted their support for the police stance on discretionary disposal to avoid criminalising young people.
- v. Members discussed the benefits of early interventions and Glasgow's Violence Reduction Unit. Assistant Chief Constable stated that the police would welcome the development of such a unit however political consensus would be needed before the debate began.

#### **5. Update from PSNI on St. Patricks Day**

- i. Chief Superintendent McCrum provided Members with an update on the policing operation in place between Thursday, 14th March and Monday, 17th March.
- ii. Members were advised that figures on overall crime, public disorder and anti social behaviour were all showing significant reductions on previous years.
- iii. In response to a question regarding the trouble in Corn Market, the District Commander advised Members that the numbers encountered had not been expected and that incident would inform planning in future years.
- iv. Chief Superintendent McCrum advised Members that an element of the disruption in Shaftesbury Square had been flag protest related and that additional resources had been deployed to maintain the arterial routes.

#### **6. PCSP Members observation of police operations during parades/parade related protests**

- i. A Member questioned the protocols in place for Members of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership attending parades or parade related protests in order to monitor the police operation.
- ii. Assistant Chief Constable Kerr stated that, in accordance with the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, it was not for PCSP Members to monitor policing on the street however if Members saw a collective role in doing so, they should speak to the Policing Board.
- iii. In response to Members concerns that facilitation of attendance was not uniform across the board, Assistant Chief Constable Kerr stated that, where there was agreement that attendance by certain representatives would ease tensions, this was facilitated. He added that advance engagement between community representatives and Councillors with police was to be encouraged. Mr Kerr also stated that it was difficult to maintain consistency in everyone's eyes.

#### **7. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. The Assistant Safer City Manager advised Members that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held on Wednesday, 22nd May.