

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 25 October 2022 at 7.00 pm in The Grange, Omagh.

Present: Councillors
Keith Elliott (Acting Chair), Josephine Deehan, Stephen Donnelly, Tommy Maguire, John McClaughry, Barry McElduff, Thomas O'Reilly and Paul Stevenson.

Independent Members
Monica Coyle, Norman Kirkpatrick, Vida Lake, Bernie McCrory, Margaret McCrory and Pauline Treacy.

Designated Members
Colum Duffy (PBNI), Patrick Kennedy (NIFRS), and Superintendent Mervyn Seffen (PSNI).

Apologies: Councillors: Paul Blake and Allan Rainey.
Independent Members: Sarah McQuaid, Noeleen Hayes and Maria Thompson.

Designated Members: Sinead Dolan (YJA), Nicola McSherry (NIFRS), Peter Melarkey (NIFRS), Ryan Magee (EA) and Helen Hicks (NIHE)
In attendance: Carol Follis (PCSP Manager) and Greg McMullan (PCSP Team Leader).

PC 10/22 **Welcome and Apologies**
In the absence of the Chair and the Vice Chair and with the agreement of the Members Cllr Keith Elliott assumed the role of Chair for the meeting. He welcomed Members to the meeting and accepted apologies.

PC 11/22 **Declarations of Interest**
No declarations of interest were declared.

PC 12/22 **Presentation from ASSIST NI**
Michelle Martin, Project Manager ASSIST NI, delivered a presentation on the project and its activities for the first year of roll out.

PC 13/22 **Notification of AOB**
No notifications were received.

PC 14/22 **Minutes**
The minutes of the Policing Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 May 2022 were considered and approved. Proposed by Cllr Deehan and seconded by Norman Kirkpatrick.

PC 15/22 **Matters Arising**
No matters arising.

PC 16/22 **Questions from Members of the Public**
No questions were received.

PC 17/22 **Members' Questions**
The Manager reported that one question had been received with the response circulated to Members on 16 October.

PC 18/22 **6-month report on the delivery of the Local Policing Plan 2022-2023**
Superintendent Mervyn Seffen reported on the Local Policing Plan performance for G District for the 6-month period to 30/09/2022. He commented on the new reporting format as required by the Policing Board and discussed the report in detail with the Members responding to

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questions as they arose. The Chair thanked him for the comprehensive report and the level of detail provided in his responses.

AOB

No items were notified.

Rising

The Committee rose at 8.45 pm.

Date/time of next meeting

Policing Committee Meeting Tuesday 24 January 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 ie 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>