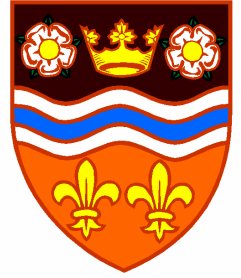


# PRESS INFORMATION

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**HUMBERSIDE**  
**POLICE AUTHORITY**

## Police Authority Welcomes Home Secretary Announcement

Humberside Police Authority has today welcomed the announcement from Home Secretary Jacqui Smith that the proposals to introduce Directly Elected Members to police authorities have been dropped from the Policing and Crime Bill.

Instead it is understood that former Home Secretary, David Blunkett, has been asked to undertake a review of Government policy with regard to local police accountability.

The proposals for Crime and Policing Representatives, who would stand for election to local police authorities, drew widespread consternation from many national bodies including the Local Government Association and the Association of Police Authorities. In the Humberside Police area all four local authorities were opposed to the concept, as were the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and the Local Strategic Partnerships, while local MPs Elliot Morley and Shona Mclsaac had already publicly voiced their concerns.

Alene Branton MBE, Chair of Humberside Police Authority, said: "The Authority had grave concerns at the concept of directly elected members, fearing that they would undermine the essential links to local authority partnerships and upset the balance between operational policing and wider accountability responsibility.

"We raised our concerns over the proposals in our response to the Green Paper earlier this year, alongside a great many others, and we are grateful that the Government has listened to these views.

"We firmly believe that the current composition of Police Authorities is balanced, totally unbiased and enables us to reflect the views of our local communities. We now look forward to developing our links with those communities to provide even greater local accountability.

"I am grateful to all those who supported our position on this issue, with whom we are already working closely to bring further improvements to policing across the Humberside Police area. We have proved that we can deliver serious performance improvements and now we are working hard to improve local levels of confidence in policing."

Humberside Police Authority has seventeen members, eight independent members of the public and nine locally elected councillors. Its primary responsibility is to ensure the provision of an efficient and effective police service for the Humberside Police area. It is independent of the Police Force, acting as the local 'watchdog' and critical friend. In recent years it has driven a significant programme of performance improvements for the benefit of local taxpayers.

- Ends -

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