

Cork City Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of meeting

8th April at 2.00pm

Council Chamber, City Hall, Cork.

Present:

Chief Supt. B. McPolin	An Garda Síochána
Ms. A. Doherty	Chief Executive, Cork City Council
Cllr. C. O'Leary	Chairperson
Cllr. H. Cremin	Cork City Council
Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald	Cork City Council
Cllr. Mick Nugent	Cork City Council
Cllr. John Sheehan	Cork City Council
Cllr. Ted Tynan	Cork City Council
Cllr. Mary Shields	Cork City Council
Cllr P.J. Hourican	Cork City Council
Cllr. Terry Shannon	Cork City Council
Ms. Rebecca Loughry	Corporate & External Affairs, Cork City Council
Dr. D. McAdam O'Connell	Public Participation Network
Mr J. Nolan	Public Participation Network
Ms Katherine Dullaghan	Public Participation Network

In attendance:

Supt. M. Comyns	An Garda Síochána
Supt. C O Sullivan	An Garda Síochána
Sgt. T Davis	An Garda Síochána
Sgt S Philpott	An Garda Síochána
Supt M McGuire	An Garda Síochána
Mr. Chris Dorgan	Corporate & External Affairs, Cork City Council
Mr. David O Brien	Corporate & External Affairs, Cork City Council
Mr. Francis Freyne	Corporate & External Affairs, Cork City Council

Apologies

Mr. P. Moynihan	Corporate & External Affairs, Cork City Council
Ms. Mary Crilly	Public Participation Network
Cllr. J. Buttimer	Cork City Council

1. Welcome

Chair Cllr Chris O Leary welcomed attendees and reminded the meeting that only Committee Members were entitled to address the meeting

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the JPC of 21st January 2019 were considered and approved by the meeting.

Prop. Dr. D Mc Adam O' Connell, **Sec** Sen. J Buttimer

3. Mark the retirement of Superintendent Charlie Barry

- The retirement of Superintendent Charlie Barry was recognised by Chief Supt. B. McPolin
- A. Doherty, Chief Executive, recognised the relationship between City Hall and Superintendent Barry who will be missed.
- Notes of congratulations, thanks and best wishes extended by Cllr. C o Leary (Chair), by Dep D O Laoghaire, Sen. J Buttimer, Cllrs T Fitzgerald, H Cremin, M Shields and by Dr. D McAdam O' Connell

4. Presentations

1. Chief Supt B Mc Polin gave a presentation on New Policing Structures

The project is being rolled out in four pilot divisions to test this new way of working. The divisions of DMR South Central, Cork City, Galway and Mayo have been chosen as pilot divisions. These divisions were selected as they provide a mix of both urban and rural policing environments. The project will develop Community Engaging and specialist areas in each of the pilot divisions

Key points:

- Increased focus on community policing initiatives
- Increased Garda presence on the streets
- Greater attendance and support at local community events
- Enhanced Garda visibility in our local communities

The Divisional Management team in Cork City is outlined below;

- Chief Superintendent John McPolin
- Governance Hub – Superintendent Charles Barry (pro temp)
- Crime Hub – Superintendent Michael Comyns
- Administration Hub – Bridget Casey Mulligan Assistant Principal
- Community Engagement Southside Cork City – Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan
- Community Engagement Northside – Superintendent Michael McGuire

Following the presentations the following questions were raised.

Contributions from Dep. O Laoghaire, Sen. Buttimer and Cllrs. Cahill, Cremin, Fitzgerald and O' Leary. Issues raised included civilianisation, backfilling of vacancies to take numbers to full complement, tolerance of public drug taking and drug dealing and antisocial behaviour. In response Chief Supt mc Polin advised that civilianisation was proceeding apace with vetting of suitable candidate to enable more Gardaí to engage directly and increase of available hrs in garda stations. He also advised of the effectiveness of existing community safety and DMC structures in dealing effectively on the ground with immediate issues

Chairman Cllr O Leary welcomed the change and evidenced a recent event in Mahon where the structure had proved to be effective.

2. Sgt. Stewart Philpott on cooperation between stakeholders regarding R.A.G week and related issues

Sgt. Philpott advised that improved engagement with UCC student officers and that the office of the President was actively engaged. Together with greater garda visibility and enforcement this had led

to a halving of reported incidents year on year. UCC had the power to confiscate student id's of repeat offenders and provided civic engagement training to Fresher .Gardaí now regularly visited venues on issues such as security, numbers on premises and overflow of patrons to public spaces. They regularly spoke to landlords and fire officers. Most importantly local residents associations and stakeholders reported significant reduction in previous areas of complaint.

5. To consider the reports from the Local Policing District Management Committees

Anglesea Street report – No Comments

Mayfield Report – No comments

6. Reports

Chief Executive, Cork City Council

A. Doherty, Chief Executive, delivered her report outlining a number of points –

On the City Boundary transition

The Oversight Committee have published their Statutory Implementation Plan (available on the City Council's website). City Council launched an interactive mapping tool allowing citizens to explore both the new boundary and identify what Local Electoral Area that they are residing in. Staff Transfer Plan has been agreed – transfer of 210.5 whole time equivalents. Joint Communications Plan agreed - newsletter early April & targeted correspondence to individual customers late April.

Other key issues

- St. Patrick's Festival attracted over 30,000 people with over 2000 people from community and voluntary as well as sporting groups across the city taking part.
- National communities' weekend –May Bank Holiday
The Department of Rural and Community Development has made funding available to community groups to hold events. The festival aims to encourage communities to get to know their neighbours, and to encourage a sense of neighbourliness and community. Street Feast has also been brought forward to coincide with this weekend. There will be a series of events across the City and a City Centre Festival
- Bye-Laws on the segregation, storage and presentation of household and commercial waste passed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 25th March, to come into effect on May 1st. A public information campaign to make business and householders aware of the implications is planned.
- Bulky Goods
Collections took place or are scheduled for March and April. Large uptake in people availing of the service over previous collections. Next dates for Bulky Goods collections will be scheduled for June
- Litter Fines
Amount of litter fines issued increased significantly compared to this time last year, primarily due to the fact the we now have our complement of Litter Wardens onboard.
- Housing - Points of Public Interest
452 social housing units under construction at the 28/2/19. Significant recent announcement of the purchase of 72 units for social housing at Leaside apartments, Bachelors Quay.
- *Shape Your City* voter registration initiative.

Chief Superintendent, An Garda Síochána

Chief Superintendent McPolin presented a report for An Garda Síochána for the Cork City Division on crime and traffic for Q1 2019

- **Property Crime**

Overall increase of 1%, significant decreases in robbery of an institution and increases in robbery from a person and handling of stolen goods.

- **Crimes against the person**

Overall increase of 30 %, covering significant increase, from a low base, of threatening or menacing phone calls and the threat of murder.

- **Rape and sexual assaults**

67% increase in reported rapes and sexual assaults, attributable in the main to great reporting than heretofore.

- **Criminal Damage and Public Order**

All criminal damage -19% increase, all public order 2% increase.

- **Drugs and weapons**

Drugs offences, 69% increase, weapons 27% increase.

- **Traffic**

Total traffic collision – no change. Decrease in numbers driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

In response to the reports there were contributions from Cllrs. Nugent, Fitzgerald and Tynan ,Sen. Buttimer and Dep. O Laoghaire .

Issues raised included the issue of public toilets being availed of by drug users and the effect of closure on the spreading of drug paraphernalia to other places. A particular issue relating to the distribution of packs being distributed by the HSE and the disposal of contents of these packs was raised. Public Lighting issue raised to be addressed by CE with Director of Roads and Transportation.

6. Updates to boundary extension issues for JPC structures.

There was strong support for the progress being made towards the transition date and the chair advised that meeting with county counterparts were ongoing, with a joint publicity campaign and public meetings in the extended area imminent.