

**DUBLIN CITY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2011**  
**at 3.30 p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall**

**Attendance: Committee Members**

Lord Mayor Gerry Breen (Chair)	Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Edie Wynne
Councillor Mannix Flynn	Councillor Cieran Perry
Councillor John Gallagher	Councillor John Redmond
Councillor Marie Metcalfe	Councillor Larry O'Toole
Councillor Michael O'Sullivan	Deputy Catherine Byrne
Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan	Deputy Aengus O'Snódaigh
Asst. Commissioner Mick Feehan	Inspector Gerry Murphy
Mr. Peter O'Connor, Community Policing Forum (North East Inner City)	
Mr. Tom Coffey, Dublin City Business Association (D.C.B.A.)	
Mr. Dick Brady, Assistant City Manager, Housing & Residential Services Department	
Mr. Ciaran Dunne, Executive Manager, Housing & Residential Services Department	
Mr. Philip Maguire, Deputy City Manager	
Ms. Ruth Treacy, Senior Staff Officer, City Manager's Department	

Non-Members: Mr. Charlie Lowe, Executive Manager, Central Area; Mr. Jamie Cudden, Corporate Research Manager Office of International Relations; Catherine Lynch, Co-ordinator, ENAR (European Network Against Racism) Ireland; Mr. Gerry Folan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Residential Services

**Apologies:** John Tierney (City Manager)

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Order: Agreed.

**2. Matters Arising**

Order: Noted

**3. Presentation from Ms. Catherine Lynch, National Co-ordinator, ENAR (European Network Against Racism) Ireland (copy attached)**

Presentation noted and welcomed. ENAR have given a commitment to provide some statistics to the Committee on racist-related incidences by the end of the year.

**4. Housing of sex offenders**

Order: Noted.

Assistant City Manager, Housing & Residential Services Department, to write to Chair of Cross Departmental Group on Homelessness seeking the publication of a report on this matter as soon as possible.

**5. "Your Dublin, Your Voice" – Presentation by Mr. Jamie Cudden, Office of International Relations (copy attached)**

Order: Presentation noted and welcomed; noted that public safety is the key concern of most citizens. Jamie to extend an invitation to the North East Inner City Community Policing Forum to a meeting scheduled to take place next month between all the contributors to this survey, namely An Garda Síochána, H.S.E., I.D.A., business reps. etc.

**6. Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner**

Order: Report noted.

**7. Copies of correspondence received from:**

(i) North Inner City Community Policing Forum

Order: Correspondence noted.

**8. Manager's report**

Order: Correspondence in relation to Smithfield Horse Fair noted.

**9. A.O.B.**

N/A

**10. Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 3.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.**

## **Manager's Report to Dublin City Joint Policing Committee (J.P.C.)**

**30/05/2011**

### Smithfield Horse Fair

I attach, for your information, copies of correspondence exchanged between Lord Mayor Gerry Breen, the Attorney General's Office and Minister for Enterprise, Jobs & Innovation, Richard Bruton T.D. concerning the Smithfield Horse Fair.

### White paper on Crime

Copies of correspondence have been received from the Department of Justice & Equality's White Paper on Crime Unit:

1. Summary of consultation outcomes relating to the White Paper on Crime discussion document on 'Organised and White Collar Crime'.

[http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/3rd\\_disc\\_doc\\_summary](http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/3rd_disc_doc_summary)

2. Report of a consultation seminar held with young people last November has also been published.

[http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/wpoc\\_young\\_people\\_summary](http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/wpoc_young_people_summary)

3. Minister's recent press release which referred to the White Paper process.

<http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/PR11000050>

**Philip Maguire**  
**Deputy City Manager**

## **Joint Policing Committee**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

### **Report of Assistant Commissioner Michael Feehan Dublin Metropolitan Region.**

In this report I will concentrate on the crime and traffic statistics since the last meeting in March 2011 and the policing arrangements for the recent visits of Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth II and President Obama. I will also comment on the work of the Garda Racial and Diversity Office together with initiatives in place to police small public service vehicles.

#### **Crime**

Since my last report the overall level of Property Crime has decreased across the City. This category includes crimes such as Burglaries, Robberies from the Establishment and Theft from Shops and Theft from Vehicles.

Crimes Against the Person, which includes Assaults, have remained stable over the last six months though with a slight decrease in the recent past.

I am continuing to target organised and armed crime across the City with a number of operations in place to achieve this. These operations are intelligence-driven and continue to be seen locally as having an effect on the activities of persons involved in organised crime. The support of local communities is vital to the success of these initiatives and I would appeal to all members of this committee to promote that message.

#### **Traffic**

The number of people killed on our roads stands at 5 so far this year compared with 10 deaths in the same period in 2010. While the number of deaths has decreased An Garda Síochána is conscious that each of these deaths is a tragedy for families and the wider community. I have implemented a focussed Traffic Casualty Reduction Strategy across the City over the past two months which I believe has contributed to the reduction in fatalities. This is an area which is under constant review and will continue to be prioritised across the City.

#### **Recent Visit of Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and President Obama**

As you will be aware the recent visits of Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and President Obama involved significant policing operations being put in place. The planning for these visits required very significant co-operation with a range of organisations and individuals, not least of which were Dublin City Council, Dublin Bus and the Business Community in the city. That the visits were a success is in no small way due to the co-operation which was forthcoming. I would like to thank all our partners for the efforts they made in ensuring that both visits went off so well.

#### **Sale of Headshop Products**

The introduction of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2010 on the 23rd of August last has been very effective in shutting down the 'Headshop' industry in this country. Almost 100 'Headshop' outlets closed their doors and psychoactive substances were seized by Gardaí resulting in over 4 tonnes of product being appropriately destroyed. Almost all proprietors of 'Headshops' cooperated with Gardaí in handing over stock in their possession at this time.

There was only one isolated incident where a 'Headshop' owner attempted to keep stock to sell on the illicit market but this was discovered by Gardaí and this shop owner is now before the courts on relating charges.

The Garda National Drug Unit is continuing to monitor 'Headshop' outlets that remain open for business throughout the country.

The Garda National Drug Unit together with local Drugs Units are consistently monitoring suspect activity regarding the sale of all controlled and psychoactive substances. Incidents which come to light regarding any persons, including Headshop owners, are fully investigated and prosecutions will be taken in all appropriate circumstances.

#### **Policing of Small Public Service Vehicles (Taxi)**

There are 98 permanent taxi ranks in Dublin with 490 spaces. This is supplemented by 24 night stands which operate from 8pm to 6am with 145 spaces and 6 occasional ranks with 26 spaces (located in the vicinity of sporting venues). There are approximately 12,000 licensed Taxis, with 19,000 driver's licenses issued by the Carriage Office for the Dublin taximeter area. These figures are from the Dublin City Council appointed stands (street service vehicles) Bye Laws 2009.

As can be seen from these statistics, there are challenges regarding the number of taxi rank spaces to cater for the number of vehicles which work around the city.

In addition there are temporary night stands to support the number working at night, but this measure does not cater for the number of small public service vehicles at work during the night. This in turn leads to the small public service vehicles plying for hire wherever they get an opportunity, mainly in the vicinity of busy night social venues in the city centre.

Dublin City Council is responsible for the allocation of Taxi Ranks and is currently preparing a new bye-law to increase the number of spaces.

In 2010 there were 1153 fixed charge notices issued to taxis for plying for hire illegally and this year to date there 732 have been issued.

Illegal parking of taxis is an ongoing problem which is subject to constant monitoring by Gardaí involved in Roads Policing in the Dublin Region.

#### **Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 2011 (Begging)**

As you will be aware the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 2011 became law on the 2nd February 2011. In summary, under this new legislation, a person who begs in an aggressive, intimidating or threatening manner will be guilty of an offence. New powers enable An Garda Síochána to direct anyone begging near ATMs, night safes, shop entrances etc. to leave the area.

Arising from this new legislation I directed that operations were to be put in place to address the begging problem across the city. That operation has involved Gardaí directing people to desist from begging and in making arrests in appropriate cases.

Significant cautions and arrests have taken place to date and reports from the community have indicated that the level of begging has reduced considerably. The operation will continue for the foreseeable future.

#### **Garda Racial and Diversity Office (GRIO)**

The Garda Racial and Diversity office was establishment in 1999 which is responsible for coordinating, monitoring and advising on all aspects of policing in the area of cultural diversity.

In addition the Commissioner approved the appointment of Ethnic Liaison Gardaí at District level who liaise with the leaders of ethnic communities and inform and assure the ethnic communities of Garda services and protection. The Ethnic Liaison Officers (ELO) are responsible for ensuring the provision of a quality service to the members of minority communities within their district. Encouraging the reporting of racist incidents and crime is one of the main focus points of the work of ELO's. Central to an anti-discrimination strategy is the fact that the ELO's act as necessary to meet emerging needs of minority communities, which include:-

- Identifying local issues and problems
- Assist in informing local communities about current Garda strategy
- Aid to promote public support and cooperation

- Active communication to such an extent that ELO's become familiar with customs and traditions of all minorities they are required to police within the community they serve
- Create an environment of trust with minority communities in assisting with local Garda station 'Open-Day' initiatives
- Work to identify racial tensions within the community and prevent racist incidents from occurring
- Working to promote the value of racial, ethnic, cultural and religious diversity.

There were a total of 384 (three hundred and eighty four) ELO's – appointed nationwide.

Ethnic Policing Fora have been appointed in stations throughout the Dublin Metropolitan where An Garda Síochána can meet with and discuss issues relevant to the Ethnic communities. Garda Clinics are also provided in a number of areas which have proved effective in enabling persons from minority ethnic groups to review their problems and difficulties, and to seek assistance in a structured way. The recognition of the effectiveness of this approach and the investment of Garda resources into this area of policing activity was displayed in the acceptance by the Superintendent in Tallaght of a national award at the Multicultural Young Persons Awards on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at the Civic Centre, Wood Quay, Dublin. The award was presented by An t-Uachtarán Mary McAleese, who spoke on the developments in the Irish cultural mix which have encouraged greater inclusion and acceptance of diversity.

**THANK YOU**