

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Private Meeting of the Policing Committee of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Policing and Community Safety Partnership held in the Council Chamber and via Zoom on Tuesday 18 August 2026 at 6.31 pm

**PRESENT IN
COUNCIL
CHAMBER:**

Ms G McDonald (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P Catney
Councillor C Kemp
Councillor A Martin
Councillor M McKeever
Councillor T Mitchell
Mr N Anderson
Mr D Cairns
Mr B Corr
Mr G McClory

**PRESENT IN A
REMOTE LOCATION:**

Councillors J Lavery BEM and S Lowry

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

PCSP Officer (JB)
PCSP Support Officers (AB and KC)
Member Services Officers (EW and HB)

Designated Organisations

Chief Inspector M Rocks, PSNI
Inspector D Burke, PSNI
Inspector B Moore, PSNI

Commencement of the Meeting

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor D Lynch, the vice-chair, Ms G McDonald, opened the private meeting of the PCSP Policing Committee and welcomed all attendees. The vice-chair advised the Partnership that Mr G McClory had been elected as vice-chair taking effect from 1st September 2026 until the end of August 2027. She welcomed Chief Inspector M Rocks, Inspector D Burke and Inspector B Moore, who were present to deliver the quarterly policing report.

1. Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of the Chair, Councillor D Lynch, Councillor A Givan, Mrs Y Craig (Ind Member), Mrs A Playford (Ind Member), Mr G Walker (Ind Member) and Ms J Clarke, DOJ.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. 3-Month Report on Policing in the Lisburn and Castlereagh District

Councillor C Kemp and Mr B Corr joined the meeting during this item of business (6.36 pm and 6.42 pm respectively).

The report covered the period from 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026. The report addressed three key outcome areas: (1) Victim-Focused Policing, (2) Safe and Engaged Communities with Confidence in Policing, and (3) A Representative, Valued, and Enabled Workforce.

Chief Inspector M Rocks delivered a verbal presentation of the report, which had been circulated to attendees.

4. Question and Answer Session

In response to a query from G McDonald regarding the PSNI Connect service, Chief Inspector M Rocks advised that PSNI Connect was not a crime reporting service, but was a confidential way of highlighting concerns that wouldn't meet the threshold of reported crime.

Mr N Anderson referred to an horrific crime in north Belfast and commented that it was good to see that in Lisburn peaceful protests were held on the back of the crime, and asked if the force were more generally asking why this didn't happen in Lisburn but in other locations. In response the Chief Inspector advised that there had been sporadic disorder over the last few years, but in comparison to other areas, Lisburn has had lower levels of disorder and more isolated incidents.

Councillor M McKeever commented on the level of public confidence in policing and said he was impressed with the response times, although the response to questions on how people perceive the service they are receiving was disappointing, and although only 20% responded to the survey, he asked if that was the norm. The Chief Inspector advised that each response was reviewed individually. She stated that victims of domestic or sexual violence or hate crime were not surveyed and that meant a key demographic of at-risk victims was missing.

In response to a question from Councillor M McKeever regarding how the Partnership could help, the Chief Inspector advised that support to encourage people to report crime by the proper means, and the use of the victim portal would be beneficial.

Councillor T Mitchell referred to a recent road traffic incident in Kildare, and commented that he found it concerning that the Guards had reported this was a trend spreading across Europe, where young people were deliberately driving cars the wrong way down motorways and recording it on social media. He asked had there been any incidents of this nature on this side of the border, and

4. Question and Answer Session (Cont'd)

if so, what the protocol would be for reporting. Chief Inspector M Rocks advised that the roads policing unit police the motorways and uniform police district officers' police the 'A' and general roads, and there is a robust pursuit policy in relation to that. There is an incident control commander, and they oversee any potential police pursuit 24/7, and also firearms incidents, which is immediately taken under their control. Inspector D Burke advised that it is not a trend seen here and hopefully never would be, and there were highly trained officers on shift 24/7 to deal with such incidents.

In response to comments from Mr D Cairns regarding e-scooters, Chief Inspector M Rocks advised that there were no tactics in place to safely stop e-scooters. She also advised that a service-wide policy was introduced that if an e-scooter was seized in a public place a letter would be issued to the owner and they would have 14 days in which to appeal.

Inspector D Burke advised that the Neighbourhood teams have drilled down and focused on education, and have bolted on e-scooter talks in schools where the police carry out educational visits. A number of schools and youth centres have banned the use of e-scooters. If a youth has been stopped on an e-scooter more than once, and their parents have been informed, the police can report this to Social Services.

Councillor A Martin commented on the PSNI Connect launch at the Haslem Hotel and said it had been a great event. He also wished to praise Inspector Ryan Moore for his supervision of the protest march in Lisburn in early June which was well policed. Councillor Martin commented that it was good news about four new officers appointed to the Neighbourhood Teams and asked if there were still officers needed for those teams. Chief Inspector M Rocks responded that no, there wasn't, but that there were vacancies in the district support team.

In response to a question from Mr B Corr regarding the Justice Bill being amended to give the police power to confiscate e-scooters, Chief Inspector M Rocks advised that if the legislation was passed it would be very welcome and advantageous to the police.

In response to a comment from Councillor P Catney around reassurance that everything was being done to protect the young police officers who are out on duty to protect the public, Chief Inspector M Rocks advised that safety of officers was a priority, and this was strengthened by the ongoing recruitment exercise.

It was agreed that the 3-month report for the district, which covered the period 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026 be noted.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 EVAWG Funding
PCSP Officer

The PCSP Officer advised the Partnership that the next round of EVAWG Funding would be launched on Monday 24th August 2026 with the closing date for applications being Friday 18th September 2026. He also advised that there were two elements of funding, Momentum Funding up to £4,000 and Change Funding Tier 1 up to £5,000, Tier 2 up to £15,00 and Tier 3 up to £25,000.

The vice-chair, Ms G McDonald encouraged the Partnership to promote this funding opportunity where possible.

5.2 SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices
Councillor T Mitchell

In response to a query from Councillor T Mitchell regarding SIDs, the PCSP Officer advised that the Road Safety Sub Group had met on 22nd January 2026 and that the work recommended at that meeting had been completed. He also advised that applications had been received for new sites for SIDs, and that these would be considered in early 2027.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.25 pm.

Vice-Chair