

Minutes – Policing Strategy and Performance Committee Meeting

Date: 16 July 2018

Venue: 90 North King Street, Dublin 7.

Part A – Committee Meeting

Attendance

Authority: Judith Gillespie (Chair), Noel Brett, Maureen Lynott, Ronan Nolan, Vicky Conway

Secretary: Fiona Larthwell

Executive: Margaret Tumelty, David Pasley, Ian Holland, Gráinne Curtin

Apologies:

1. Closed session – Committee Members only

The standing option to conduct a closed session was not exercised.

2. Minutes of previous meeting 14 June

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.

The Committee was updated on the June public meeting of the Authority:

- It was noted that the Diversity and Inclusion Strategy is still not in place, despite the recruitment drive being well underway.
- The Committee discussed concerns that there does not appear to be consensus within the Garda Síochána over the definition of hate crime.
- The Committee agreed on the need to emphasise the importance of the areas of diversity, inclusion and hate crime to the new Commissioner, including the importance of a diversity champion at a higher level of the organisation.
- The Committee noted the importance of reverting to stakeholders who had contributed about the meeting.

3. Executive update on site visits and other work

The Committee received a briefing from the Executive on a number of engagements in the previous month, including:

- Executive attendance at a number of PAF meetings;
- a site visit to STOC, where presentation and demonstrations took place;
- a site visit to GISC; and

- Executive attendance at Homicide Review meeting.

During the briefing the following topics arose for further exploration at a later stage:

- Centrality of the national policing plan to local plans and policing plans to the PAF
- Wellness
- Level of arming of the force

The Committee noted the appointment of the new Garda Commissioner and it was agreed that the Policing Plan workshop could take place later in the year in order to give the new Commissioner time to develop his approach to the Policing Plan.

4. Update from JPC consultation event

The Committee were informed of some of the main issues raised at the event:

- CCTV
- Local issues, for example Garda visibility and fear of crime
- Resources
- Recruitment

The Committee agreed that the format of the event may need to be revised in advance of next year.

5. Policing Plan – performance evaluation, June 2018

The Committee acknowledged that the standard of reporting by the Garda Síochána had improved with the June report. They noted that several 'no status' items had been filled in. However, the Committee agreed that reporting still needs to be more accurate, and raised concerns about the reliability of the RAG status in some instances. They agreed that the Chair would flag with the Garda Síochána that green or complete RAG status items would be tested and evidenced by the Executive.

The Committee noted that the Garda Síochána had been advised in advance of areas of the Policing Plan that would be discussed in Part B of this meeting. The Committee noted that it had been advised subsequently that a number of Garda Síochána representatives with responsibility for those areas of the Policing Plan would not be in attendance at this meeting. The Committee expressed its frustration with the level of absence at this and previous meetings, which had resulted in the representatives being delegated to attend Committee meetings not having the authority to commit to a course of action.

It was agreed that the Executive would establish the reasons why certain individuals were not in attendance. The Committee discussed how best to follow up in the case where the appropriate member was not present to answer the relevant questions in order to ensure that they would be addressed in advance of the half year report.

6. Public Attitudes Survey – Q1 2018

The Committee noted that the Public Attitudes Survey, as currently presented, contains information but without an analytical overview by the Garda Síochána. It was noted that there are no figures for the 16-18 year old cohort in the Q1 results and the Committee agreed to raise this in Part B.

7. Update on the Policing Plan half-year review

A draft copy of the Policing Plan half-year report was presented by the Executive. The Committee agreed to highlight to Garda Síochána representatives that this meeting would inform the final half-year report.

8. Policing Plan 2019

The Committee noted that some of the targets in the 2018 Policing Plan appear unlikely to be achieved in 2018, given the level of progress in the year to date, which calls into question the realism of the original targets. The Committee noted that this must be considered when developing the 2019 Policing Plan and its targets.

Part B – Meeting with Garda Síochána representatives

Attendance

Authority and Executive: As above

Garda Síochána: David Sheahan (Assistant Commissioner, Roads Policing and Major Event Management), John O'Driscoll (Assistant Commissioner, Special Crime Operations), David Gilbride (Executive Director, Strategy and Transformation), Gurchand Singh (Head of Garda Síochána Analysis Service), Paul Franey (Inspector, Strategic Planning Unit)

9. Closed session

The standing option to conduct a closed session was not exercised.

10. Update on the progress of the Garda Síochána Homicide Review (standing item)

Garda Síochána representatives confirmed that the review is ongoing and that the second report is expected. The Authority and the Committee were encouraged by the progress that has taken place to date and the Committee reiterated that it wants to see the work completed promptly. The Chair confirmed that the Homicide Review will remain a standing agenda item.

11. Policing Plan – performance evaluation, June 2018

The Committee noted that a number of issues could not be discussed at this meeting due to absences of relevant Garda members. The Chair expressed the Committee's disappointment and frustration with the level of attendance and stated that questions that could not be addressed in this meeting would be followed up. The Chair informed Garda Síochána representatives that this meeting would inform the Policing Authority's half-year report on the Policing Plan.

The following items were discussed:

- **Cyber Crime and Cyber Security:** The transfer of National Cyber Security to Cabinet Committee F was discussed. The establishment of the criminal intelligence function and the regional cyber crime units was also discussed, particularly in terms of the accommodation challenges, the consequent difficulties in recruiting and housing new staff, and the ability to staff specialist units from general panels. The progress with clearing the backlog in the forensic examination of computers was discussed and representatives committed to providing figures on this to the Committee.
- **Delay in additional PSUs:** The Committee were informed that the decisions regarding locations and financing are due soon. The Garda Síochána is to update Authority when these decisions are made, and which PSUs are expected to be put in place by the end of this year.
- **Commitment to introduce a mechanism to measure call-backs to victims of domestic abuse:** The Committee was informed that the next report would include data and the subsequent report would include KPIs.
- **Safeguarding statement:** This was due in Q1. The Committee was informed that it is due to be issued in a matter of weeks. The Garda Síochána is to check on this and report back to Committee. The Committee expressed concern over the amount of time that it has taken to put this important statement in place, and noted that the timeline for this should have reflected the amount of time required for legal review.
- **Reliability of current data on sexual crimes:** The Committee was informed that the members of GSAS are meeting with GISC soon on other business and will raise this issue and then keep the Committee up to date. The need for an updated external survey on sexual offending was discussed and the Committee noted that a scoping exercise for a relevant survey is being undertaken by Government.
- **Roads Policing data and in particular, breath testing figures:** The Committee noted that changes in recording practices in order to represent activity more accurately (following the Crowe Horwath report) would be expected to reduce the numbers of checkpoints recorded this year. However, the Committee requested that the Garda Síochána confirm that reductions solely relate to recording rather than reduced activity.
- **Roads Policing resourcing and performance** was discussed it was noted that the increase in resources had not yet had the expected effect on activity or detections for lifesaver offences. The Committee was informed that the performance of newly appointed members is being reviewed and appropriate action would be taken.
- The Committee was informed that the action plan relating to the Crowe Horwath report is expected to be completed in early August.
- **Data on the serious injuries target** is not available. The Garda Síochána is to revert to the Committee on this. Garda Síochána representatives also committed to bringing feedback to

the Committee on resources available to establish the Major Events Management Office. Driver training was also discussed.

- Garda Síochána representatives noted that the Hate and Hostility Research Group (University of Limerick) has been invited to help the Garda Síochána put in place a definition of hate crime that is supported by civil society groups.

12. Public Attitudes Survey – Q1

The Garda Síochána clarified that the figures for young people (16-18) are not included in the quarterly report because the sample is too small. These figures are included only in the annual report. The Committee suggested that this is clarified in the methodology in future and this was agreed by the Garda Síochána.

The Committee queried how the Survey is used by the organisation; Garda Síochána noted that their research capacity is currently limited within GSAS.

The Committee agreed to make time to discuss the Public Attitudes Survey at another time, including the manner in which its data informs organisational decision making.

13. Policing Plan 2019

It was agreed that in order to facilitate the new Commissioner's involvement in the Policing Plan, the Policing Plan workshop may take place later than September this year.

Actions

No.	Action Point	By Date	By Whom
PSP_025_01	Responses to be provided to questions not answered in the meeting due to non-availability of the relevant GS representatives	Before the half-year report	GS
PSP_025_02	Update the Committee on the PSU Q2 evaluation (noting also that the Q1 evaluation has been requested by the Authority but is still outstanding)	13 Sept	GS
PSP_025_03	Provide a copy of the video being developed on domestic call backs	When available	GS
PSP_025_04	Keep the Committee updated on the results of the review of the data quality of sexual crime figures	Ongoing	GS
PSP_025_05	Confirm that the difference in the Roads Policing activity figures is due to recording rather than activity	13 Sept	GS
PSP_025_06	Provide the Crowe Horwath action plan (noting also that there is a related outstanding GAR request)	When available	GS
PSP_025_07	Update the Committee on the serious injury target and the expectation for the full year figure	13 Sept	GS
PSP_025_08	Update the Committee on the resources available for the MEM Office	13 Sept	GS
PSP_025_09	Update the Committee on review of the adequacy of the fleet for the Roads Policing Units and of the outcomes of the performance review, including the supervisory arrangements in place to ensure that Roads Policing members are not being assigned to other duties	13 Sept	GS