



**HUMBERSIDE**  
**POLICE AUTHORITY**

## **PRESS INFORMATION**

Ref: 106-N0  
Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2006

### **POLICE AUTHORITY DOES NOT VOLUNTEER FOR MERGER**

At its meeting today (April 7<sup>th</sup>), Humberside Police Authority voted not to volunteer for amalgamation with the other three police forces and authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

After the meeting Chairman Cllr Graham Stroud said: “The Home Secretary’s proposals for restructuring represent the biggest change to policing in thirty years and we feel that there needs to be proper consultation with the public and partners before it happens.

“In addition, had we volunteered, Parliament would not have had an opportunity to express its view and we think it important that this happens.

“In line with many other police authorities, even though there is an acceptance that the current structure may need to be reviewed in order to make it as efficient and effective as possible in the face of today’s policing challenges, we are concerned that if the process is rushed, then there is the potential for policing services to suffer.

“When we voted against a voluntary merger in December 2005 all the authorities in the region felt that they did not have the necessary assurances from the Home Office on a number of issues, primarily regarding set up costs and funding, governance, safeguarding local policing and council tax harmonisation. We were certainly concerned that there has not been enough time to consult on the detail of the proposals.

“We do not believe that the situation has changed significantly since then and therefore have decided to vote against a voluntary merger. It is impossible to make such an important decision without much of the information on which we were seeking clarity.

“We believe that any decision should be taken in the best interests of local policing for local people. To date we have not been provided with sufficient information and assurances to persuade us that volunteering at this stage would guarantee this.”

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“Members are totally committed to negotiating the best deal possible to support neighbourhood policing and officers across all the four forces in the region will continue to extend their working arrangements to cover level two policing requirements such as terrorism, cross border crime and roads policing.

“Whatever happens now, all the forces and authorities in the region will continue to work together to ensure that policing performance doesn’t suffer and our negotiations secure the best outcome for the people who live and work here.”

It is now expected that the Home Secretary will commence the statutory four-month period of consultation. Assuming that he decides to proceed after considering responses to this consultation he has indicated that he will lay the orders for a compulsory amalgamation before the end of the parliamentary session in Autumn. It is envisaged that the merger would then come into effect in April 2008 with the strategic authority being set up towards during 2007.

ENDS

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