

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
CONFERENCE ROOM, ESTUARY HOUSE, GARDA STATION, HENRY STREET,
LIMERICK ON FRIDAY, 8TH DECEMBER, 2017 AT 10.00 A.M.**

IN THE CHAIR :	Councillor Seán Lynch
MEMBERS :	Councillors Keller, Costelloe, Ó Ceallaigh, Gilligan and Mitchell
LCCC OFFICIALS :	Mr. C. O'Connor, Senior Exec. Officer, Corporate Services Mr. M. Bilauca, Head of Digital Strategy Ms. L. Creamer, Staff Officer, Corporate Services
GARDA NOMINATIONS :	Chief Superintendent, Mr. D. Sheahan, Superintendent D. Smart, Inspector P. Byrnes
OIREACTHAS MEMBERS :	Ms. J. O'Sullivan, T.D., Mr. Niall Collins, T.D., Mr. M. Quinlivan, T.D., Senator Kieran O'Donnell and Senator Maria Byrne
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES	Mr. Tommy O'Dwyer, Anglesboro Tidy Towns Mr. William Priestley, Our Lady of Lourdes Community Services,
OTHER :	Mr. T. Willoughby, Head of Innovation and Digital Services Garda Headquarters
APOLOGIES :	Mr. C. Murray, Chief Superintendent, Councillors S. Keary and M. Sheahan and Ms. M. McElvaney, Adapt Services

Prior to the business proper of the Meeting, Chairman, Councillor Lynch welcomed the two new members onto the Committee namely Councillors Costelloe and Gilligan.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Joint Policing Committee Meeting held on 15th September, 2017

Circulated copy of Minutes of Joint Policing Committee Meeting held on 15th September, 2017 (copy attached).

On the proposal of Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Deputy Collins, the Minutes of Joint Policing Committee Meeting held on 15th September, 2017, were confirmed.

It was agreed to take Item 6 (d) at this stage.

6 (d) To receive update from Chief Superintendent on the launch of the Active Mobility Pilot in Limerick Garda Division.

The Chief Superintendent stated that the Active Mobility Pilot Project was launched the previous evening, 9th December and he introduced Mr. Tim Willoughby, Head of Innovation and Digital Services, Garda Headquarters, who worked extensively on the project. A lot of research was done with other police forces and the device now launched was the latest technology available. It was proposed to do a 6 month pilot and fifty members of An Garda Síochána in Limerick have volunteered to use the device on a rostered basis.

Mr. Willoughby then gave presentation on the Active Mobility Pilot in Limerick Garda Division.

The Active Mobility Programme will deliver a mobile device, called the Mobile Data Station, into the hands of front line Gardai. Fifty devices are presently being operated by gardai in Limerick. The idea of this mobile data station is that gardai can spend more time out on the beat instead of sitting at their desks doing paper work. These mobile devices provided the same access as if the Garda was sitting in the station and has all the security, connectivity and information systems that members need to do their work. It is hoped to develop this device further on for checking tax, insurance, NCT of vehicles at the roadside. An app is also being looked at to put data stream back to the local authority eliminating more paperwork. New legislation is required from a data protection point of view to incorporate cameras into the devices.

In reply to Members queries the Chief Superintendent stated that this new mobile device is traffic orientated at present and can not be used for dealing with anti social behaviour. However, this new app should have a serious impact for rural Ireland especially down the line. The new Active Mobility Programme will spare one garda per year and will cut out a lot of paperwork.

The Chief Superintendent informed Members of an additional new mobility project which will include a mobility car which is piloted in Limerick. This new mobility car has many extra features including amplification of wifi signals. This will be extremely valuable in areas where wifi signals are very poor, however, he pointed out that this amplification will only work in areas where there is some kind of a signal. One of these cars will be in Newcastle West and another in Roxboro.

The Members commended the Chief Superintendent and staff for introducing this new device in Limerick and wished them well for the future.

6 (a) To receive update on Crime Statistics from Chief Superintendent

The Chief Superintendent gave a presentation on latest crime statistics for Limerick City and County.

Mr. Niall Collins, T.D. asked that the opening hours of Abbeyfeale Garda Station be reviewed. The Chief Superintendent stated that he was doing a risk assessment of public areas. Once all matters were resolved he hoped to open the front desks in Abbeyfeale, Askeaton, Kilmallock and Rathkeale from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. daily. It is hoped that works will be completed in the New Year.

Members commended the Chief Superintendent and team for bringing to justice the criminals involved in the Cappamore and Dromkeen incidents. They commended Operation Thor and expressed hope that this programme on tackling serious crime will continue.

In reply to Members, the Chief Superintendent stated that five new Gardai were coming to Limerick and will be divided between Henry Street and Roxboro stations. These Gardai will be on front line duties initially, however, pointed out that it takes two years to complete the entire training programme. He added that the new court house in Mulgrave Street will put extra strain on an already stretched garda force as extra resources will have to be put into the courts in Mulgrave Street and Merchant's Quay.

Members referred to the need for extra Gardai in the Bruff area.

Members wished Tom O'Connor, retired Superintendent well on his retirement adding that he had given great service on policing to the city and county.

6 (b) Update from Chief Superintendent on Garda Reserves

The Chief Superintendent updated Members on the Garda Reserves in Limerick.

6 (c) Custody Suite at Henry Street Garda Station

The Chief Superintendent gave a guided tour of the new Custody Suite at Henry Street Garda Station.

Members congratulated the Chief Superintendent and all concerned on the quality of this new Suite.

2. Appointment of two Members to the Joint Policing Committee due to resignation of Councillors Ciara McMahon and Joe Leddin from the JPC

Members noted the appointment of Councillors John Costelloe and John Gilligan to the Joint Policing Committee due to resignation of Councillors Ciara McMahon and Joe Leddin.

3. To consider the establishment of Working Groups as follows :

(a) Working Group – Strategic Theme 1

(b) Working Group – Strategic Theme 2

(c) Working Group – Strategic Theme 3

(d) Working Group – Strategic Theme 4

Members who had an interest in taking part in one of the above Working Groups to submit their names and Group which they are interested in to Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, within the next two weeks.

4. Establishment of Geographic Sub Committees

The Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, stated that this item will be listed as an item at next Metropolitan District Meeting.

5. Set Schedule of dates for JPC Meetings in 2018

The following dates were agreed for JPC Meetings in 2018, all to commence at 10.00 a.m. :

Friday, 23rd March, 2018

Friday, 29th June, 2018

Friday, 21st September, 2018

Friday, 14th December, 2018

The Senior Executive Officer stated that Ms. Josephine Fehily, Chairperson, The Policing Authority, had indicated that she wanted to attend one of these JPC Meetings so the above dates will be forwarded to her asap.

7. CCTV Update by Mr. Mihai Bilauca

Update on installation of CCTV in a number of areas given by Mr. Bilauca. This was welcomed by the Members.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Hogan and referred from Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 18th September, 2017

"I will move at the next Metropolitan Area Meeting that a Driver Feedback Sign be erected at the Ballinacurra side of the Dooradoyle Flyover to slow traffic in Ballinacurra which is currently speeding on the road".

The improvements on the Ballinacurra Road were completed a number of years ago. The project was funded entirely by the National Transport Authority and could only be delivered where there was a gain for public transport in accordance with Government Policy. As with any major transport project the Council continues to monitor the effectiveness of the scheme. Based on the observations of the Council the scheme has delivered on its primary objectives, which was the improvement of public transport.

As part of the delivery of the project there was considerable public engagement with residents at an individual and collective level. The outcome of this engagement led to amendments in the delivery of the scheme to accommodate the needs of the households on the Ballinacurra Road. One of the key requirements was facilitating ease of access to off street parking.

The scheme was designed in accordance with national guidelines with a view to limiting speeds. In response to submissions received from the residents a 'driver feedback sign' was installed on the Ballinacurra Road recently. This sign advises motorists of their speed and these signs had been proven effective in terms of speed control.

However, enforcement of speed control is a matter for An Garda Síochána and it was requested at the Council Meeting that this matter be brought to the attention of An Garda Síochána at the Joint Policing Committee with a request for an increased presence in relation to speed enforcement on the Ballinacurra Road.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Gavin (deferred from JPC Meetings held on 23rd June and 15th September, 2017)

"I will move at the next Meeting that this Council calls on the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Transport to look for a full review of the Go Safe Vans in Limerick".

The Chief Superintendent gave a short outline in relation to the procedures followed in relation to the deployment of Go Safe Vans in the various locations.

10. Question submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

"What is the legislation on the use of/flying of drones"

The Chief Superintendent gave a short overview in relation to the issues arising in relation to the use of/flying of drones particularly in relation to the areas adjacent to Shannon Airport and the fly paths and also in relation to privacy laws etc.

Concerns were expressed by the Members in relation to the use of drones by some criminal elements in rural areas pointed out that this was an area which required further legislation to police adequately.

11. Reply from Office of Commissioner regarding allocation of Probationer Gardai to Limerick.

Circulated response from An Garda Síochána in response to request regarding the allocation of Probationer Gardai to Limerick.

It was noted that five Probationer Gardai were allocated to Limerick from the recent attestation and this was welcomed by the Members. However, Members referred to the urgent need for additional Garda resources to be put in place at an early stage.

12. View new Custody Suite at Henry Street Garda Station

See Item No. 6 (c)

THE MEETING THEN CONCLUDED

**COUNCILLOR SEAN LYNCH
CHAIRMAN**

