



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE OPERATION OF THE

WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE (JPC)

FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2020



Introduction

This document constitutes the Annual Report of the Waterford City & County Joint Policing Committee (JPC) for the year ended 31st December 2020

The report has been prepared in the context of the Joint Policing Committee Amended Guidelines 2014 jointly issued by the Minister for Justice and Equality and the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government and in specific accordance with Section 36(5) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

Background

Legislation: Section 36 (1) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 provides for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area.

Functions of a JPC

The functions of JPCs set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act, state the following:

"The Joint Policing Committee's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area, and in particular to –

(a) keep under review -

(i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and

(ii) the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area,

(b) advise the local authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area,

(c) arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area,

(d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and

Section 37(1) also provides:

"A local authority shall, in performing its functions, have regard to the importance of taking steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within its area of responsibility."

JPC Membership

On 31st December 2020, The Waterford City & County JPC comprising of 32 members drawn from the Waterford City and County administrative areas. Senator Grace O'Sullivan became a MEP in 2019 and her seat was not filled by end of 2020.

Name	Organisation/ Sector
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Declan Clune, <i>Chair</i>	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Donal Barry	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Ger Barron	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. James Tobin	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Jody Power	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. John Hearne	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. John O' Leary	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Lola O' Sullivan	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Seanie Power	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Seamus Ryan, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Waterford City & County Council
Mr. Michael J. Walsh	Public Partnership Network Representative
Ms. Rosemary Kennedy	Public Partnership Network Representative
Ms. Breda Halligan	Public Partnership Network Representative
Mr. Criostoir O Faolain	Public Partnership Network Representative
Mr. Jay Collins	Public Partnership Network Representative
Mr. Donal Murphy	Public Partnership Network Representative
Mr. Abdul Ganiyu	Public Partnership Network Representative
Chief Superintendent Padraig Dunne	An Garda Síochána
Superintendent Anthony Pettit	An Garda Síochána
Mr. Michael Walsh, CEO	Waterford City & County Council
Mr. Ivan Grimes	Waterford City & County Council
Mary Butler TD	Oireachtas Member
David Cullinane TD	Oireachtas Member
Marc O' Cathasaigh TD	Oireachtas Member
Matt Shanahan TD	Oireachtas Member
Senator John Cummins	Oireachtas Member
To be filled	Oireachtas Member



JPC Committee 2020

Progress / Achievements in 2020

- Only 2 No. JPC statutory meetings were held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - 2nd March 2020;
 - 7th December 2020, by Zoom
- Address by Commissioner Harris at March meeting in relation to proposed changes to Garda divisions, 'A Policing Service for the Future'.
- First annual Waterford JPC & An Garda Síochána Youth Awards held in February. This event recognised the contributions that young people in County Waterford are making in their communities.
- Presentation by Detective Inspector Whelan on the Drug related Intimidation Report Programme.
- Implementation of various facets of the 2020 Annual Work Plan including numerous campaigns which were held during the summer months, e.g. Internet Safety and Cyber Crime awareness campaigns as well as campaigns to promote reporting of domestic and elder abuse.



Youth Awards February 2020



Chief Superintendent Dunne at Youth Awards presenting to winners of Community Safety Award

Monitoring of Levels and Patterns of Crime

An Garda Síochána provided detailed quarterly statistical reports to Waterford City & County JPC which kept under review, and responded as appropriate, to the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Waterford City and County (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs).

At each JPC meeting Waterford City & County Council Housing Officer provides members with a report on anti social behaviour in Council estates and actions taken to address same.



Mr. Michael Walsh, C.E. at Youth Awards presenting to winners of Group Award category

JPC Steering and Oversight Committee

The Steering and Oversight Committee, which consists of four elected members, two PPN representatives, two members of An Garda Síochána and two Local Authority staff. This sub-group is tasked with preparing the Action Plan each year. JPC Steering & Oversight Committee continued meeting throughout the year to oversee the objectives and ensure implementation of various facets of the 2020 Annual Work Plan and reporting back to the full JPC.

Colette O'Brien

Staff Officer
Oifigeach Foirne
Waterford City & County Council
Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge

DATE: 15th February 2021