

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Private Meeting of the Policing Committee of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Policing and Community Safety Partnership held in the Council Chamber and via Zoom on Tuesday 20 August 2024 at 6.33 pm

PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER: Councillor S Lowry (Chairperson)
Councillor J Gallen
Councillor A Givan
Councillor B Higginson
Councillor C Kemp
Councillor J Lavery BEM
Councillor M McKeever
Councillor A Martin
Councillor T Mitchell
Mr D Cairns
Mr B Corr (Vice-Chairperson)
Mrs Y Craig
Mr D Drysdale
Mr G McClory
Ms G McDonald
Miss A Playford
Mr G Walker

PRESENT REMOTELY: Ms G McDonald

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Member Services/PCSP Manager (CA)
PCSP Officer (SA)
Member Services Officers (CH & EW)

Designated Organisations

Superintendent K Moore, Police Service of Northern Ireland
Chief Inspector K McMullan, Police Service of Northern Ireland

Commencement of the Meeting

Ms G McDonald left the meeting remotely (6.33 pm).

The Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry, welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairperson advised that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the District Commander's Quarter 1 report for the district, which covered the period 1st April 2024 to 30th June 2024.

The Chairperson notified the meeting that an election had taken place early that evening for the appointment of Vice-Chairperson of the PCSP and congratulated Mr B Corr on his appointment of Vice-Chairperson.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillor P Burke.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Quarter 1 PSNI Report on Policing of the District

Ms G McDonald rejoined the meeting remotely (6.49 pm).

Superintendent K Moore made a verbal presentation of the report, a copy of which was circulated to the Partnership, covering the period 1 April to 30 June 2024. The report considered at the meeting addressed the areas of Repeat Offenders / Vulnerable Victims, Antisocial Behaviour and Community Engagement and Drugs. Superintendent K Moore outlined a number of positive outcomes which had resulted in arrests and seizures in relation to driving, drug, theft, and fraud offences.

It was reported that recent events had impacted upon the district support team. Resources that were normally used to tackle drugs and other crime, had been temporarily diverted to conduct reassurance patrols and public disorder management.

The Partnership were advised of personnel changes within the district. It was confirmed that Chief Inspector B Moore would shortly commence a temporary transfer to Belfast and Chief Inspector T Atkinson had joined the Lisburn and Castlereagh team.

Structural changes within the district were also reported to the Partnership. It was explained that there were previously three Inspectors (one for each Neighbourhood team) and that the Rural and City teams Inspector had been combined into one Inspector role. It was further explained that a Vulnerability Inspector post had also been created to address the areas of Hate Crime, Domestic Abuse and Multi Agency Support Hub.

Responding to questions from the Partnership members, Superintendent Moore clarified several matters, in respect of: Bike/Trailer Marking Events; PSNI Resource Challenges; PSNI Personnel Changes; update on Anti-Social Driving; Parking at Schools within the district; Repeat Offenders Unit / Priority Offenders; Shoplifting; Hate Crime; Domestic Violence; Anti-Social Behaviour; Speeding in Lisburn North and Graffiti Lambeg North.

Councillor B Higginson put on record his appreciation to Superintendent Moore and the Castlereagh Neighbourhood Policing Team on the recent successful bike marking event held at Killynure.

In response to a request by Councillor B Higginson, Superintendent Moore agreed to follow up on the trailer marking event that was postponed on the 5th August due to inclement weather.

Responding to a request made by Councillor C Kemp, Superintendent Moore agreed to circulate contact details for the newly appointed PSNI Officers and confirmed that the Officers would also attend upcoming PCSP meetings.

Councillor M McKeever put on record his appreciation to Superintendent Moore and the team on the recent work conducted in relation to parking issues at St. Ita's Primary School. Responding to a question raised by Councillor McKeever, Superintendent Moore confirmed that attention would be given to various schools throughout September as children return back to school.

Responding to a concern raised by Mr D Drysdale, PCSP Officer, Mr S Addley agreed to contact the row of shops on the Comber Road regarding the Business Watch Scheme.

Councillor G Gallen put on record his appreciation to Superintendent Moore and the Neighbourhood Policing Team for their support at a summer event held in Fourwinds on Saturday 17th August.

Mr G McClory put on record his appreciation on behalf of Lisburn Féile to Superintendent Moore and the team for their support at the recent Fun Day which had been held as part of the Lisburn Féile Programme of Events.

Responding to a question raised by Mr D Cairns regarding previous Anti-Social Behaviour in Glenavy Village, PCSP Officer, Mr J Bingham confirmed that recent funding had been awarded by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) to Glenavy Youth Club, which would be used to provide drop in facilities and outreach initiatives in Glenavy.

In response to a request by Councillor M McKeever, Superintendent Moore agreed to include Hate Crime outcomes information in future District Commander's Quarterly reports.

Following further discussion regarding car parking issues around schools in the area, it was recommended by Councillor A Given, and agreed by the Partnership that a letter be written by PCSP to the Education Authority, requesting that schools communicate with students asking them to be mindful when parking.

Councillor J Laverty put on record his appreciation to all those involved in the highly successful education programme at Gilnahirk Tyres. Following discussion, it was agreed that a letter of thanks be issued to the business. The Acting PCSP Manager advised the Partnership that plans were underway to replicate the programme in the Autumn with a winter safety theme.

In response to a request made by Councillor C Kemp regarding the recent Anti-Social Behaviour incidents, the Acting PCSP Manager reported that the Community Services Team at LCCC were actively working to resurrect the Multi Agency Group in Glenavy.

In response to a request made by Mrs Y Craig following recent near misses, Superintendent Moore agreed to look at the possibility of installing a road safety pop up outside Harmony Hill School.

Responding to comments and concerns by Mr D Drysdale regarding Charity Safety Camera located at Coopers Mill, Superintendent Moore agreed to feedback the issues raised to colleagues in the Roads and Policing team.

Further to discussion, it was proposed by Vice-Chairperson, Mr B Corr, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed that the District Commander's Quarter 1 report for the district, which covered the period 1st April 2024 to 30th June 2024 be noted.

4. Recent Racist Attacks

Miss A Playford raised concerns to the partnership regarding the following recent racist attacks in the Lisburn and Carryduff areas:

- Indian Presbyterian Church, Lisburn – paint thrown at fence,
- Chinese family verbally abused at a play park, Carryduff.

Miss Playford encouraged the Partnership to be proactive in combating racism. The Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry echoed the sentiments raised by Miss A Playford.

Chief Inspector K McMullan reported that officers had engaged with Partners, Community Groups and Elected Members on the matter. An overview of racist activity in the district was provided to the Partnership, two as outlined above, alongside further instances below:

- Seymour Methodist Church, Lisburn – paint thrown at fence on 5th Aug. It was reported that an investigation was in progress and neighbourhood teams had engaged with Church users and crime prevention advice given. A Targeted Patrol in the area was ongoing to provide reassurance to users,
- Online Hate Speech - A local male was arrested on 5th August,
- A Family in Carryduff had their address posted on a social media site in England – Crime Prevention Officer supported the family,
- PSNI made aware of potential protest in Lisburn on 7th August, however nothing materialised,
- The Glen close to Lagan College – stones thrown at a gentleman. Hate Crime investigation ongoing.

Chief Inspector K McMullan outlined upcoming initiatives that would take place including;

- Crime Prevention Stands at local hospitals alongside PCSP to provide crime prevention advice. It was reported that a number of staff from ethnic minority backgrounds used public transport to get to work at both hospitals and that the Safer Transport Team were paying additional attention to those routes to provide reassurance and crime prevention.

Responding to questions from the Partnership members, Chief Inspector McMullan clarified several matters, in respect of: Social Media Issues; Existing Support Available for Ethnic Minorities and Racial Abuse on Public Transport.

Responding to a request made by Mr B Corr, the Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry agreed that the PCSP would explore options for potential school education visits to the Islamic Centre.

Councillor A Given and Mrs Y Craig left the meeting (7.50 pm).

In response to a request made by Councillor B Higginson in regard to support for ethnic minorities, the Acting PCSP Manager confirmed that planning had commenced on the Public Themed meeting in October and would be based on Hate Crime to coincide with Hate Crime Awareness Week.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.57 pm.

Chairperson