

Minutes – Policing Strategy and Performance Committee Meeting

Date: 19 November 2020

Venue: Remote Video-Conference

Committee Meeting

Attendance

Authority: Judith Gillespie (Committee Chair), Vicky Conway, Deborah Donnelly, Ronan Nolan

Apologies: Moling Ryan

Secretary: Karen Shelly

Executive: Helen Hall, Margaret Tumelty, Cormac Keating, Mark Nother

1. Closed session – Committee members

Committee members did not exercise the standing option to conduct a closed session.

2. Policing Plan 2021

The Committee discussed the draft Policing Plan as provided by the Garda Síochána and agreed that while the intention to develop a new approach to the Plan was evident, limited progress had been made and a number of issues remained outstanding. An update on Executive engagement with the Garda Síochána on the Plan was provided. Arising from these discussions the Committee identified a number of priority aspects for inclusion, including:

- the inclusion of clear, tangible metrics on which to measure the performance of the organisation against the Plan;
- alignment with the Strategy Statement – providing a roadmap to achieving same in its final year – and the Policing Priorities;
- certain, key policing issues and areas that were not felt to be sufficiently covered, including ongoing oversight issues such as the implementation of the homicide review recommendation and the improvement of detection rates; and
- a clear articulation of the change that the Plan and its targets seek to achieve for the organisation.

It was agreed that feedback would be provided to the Garda Síochána and that engagement would continue ahead of the December Committee meeting.

3. Committee Business 2021

The Committee discussed a wide range of key issues that would affect the work of the Committee and the Garda Síochána in 2021, including the ongoing policing of COVID-19, the upcoming legislation on policing and community safety, etc. A number of key policing issues for priority of oversight were identified.

Methods of approaching the broad scope of policing performance and ensuing effective oversight of same were discussed and some possible changes to how the Committee conducts its business were mooted. It was agreed that these would be recorded and provided to the Authority and new Committee Chair to aid in planning for 2021. These included:

- further engagement and alignment with the Garda Inspectorate;
- the possibility of increasing the frequency of Committee meetings;
- thematic deep-dives and reduced agendas to allow increased, detailed scrutiny of issues;
- an increased delegation of more routine oversight issues to the Executive;
- increased communication between the Committee Chair and key Garda Síochána personnel, including ahead of meetings to discuss the agenda in advance; and
- increased diversity of invitation to the Garda Síochána senior personnel.

4. AOB

The Committee agreed on topics to be included on the December meeting agenda.
