

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
Fermanagh and Omagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

Minutes of the Fermanagh and Omagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership Policing Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 7.05 pm in The Grange, Omagh.

Present: **Councillors**
Josephine Deehan, Keith Elliott, Tommy Maguire, Barry McElduff, Thomas O'Reilly and Paul Stevenson.

Independent Members
Sarah McQuaid (Acting Chair), Monica Coyle, Noeleen Hayes, Norman Kirkpatrick, Vida Lake, Bernie McCrory, Margaret McCrory and Maria Thompson

Designated Members
Jacqueline Doherty (WH SCT), Colum Duffy (PBNI), Helen Hicks (NIHE) and Superintendent Mervyn Seffen (PSNI).

Apologies: Councillors: Allan Rainey.
Independent Members: Pauline Treacy.
Designated Members: Sinead Dolan (YJA), Nicola McSherry (NIFRS).

In attendance: Carol Follis (PCSP Manager).

PC 20/22 **Welcome and Apologies**
In the absence of the Chair the Vice Chair, Sarah McQuaid, chaired the meeting. She welcomed Members to the meeting and accepted apologies.

PC 21/22 **Declarations of Interest**
No declarations of interest were declared.

PC 22/22 **Presentation from Extern**

Mark Rogers, Regional Manager Extern, delivered a presentation on Extern activities delivered in the district. A question and answer exchange discussion followed during which time Members had the opportunity to ask questions about specific projects and volunteering opportunities.

PC 23/22 **Notification of AOB**

No notifications were received.

PC 24/22 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Policing Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 October 2022 were considered and approved. Proposed by Cllr Elliott and seconded by Cllr Deehan.

PC 25/22 **Matters Arising**
No matters arising.

PC 26/22 **Questions from Members of the Public**

No questions were received.

PC 27/22 **Members' Questions**

No questions were received.

PC 28/22 **AOB**

Superintendent Mervyn Seffen informed the Members that Scott Fallis had been appointed temporary Chief Inspector for Engagement. He asked that Members participate in future PSNI consultation/engagement simulation activity with the suggestion that it is brought to a future meeting.

Rising

The Committee rose at 8.05 pm.

All members were present at the beginning of the meeting except for Cllr Paul Stevenson who arrived at 7.10 pm.

Date/time of next meeting

Policing Committee Meeting Tuesday 28 March 2023 at 7.00 pm, venue to be confirmed.

Members' Question

Question From	Mr Norman Kirkpatrick
Question To	Superintendent Mervyn Seffen
Date	16 October 2022

Question	Further to the announcement made that PSNI recruitment was stopped Can the Area Commander explain how this will affect Fermanagh and Omagh areas with retirements, transfers to other departments etc and where is the manpower likely to be taken from i.e. neighbourhood units which would affect us and what we try to promote.
Response	<p>The service is experiencing a significant budget shortfall and the end of the financial year our police officer headcount will have shrunk in real terms by over 300 police officers. Police staff roles are reducing too, and you will know that this is also affecting the recruitment position for the organisation. As a consequence, the Service has regrettably taken the decision that there will be no further appointments to the student officer campaign in 2022/23 beyond those offers already made to candidates to commence training in October 2022. This means that new officers will continue to be appointed to frontline policing until April next year. The Chief Constable has previously given assurances that it is his intention to maintain staffing levels that support a swift 999 response and visible Neighbourhood Policing, but even that may start to look different in the coming months. If the position is not rectified in regard to our budget deficient, then the senior executive team along with local Commanders, will have to make some very difficult and unwanted decisions about where we sustain numbers in uniform operational support roles, intelligence collection and investigations.</p> <p>Whilst the issue of officers retiring or leaving the service is something that I have very little control over, the issue of staff moving to over Departments and specialisms is something that we are acutely aware of and I have previously taken action around delaying these where appropriate to ensure I maintain service delivery locally.</p>