



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE OPERATION OF THE

WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE (JPC)

FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2019



Introduction

This document constitutes the Annual Report of the Waterford City & County Joint Policing Committee (JPC) for the year ended 31st December 2019

The report has been prepared in the context of the Joint Policing Committee Amended Guidelines 2014 jointly issued by the Minister for Justice and Equality and the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government and in specific accordance with Section 36(5) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

Background

Legislation: Section 36 (1) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 provides for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area.

Functions of a JPC

The functions of JPCs set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act, state the following:

“The Joint Policing Committee's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area, and in particular to –

(a) keep under review -

(i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and

(ii) the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area,

(b) advise the local authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area,

(c) arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area,

(d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and

Section 37(1) also provides:

“A local authority shall, in performing its functions, have regard to the importance of taking steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within its area of responsibility.”

JPC Membership

On 31st December 2019, The Waterford City & County JPC comprising of 32 members drawn from the Waterford City and County administrative areas as follows:

Name	Organisation/ Sector
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Declan Clune, <i>Chair</i>	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Donal Barry	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Ger Barron	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. James Tobin	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Jody Power	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. John Hearne	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. John O' Leary	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Lola O' Sullivan	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Marc O' Cathasaigh	Waterford City & County Council
Cllr. Seamus Ryan, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Waterford City & County Council
Mr. Michael J. Walsh	Public Partnership Network Representative
Ms. Rosemary Kennedy	Public Partnership Network Representative
Ms. Breda Halligan	Public Partnership Network Representative
Mr. Criostoir O Faolain	Public Partnership Network Representative
Mr. Jay Collins	Public Partnership Network Representative
Mr. Donal Murphy	Public Partnership Network Representative
Mr. Abdul Ganiyu	Public Partnership Network Representative
Chief Superintendent Padraig Dunne	An Garda Síochána
Superintendent Chris Delaney	An Garda Síochána
Mr. Michael Walsh, CEO	Waterford City & County Council
Mr. Ivan Grimes	Waterford City & County Council
Mary Butler TD	Oireachtas Member
David Cullinane TD	Oireachtas Member
John Deasy TD	Oireachtas Member
John Halligan TD	Oireachtas Member
Senator Paudie Coffey	Oireachtas Member
To be filled	Oireachtas Member

Senator Grace O'Sullivan became a MEP in July 2019 and her seat was not filled by end of 2019.



New JPC Committee September 2019

Progress / Achievements in 2019

- Only 3 No. JPC statutory meetings were held in 2019 due to local elections being held in May:
 - 11th March 2019;
 - 2nd September 2019;
 - 25th November 2019; Public meeting
- Address by Assistant Commissioner Finn at November public meeting in relation to proposed changes to Garda divisions
- Feedback report received from Traveller Interagency Group
- Discussions and preparatory work done by JPC Working Group to identify and develop linkages with members of New Communities
- Implementation of various facets of the 2019 Annual Work Plan including JPC public awareness radio campaign, new Text Alert groups set up, Road Safety Workshops with simulator held to raise safety awareness, feedback reports sent to An Garda Síochána to assist in development of Policing Strategy following various JPC working groups discussions with groups



Cllr. Eddie Mulligan making presentation to Assistant Commissioner Finn at November Public Meeting

Monitoring of Levels and Patterns of Crime

An Garda Síochána provided detailed quarterly statistical reports to Waterford City & County JPC which kept under review, and responded as appropriate, to the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Waterford City and County (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs).

At each JPC meeting Waterford City & County Council Housing Officer provides members with a report on anti social behaviour in Council estates and actions taken to address same.



JPC Steering & Oversight Committee 2019

JPC Steering and Oversight Committee

Following the local elections in May, a new Steering and Oversight Committee was elected, which consists of four elected members, two PPN representatives, two members of An Garda Síochána and two Local Authority staff. This sub-group was tasked with preparing the Action Plan each year, overseeing the working groups, ensuring actions within Plan were completed by due dates and reporting back to the full JPC. The group held numerous meetings over the course of 2019.

Colette O'Brien

Staff Officer
Oifigeach Foirne
Waterford City & County Council
Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge

DATE: 18th February 2020