



Cookstown

***District Policing  
Partnership***

Local people shaping local policing

**Report**

on

**Meeting in Public Session**

held on

**Thursday 18 August 2005**

in

**The McNeece Hall, Stewartstown**

*In accordance with Section 6 of the District Policing Partnerships  
Code of Practice on Functions and Responsibilities*

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# 1. Attendance

## 1.1 List of DPP Members & Secretariat Present

**Present:** J McGarvey Esq. Chairman

**Members:** Baker, Baxter, Cassidy, Doyle, Eastwood, Glasgow, Marshall, McGlone, Pickering, Laughlin, Wilson

**Other Representatives** **Cookstown District Council**  
DPP Secretary  
Director of Corporate Services  
DPP Manager  
PA

**PSNI**  
Superintendent Ivan Johnston  
Inspector Eamon Foy  
Sergeant Florence Ferry

**Apologies** McCrea, Quinn

## 1.2 Approximate number in public gallery

3
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# 1. Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Introduction from Chairman
3. To receive and adopt minutes of Business Meeting held on Monday 27 June 2005
4. Matters Arising

## **Presentation**

5. Presentation from Sgt. F Ferry on the background and administration of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)

Discussion (*participation by public at the chairman's discretion*)

## **Meeting in Public Report – 21 April 2005**

6. To receive report of meeting in public held on 21 April 2005 in the Royal Hotel, Cookstown

## **Correspondence & Publications**

7. To receive copy of correspondence (and response) forwarded to Policing Board providing feedback on the 2006/ 07 Northern Ireland Policing Plan
8. To receive copy of correspondence (and response) forwarded to DRD Roads Service concerning traffic congestion in Cookstown
9. To receive copy of correspondence (and response) forwarded to Supt. Johnston concerning the use of pellet guns
10. To receive copy of Joint Protocol in Relation to the Display of Flags in Public Areas
11. To receive copy of the District Policing Partnership Annual Report for the period 2004/ 2005
12. To note copy of DPP News, Summer 2005
13. To note copy of The Spec, June 2005
14. To note copy of results of the April 2005 Omnibus Survey

15. To note copy of Cookstown Community Safety Partnership Strategy, 2005 - 2008
16. To note copy of Commentary on District Policing Partnerships, CAJ, May 2005

### **Monitoring Police Performance**

17. District Commander's Report on the policing of the district for the period covering 1 April – 30 June 2005
18. Questions from DPP Members on District Commander's Report and general questions on the policing of the district
19. Questions on the report from the public - *at Chairman's discretion*
20. Oral answers to questions submitted by the public
21. Any Other Business

## **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 27 June 2005**

### **Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated, were ADOPTED on the proposal of Mr Doyle and seconded by Councillor Glasgow.

## **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters raised by Members. The District Policing Partnership Manager indicated that there were a number of matters arising which would be addressed under the agenda.

## 5. District Commander's Report

Please see **Appendix 2** for a copy of the District Command Units report and presentation. (The report/ presentation is attached as a separate document in the form of a Power Point file when this report is sent by e-mail).

### 5.1 General Policing Issues from DCU Report

The Chairman welcomed District Commander, Superintendent Ivan Johnston and Inspector Eamon Foy to the meeting in public session.

Superintendent Johnston delivered the District Command Unit's three month brief on the policing of the district for the period April - June 2005, which reflected steps being taken by the District Command Unit to progress regional and local policing plan targets and a summary of recorded crime/ clearance rates within the district. The report was delivered using Microsoft Power Point. The District Commander also produced the 'traffic light performance system' used by Cookstown District Command Unit to illustrate performance against associated targets referred to above.

The Report for the period April – June 2005 is set out in **Appendix 2**

### 5.2 Questions Arising from District Commanders Report

Questions asked and answers given during the meeting, including those arising from the District Commanders Report are detailed at section 6.3.

## 6. Questions and Oral Answers from District Commander

### 6.1 Questions received from public by theme

<b>Drug Abuse</b> (drug dealing, drug use)	<b>Alcohol Abuse</b> (drunken driving, underage drinking, public drunkenness)	<b>Theft</b> (vehicle crime, domestic burglary)	<b>Public Nuisance</b> (Vandalism, Young people causing a nuisance, road traffic issues, public disorder, bogus callers)	<b>Violence</b> (assaults, child abuse, domestic violence, sexual attacks, paramilitary activity, hate [racial/homophobic] crimes)	<b>Operational Matters</b> (police resources, deployment of officers, response to calls)	<b>Other</b>
0	0	0	2	0	1	0

All questions submitted by the deadline received an oral answer by the District Commander based on the policy of Cookstown District Policing Partnership on the submission and answering of questions at meetings in public. Those who submitted a question received a written response within five working days of the meeting taking place (this policy is detailed at **appendix 3**).

The Chairman informed any member of the public at the meeting, if they had submitted a question and wished to ask it of the District Commander they could do so. As a consequence some members of the public did. The Chairman also informed those members of the public who were in attendance and had submitted a written question that they could make supplementary comments based on the answer given by the District Commander.

The Chairman also informed members of the public present that they could ask a question(s) of either the District Commander if they so wished. He did however, stress that this should be directed through the Chair.

## 6.2 Questions submitted by the public dealt with orally

<p><b>Q. 1</b> <i>In light of road safety fears being experienced by local residents could the District Commander liaise and explore with the appropriate agencies on the development of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Union Street and Coagh Street, Cookstown to enable school children to safely cross the road to gain access to schools in the vicinity and the bus depot</i></li> <li>▪ <i>a pedestrian crossing at the crossroads of Westland Road, Tullagh Road and Fairhill Road, Cookstown in response to concerns of local residents</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Action by (if applicable)</b></p>
<p><b>A.</b> The fears being experienced by local residents in relation to:-</p> <p>(i) junction of Coagh Street and Union Street, Cookstown</p> <p>(ii) crossroads of Westland Road, Tullagh Road and Fairhill Road, Cookstown</p> <p>will be passed to Traffic Management, Road Policing Unit Mahon Road, Portadown. Traffic Management will liaise with Department of Regional Development (Roads Division) inspect and survey the locations regarding best options to improve.</p>	<p>DPP Manager to forward written response to questioner</p>

<p><b>Q. 2</b> To ask the District Commander; (i) how many members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland have been seconded on a short/long term basis to assist the Metropolitan Police in the aftermath of the July bombings in London, and (ii) what impact will this have on policing within the district?</p>	<p><b>Action by (if applicable)</b></p>
<p><b>A.</b> One D/Sergeant and 4 D/Constables are on secondment to the Metropolitan Police on a short-term basis. No officers attached to Cookstown DCU are on the secondment, therefore no impact on policing within the District.</p>	<p>DPP Manager to forward a written response to questioner</p>

<p><b>Q. 3</b> <i>In relation to spills of hazardous and non-hazardous substances on public roads, with a potential to lead to serious road traffic collisions, can the District Commander inform me of;</i></p> <p><i>(i) the procedures followed by District Command Unit officers when dealing with such incidents to ensure the safety of road users in the vicinity of spills;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) the number of such incidents reported and investigated in the past two years, and</i></p> <p><i>(iii) the number of convictions sought and secured for committing such offences over the same period</i></p>	<p><b>Action by (if applicable)</b></p>
<p><b>A.</b> The safety of the public is uppermost in the mind of police in circumstances where a spillage of a hazardous substance is reported or detected. The road would immediately be closed and traffic diverted at a safe distance. The immediate vicinity would be sealed off and members of the public evacuated from the danger area, which may well extend to a very large area depending on the wind and nature of hazard. If possible and safe to do so, Police Officers will obtain details from the HAZARD WARNING PANEL which must be displayed on all containers used for the carriage of dangerous goods and pass these to our colleagues in the Fire Service and to our control room who will obtain specialist advice. Contingency plans and other emergency procedures would be considered at an early stage. All my officers have been issued with a card which outlined police procedures and advise on dealing with dangerous substances on our roads. Hazchem Officers are attached to Road Policing Units and are called to scenes for specialist advice and liaison with other agencies eg Fire Service.</p> <p>In circumstances where the spillage was of a non-hazardous nature, police would either divert or introduce traffic control measures to prevent any risk to other road users. Oil spillages are quite common at scenes of road traffic collisions and are normally dealt with by DRD Road Service who would also provide necessary signage as required. Early communication with the media would be made in all incidents where a prolonged traffic diversion was anticipated.</p>	<p>DPP Manager to forward a written response to questioner</p>

<p>Police frequently receive reports of mud on roads which is an obvious hazard to road users. This is usually caused by heavy plant, or farm tractors exiting building sites and fields. In these circumstances Police will seek the co-operation of the contractor or farmer responsible to have adequate warning signs erected and have the road cleaned.</p> <p>There have been no cases reported or investigated within the past two years regarding hazardous and non hazardous substances. However there are two cases involving mud on the road which was considered to be a contributory factor in causing a road traffic collision. These matters have been reported for the information and direction of the Public Prosecution Service.</p>	
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### 6.3 Questions asked and answers given during the meeting

The following questions were asked of the District Command Unit on the policing of the District.

<p><b>Q.</b> <i>Mr Doyle inquired as to the number of prosecutions sought and brought against motorists who use the pedestrian crossing at William Street inappropriately.</i></p>	<p><b>Action by (if applicable)</b></p>
<p><b>A.</b> Superintendent Johnston responded and indicated that he would provide the District Policing Partnership with the information requested.</p> <p>It was AGREED that the District Policing Partnership Manager liaise with the District Command Unit to produce a press release to be issued to the local media on the appropriate use of pedestrian crossings.</p>	<p>District commander to provide figures</p> <p>DPP Manager to compile press release</p>

<p><b>Q.</b> <i>Councillor Cassidy inquired if there was a pattern on the occurrence of the racist incidents referred to within the report.</i></p>	<p><b>Action by (if applicable)</b></p>
<p><b>A.</b> Sergeant Ferry replied that there was no apparent trend and the majority occurred within Cookstown.</p>	<p>No further action required</p>

<p><b>Q.</b> <i>Mr Doyle expressed concern at the current average number of sick days per annum could total in the region of 1,000 for the District Command Unit. He also questioned the viability of using posters to combat sickness levels.</i></p>	<p><b>Action by (if applicable)</b></p>
<p><b>A.</b> Superintendent Johnston replied that he was aware the District Command Unit was above the average sickness days for the Service and was determined to see this reduced.</p>	<p>No further action required</p>

<b>Q.</b> <i>Mrs Marshall inquired as to whether the baseline being established for domestic violence offences would be based on local or province wide statistics.</i>	<b>Action by (if applicable)</b>
<b>A.</b> Superintendent Johnston indicated that it would be based on local figures.	No further action required

<b>Q.</b> <i>Councillor Wilson requested an update as to Moneymore Police Station in light of the consultation with the local community.</i>	<b>Action by (if applicable)</b>
<b>A.</b> Superintendent Johnston indicated that Estate Services Branch had recommended it be closed, and he was currently assessing possibilities for the site with them.	No further action required

*Councillor Wilson expressed his dissatisfaction with the decision in light of the consultation response from the local community.*

<b>Q.</b> <i>Mrs Baxter inquired if the District Command Unit had appointed a Domestic Violence officer.</i>	<b>Action by (if applicable)</b>
<b>A.</b> Superintendent Johnston indicated that an officer would take up post in September 2005.	No further action required

<b>Q.</b> <i>A member of the public expressed concerns that the speed ramps in Stewartstown were not effective enough to deter speeding traffic, and in his view some motorists were using them as 'jumps'. Concern was also expressed at the low visibility of police officers in the town when they are required. A problem of young persons using scramblers and motorbikes was also referred to.</i>	<b>Action by (if applicable)</b>
<b>A.</b> The District Commander indicated that he would ensure the concerns were raised directly with officials from Roads Service. He also said that he would make Neighbourhood Policing Team officers aware of the concerns and ensure that the local sergeant made contact with the individual to discuss further the issues of concern.	DCU to liaise with Roads Service and NPT Sgt to call with residents

#### **6.4 Were all Members' questions satisfactorily answered at the meeting?**

Yes  No

On a number of occasions the District Commander indicated that he would undertake to address some issues raised at the meeting at a further date. Following the meeting the District Policing Partnership Manager reminded the District Commander of his commitments in a letter dated 24 August 2005 requesting that the tasks be undertaken/ information supplied before the next meeting of the District Policing Partnership.

## 6. Presentations

### Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Florence Ferry to the meeting and invited her to provide the District Policing Partnership with a presentation on the administration of anti-social behaviour orders.

Partnership members questioned Sergeant Ferry on her presentation before the Chairman opened the floor for questions from members of the public in attendance.

*Cllr McGarvey inquired if any Anti-Social Behaviour Orders had been served in the district.*

District Commander Johnston said no, but some cases were being looked at.

*Mr McGuckin inquired if Anti-Social Behaviour Orders were transferable from district to district.*

Sergeant Ferry replied that this was only the case if the location in question was specifically referred to in the Order.

*Cllr Baker inquired if there was an age limit on those who could be served with an ASBO.*

Sergeant Ferry replied that one could only be served on an individual ten years and above.

## 8. Details of Next Meeting

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 20 October 2005
<b>Time:</b>	7pm
<b>Location:</b>	Drum Manor Electoral Area

### Appendix List

- Appendix 1 Minutes of DPP Meeting in Business Session – Monday 27 June 2005
- Appendix 2 District Commanders Report
- Appendix 3 Policy on the Submission & Answering of Questions at meetings in Public

## Appendix 1

### Minutes of Meeting – 27 June 2005

## COOKSTOWN DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of proceedings of **COOKSTOWN DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP** in business session held in Cookstown District Council offices on Monday 27 June 2005 at 5.30pm.

**Chairman** Cllr J McGarvey, Chairman

**Present** Baker, Baxter, Cassidy, Doyle, Eastwood, Glasgow MBE, Marshall, McGlone, McCrea, Pickering, Quinn, Wilson

**Other Representatives** **Cookstown District Council**  
DPP Manager  
Chief Inspector, Brian Williamson

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Laughlin, Clerk/Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services.

### 2. POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

- a. Chief Inspector Williamson referred to the funding available under the new Policing with the Community Fund and highlighted areas that this funding could be used for:-

Community Safety Notice Board  
Signage for accident 'hot spot areas'  
Message Boards  
Elderly – panic alarms, memory aids  
Sponsoring cross community sports events  
Shared mobile station/ facility for use throughout the district  
Lighting of vulnerable areas

- b. The Chairman informed Mr Williamson of correspondence received from residents of Fortview Terrace concerning the proliferation of learner drivers in the area.

Chief Inspector Williamson said the District Command Unit had been monitoring the situation and requested the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency office in Cookstown to inform driving

instructors to minimise their use of Fortview Terrace and surrounding area as a place in which to teach learner drivers.

Chief Inspector Williamson said whilst this would ease the concerns of residents in the area in question the problem may be displaced to elsewhere in Cookstown.

### 3. **MINUTES OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP MEETING – 6 JUNE 2005**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2005, a copy of which had been previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of Councillor McCrea and seconded by Councillor Baker.

### 4. **MATTERS ARISING**

#### a. **Item 3.2 – Seat Belt in Rear of Cars**

The District Policing Partnership Manager advised the meeting that it had been agreed, through the chairman, to sponsor the Police Service of Northern Ireland seat belt 'Belt Up' campaign which will coincide with the commencement of the new school term in September. It was agreed to support the initiative to the value of £500. The overall cost of the initiative would be £1,500.

#### **Item 15 CPLC – Funding of PO Box Service**

The District Policing Partnership Manager advised the meeting that he had raised the matter with the Northern Ireland Policing Board and discussed it with the Director of Corporate Services. As a result the final recommendation would be to decline the request for funding as advice received indicated that it was not within the Partnership's remit. This recommendation was AGREED.

It was AGREED that the District Policing Partnership Manager write to the Policing Board regarding this matter.

### 5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Members NOTED receipt of the Northern Ireland Policing Board Review for the period 2004/05.
- b. Members NOTED receipt of the Northern Ireland Policing Board press release on the publication of the office of the Oversight Commissioner's Report No 13.

### 6. **ANNUAL REPORT**

The District Policing Partnership Manager distributed the Cookstown District Policing Partnership's draft annual report for the period 2004/05 incorporating the plan for gaining co-operation of the public

to prevent crime.

The District Policing Partnership Manager highlighted various areas of the report and it was agreed that comments on its content should be forwarded to the Manager by Monday 4 July 2005, at which point a final version would be sent to the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

## **7. ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS AT TRAINING**

The District Policing Partnership Manager advised members that no written reports had been received in advance of the meeting.

It was AGREED that where a number of members attended the same training event one written report could be produced. It was further AGREED not to take any verbal reports from those members who had attended recent training events but to await written reports which should be forwarded to the District Policing Partnership Manager for circulation at the next meeting.

## **8. ELEVENTH MEETING IN PUBLIC**

Members NOTED that the Eleventh Meeting in Public would take place on the 18 August 2005. Members requested the District Policing Partnership to investigate the possibility of using Ballyronan Marina Centre as the venue for the meeting.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **a. Pellet Guns**

It was AGREED that the District Policing Partnership Manager would contact the police regarding the use of pellet guns to ascertain what action can be taken should they be used to harm or injure a member of the public.

### **b. Box Junctions**

Members AGREED that the District Policing Partnership Manager write to Roads Service seeking that they investigate the possibility of placing a box junction at the junction of Burn Road and Orritor Street.

### **c. Closure of Police Stations**

The District Policing Partnership Manager informed members that the Northern Ireland Policing Board was putting protocols in place whereby District Commanders must officially advise District Policing Partnerships of their intention to review police facilities/ stations and agree the methods of consultation to be used in the process.

It was AGREED that the District Policing Partnership explore the possibility of focusing on this issue at a future meeting.

The meeting concluded at 6.03 pm

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Chairman

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DPP Manager/ Secretary

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Date

**Appendix 2**

**District Commanders Report**

**(attached as a separate Powerpoint file when this report is sent by an e-mail)**

**Appendix 3**

**Policy on the Submission & Answering of Questions at Meetings in Public**



**Policy on  
Submission & Answering of  
Questions at Meetings in Public Session**

**Adopted May 2003**

**Amended & Adopted 24 May 2004**

**Cookstown District Policing Partnership  
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3. Cookstown DPP & Cookstown District Command Unit
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6. Questioning of the District Commander by DPP Members

The purpose of this paper is to act as a guide on the areas surrounding the submission of questions by members of the public to be answered by the District Commander of Cookstown at meetings in public meetings of the District Policing Partnership.

This paper will be used by the DPP Manager, Members of Cookstown DPP, the District Commander and forwarded to members of the public on request. A digest on the submission of questions has been included on the form which can be used by the public when submitting a question to be answered.

### 1. Context

- 1.1 Paragraphs 4.2, 4.7, 4.13, 4.14 and 4.15 of the District Policing Partnerships Code of Practice on the Functions & Responsibilities set the context for the submission of questions to the DPP by the public to be considered for a response at a meeting in public by the District Commander.
- 1.2 **Paragraph 4.2** states “The DPP should also ask the police questions that may have been forwarded to them by members of the public”.
- 1.3 **Paragraph 4.7** states, “At least eight working days before the meeting of the DPP the police District Commander should be informed of any issues which have been raised in written questions where the police would be expected to provide an answer”.
- 1.4 **Paragraph 4.13** states “a written question will be accepted from any person living or working in the district or any person directly affected by the policing of the district. If a person wishes to have their question acknowledged, they need to include their name and address”.
- 1.5 **Paragraph 4.14** states “Any member of the public may choose to ask a member of the DPP to raise an issue or ask a question on their behalf. If the member of the DPP considers that the information being sought falls within the categories listed in 4.15, they should seek guidance from the Chairman of the DPP” (see Appendix 1).
- 1.6 **Paragraph 4.15** details the instances in which an answer may not be provided to a question submitted by the public or asked of the District Commander from a Member of the DPP (see appendix
- 1.7 It is therefore in this context which the following procedures have been developed by Cookstown District Policing Partnership for dealing with the submission and answering of questions at meetings in public.

## **2. Submission of Questions**

2.1 On consulting the District Policing Partnership Code of Practice and Standing Orders the following paragraphs have been adopted.

2.2 Any one who resides or works in Cookstown District, or any person directly affected by the policing of the district may submit a question to the DPP Manager to be considered at the nearest available public meeting.

2.3 Question(s) should be submitted in writing to the DPP Manager 10 calendar days before the public meeting is due to take place. There is a text phone facility available through Cookstown District Council for those who may have difficulty in submitting a question in writing (Tel: 028 8676 5827). Should the question(s) arrive with the DPP Manager outside the 10 calendar day deadline, its inclusion at the public meeting will be at the discretion of the DPP and the District Commander. See paragraph 3.2.

2.4 If a question(s) arrives outside the deadline and it is not considered for inclusion at the meeting in public it will automatically be included on the list of questions for answering by the District Commander at the next available public meeting. In this instance the questioner(s) will be notified in writing stating this. In this case the questioner(s) will have the option of withdrawing the question at any time, and seek another avenue for receiving an answer to the question, see paragraph 6.1.

2.5 For a question to receive a written response to a question submitted for oral answer at a meeting in public the questioner(s) must supply the DPP Manager with his/ her name and address to which an answer may be forwarded. A written response will be forwarded within 5 working days of the meeting taking place.

2.6 If a question is on the list of questions to be answered by the District Commander at a meeting in public and time runs out for it to receive an oral answer the questioner will automatically receive a written response within 5 working days of the meeting taking place. This is subject to paragraph 2.5 above.

2.7 A person may only submit two questions at any one public meeting, unless otherwise determined by the DPP.

2.8 On the submission of a question(s) from a member of the public only the question(s) will be forwarded to the District Commander for his consideration at the meeting in public. At no time will questions be attributed to a member of the public, unless stated otherwise.

## **3. Cookstown DPP & Cookstown District Command Unit**

3.1 The DPP Manager will forward all questions received by the deadline to the District Commander no later than eight working days before the public meeting is due to take place.

3.2 In the event of a question(s) being received by the DPP outside the deadline for submission, the DPP Manager with authority from DPP Chairman/ or Vice-Chairman will liaise with the District Commander on the possibility of its inclusion in the batch of questions being considered for oral

answer. If the question(s) are unable to be included then they will be dealt with in the manner set out in Paragraph 2.4.

3.3 In order to obtain the running order of questions being addressed at any meeting in public the DPP Manager shall obtain, when possible, a copy of the same from the District Commander in which questions will be dealt, 24 hours before the meeting is due to take place. In obtaining a copy of the questions being addressed and their running order, copies will be made for Members of the DPP and the attending public so they may follow the District Commander when answering the questions.

## **4. Answering of Questions**

4.1 There may be circumstances in which the District Commander may decline to answer a question(s) forwarded by the DPP Manager. Circumstances in which this may occur are when the question(s) may fall under one of the categories in paragraph 4.15 of the District Policing Partnerships Code of Practice. If this is the case the District Commander should inform the DPP Manager, who will subsequently inform the questioner(s), if personal contact details were forwarded. In this instance the DPP Manager will encourage the questioner(s) to rephrase the question and resubmit it for answer at a future meeting in public. The DPP Manager will also inform the questioner(s) of the procedure for asking a question at a public meeting (see paragraph 5.1).

4.2 If the questioner(s) rephrases and resubmits the question(s) it will be added to the list of questions to be considered for answer at the next available meeting in public.

4.3 On reaching the agenda item for the answering of questions submitted by the public the Chairman will request the District Commander to work through the list of questions which has been supplied to the DPP Manager in advance of the meeting taking place (see paragraph 3.3).

4.4 There may be instances in which the District Commander may wish to only provide a written response to a question submitted through the DPP. In this instance the question will still be on the list of questions submitted prior to the meeting taking place. But on reaching this question on the list the District Commander will note the fact that a written answer will be forwarded to the questioner through the DPP Manager, and briefly state why it is not being dealt with orally.

## **5. Questions submitted beginning & during a meeting**

5.1 Members of the public attending the meeting may ask a question of the District Commander by forwarding it to the DPP Manager or other nominated person, complete with a name and address.

5.2 A member of the public may also be allowed to ask the District Commander an oral question on the policing of the district at the discretion of the Chairman. In this instance, questions should be asked through the Chairman and be relevant to the policing of the district.

5.3 Questions at 5.1 and 5.2 will be dealt with when DPP Members questions, and those previously submitted by the public have been received.

5.4 At the meeting the District Commander may not have all the information to answer a question described at 5.1 and 5.2 on the night of the meeting. In this instance a written response will be

forwarded to the questioner within 10 working days of the meeting takes place, subject to a name and address being supplied.

5.5 Also see Section 16 of Cookstown District Policing Partnership Standing Orders.

## **6. Questioning of the District Commander by DPP Members**

6.1 As set out in 4.14 in the District Policing Partnerships Code of Practice members of the public may approach a DPP Member to ask a question on their behalf. Once the District Commander has answered the questions on the list (see paragraph 4.3) the Chairman will then move to taking questions from Members of the DPP.

6.2 The Chairman may rule on such questions if they fall within the categories outlined in 4.15 of the District Policing Partnerships Code of Practice (**see appendix 1**)

## **Appendix 1**

Section 4.15 states that there may be circumstances in which information cannot be provided to a question. This may occur if:

1. it is in the interests of national security
2. it would endanger the security of one or more individuals
3. it relates to an individual and is of a sensitive personal nature
4. it involves information that the police are holding in confidence from another agency
5. it would, or would be likely to, prejudice proceedings which have been commenced in a court of law
6. it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders

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