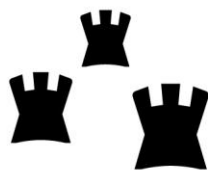


To the Lord Mayor and Members of  
Dublin City Council

Report No. 226/2007 of the Chairperson  
of the Joint Policing Committee



# Dublin City Council

Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath

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**Meeting of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee – held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup>  
March 2007 at 4.30 p.m. Council Chamber, City Hall.**

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**Attendance: Committee Members**

Councillor Charlie Ardagh	Councillor Anne Carter
Councillor Michael Conaghan(Chairperson)	Joe Costello TD
Councillor Mary Freehill	Councillor Kevin Humphreys
Lord Mayor, Councillor Vincent Jackson	Councillor Liam Kelly
Mr. Brendan Kenny, Asst. City Manager	Mr. Philip Maguire, Asst. City Manager
Councillor Bronwen Maher	Ms. Maria Metcalfe
Asst. Commissioner Al Mc Hugh	Councillor Críona Ní Dhálaigh
Aengus O Snodaigh TD	Councillor Larry O'Toole
Ruairi Quinn TD	Mr. John Tierney, City Manager

**Apologies :** Councillor Paschal Donohoe

**Also present: Inspector Frank Walsh, Mr. Brendan Hayden and Mr. Hugh Fitzpatrick**

1. Mr. Hugh Fitzpatrick read out the contents of the report of the City Manager to the Committee following which the Assistant Garda Commissioner Al McHugh presented his report (Copy of their reports attached as Appendix A and B respectively)
2. The Committee agreed to a proposal that two Working Groups be established in relation to (a) **Estate Management** and (b) **Alcohol Related Issues**.
3. Motion from the Association of County and City Councils “That the Association of County & City Councils calls on the Minister for the Environment to update the dog control legislation of 1998 so that an outright ban be applied to certain dangerous breeds such as pit-bull terriers”. **Order:** Recommend to Council.
4. Date of next meeting: Early June 2007

**Michael Conaghan**  
**Chairperson**

## **Appendix A**

### **MEETING OF DUBLIN CITY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Following on the holding of the initial few meetings of the J.P.C. and its inaugural workshop it is now considered timely that the J.P.C. should take a step back from general discussion on Crime and select a few priority issues for detailed study with a view to recommendations on future strategy and policy.

It is suggested therefore that working groups of the J.P.C. should be established to review

- a) Estate management issues, procedures and policies relating to City Council's Rented Housing Stock
- b) Alcohol related issues; off licences, drinking in public places, late night pubs and related nuisance and public order issues

The working groups should be structured to examine the different issues that arise in Flat Complexes and Housing Schemes in relation to item (a) and City Centre and suburban residential issues that arise in relation to item (b). Each working group should include public representatives, Gardaí, Council Officials and Community Reps; it is open to the J.P.C. to appoint non-J.P.C. members with expertise and or experience in these areas to the Working Group. The Groups can have consultations with community and other interested parties and hold public meetings if considered appropriate, they can also examine how these issues are handled elsewhere in other jurisdictions. The Working Groups should report back to the full City Wide J.P.C. in, say, six months time – October 2007.

I propose to appoint Brendan Kenny, Brendan Hayden and Celine Reilly to the Estate Management Group and Charlie Lowe and Eileen Brady and Damian Drumm to the Alcohol Group.

**John Tierney**  
**City Manager**

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Report of Assistant Commissioner Al Mc Hugh to the Dublin City JPC on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen.

You will recall that in my initial presentation to this forum I spoke of our responsibility to provide a safe environment where people can go about their lawful business and enjoy a good quality of life. I said then that this responsibility will be honoured by confronting and challenging crime and criminal behaviour and spoke of our most vulnerable community members needing to feel safe in their homes. I appealed for inter-agency and community cooperation to assist in the task. Today, I am delighted to report progress in addressing these issues.

For the year ending 31/12/2006, crime in the Dublin Metropolitan Region has fallen by 5%, with a 39% detection rate. This follows on from a 4% reduction in the year ending 31/12/2005 and also in the year ending 2004. The detection rate during those years has risen from 33% to the current figure of 39%.

Crime figures for January and February 2007 show that this trend has continued with falls of 5% and 10% respectively. Naturally, I am pleased with these figures, but there is no room for complacency and An Garda Síochána, in partnership with you and the Dublin communities we serve will work hard to build on these successes through proactive policing strategies.

Since my last presentation to this forum, we have continued to tackle public order and anti-social behaviour. You will recall that there were 9629 public order incidents recorded during 2005, which was a 4% increase on the 2004 figures. The result for 2006 was in excess of 11,000, an increase of an 18.5%. To date for 2007, detections are

running at 2732 which is broadly in line with the preceding years. These figures are not indicative of increased levels of anti-social behaviour rather; they result from increased Garda enforcement.

Traffic management in the city continues to receive dedicated Garda attention, working closely with the City Council's Director of Traffic. Since the opening of the Port Tunnel and the subsequent ban on five axel HGV's in city centre there has been a significant improvement in traffic flow. We are also dedicating extra traffic resources to ease traffic flow on the M50 during the continuing works there. Proactive enforcement of road traffic legislation has resulted in a reduction in fatal accidents in 2006 and a decline in serious personal injury accidents.

I would now like to give you a brief oversight of recent Garda operations in the Region so that you can gain some appreciation of the effects of high profile events on Garda resources. In setting out these issues, I wish to acknowledge the support and efforts of Dublin City Council, Dublin City Business Groups and the various other agencies who commit resources to assisting Gardai in these common endeavours.

The recent and historic staging of the Ireland v England Six Nations Rugby International at Croke Park ensured that Dublin was the focus of international media attention. The match was a huge success, with a positive economic spin off for the city and portrayed a very positive image of our city and its residents. The Gardai prepared a detailed policing plan to cater for all outcomes and the match and the ensuing celebrations passed off without incident. Again, the assistance of the many partner agencies who contributed to the policing effort was much appreciated.

A major policing plan was put in place for the recent St. Patrick's Festival. Over the weekend there were over 130 arrests for public disorder and anti-social behaviour which is on a par with a normal weekend in the capital. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many Off-Licence holders who

voluntarily agreed to restrict their opening hours to after 4pm on 17<sup>th</sup> March. This sacrifice of profits for the public good is very much appreciated and was a contributory factor in the successful policing of the event. With in excess of 650,000 people attending the parade and a further 25,000 at Croke Park for the All Ireland Club finals, huge Garda resources were required to ensure that the events passed off peacefully.

Returning to this Joint Policing Committee, I have stated that An Garda Síochána is totally committed to full and active participation. This promise is borne out by our recent commitment to training for full and meaningful participation in the committee. To this end, and in conjunction with the City Council, myself, six Chief Superintendents and nine Superintendents attended a workshop at the Gresham Hotel on managing processes and partnerships. This is indicative of our commitment to the JPC.