



HUMBERSIDE POLICE AUTHORITY

PRESS INFORMATION

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The Public Voice on Policing

Alene Branton MBE, Chair of Humberside Police Authority, has announced her agenda for the coming year. Ms Branton was elected to serve a third term as Chair of the Authority in June this year and at the time she made clear her commitment to involve the community in Authority decisions.

Therefore, her top priority is to ensure that the Authority is clearly recognised as the organisation that represents local people on policing issues, believing that by demonstrating the 'you said, we did' principle more people will be willing to get involved. Operational policing is not the Authority's role, but it does set the strategic direction for the Force, having consulted with local people.

"Policing impacts on everyone's life in some way," said Ms Branton. "That's why I believe it is so important that our local communities influence the way in which police services are delivered and the prioritising of our resources. In this country we police by consent, and it is imperative that people feel we are working with them to address problems of crime and disorder.

"In the coming year I want the Authority to re-double its efforts to really find out what matters most to people so that we can act appropriately. I'm determined that all elements of the community will have a voice in deciding how they are policed.

"As an Authority we have shown our mettle over the years. We have driven the call handling improvement programme, and more recently we called for significant and rapid improvements to the time it takes to complete CRB checks. This is already being addressed and we will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that the improvements are sustained.

“These are just two examples of the Authority taking notice of the public’s concerns and acting to rectify the situation. Another area where the Authority has proactively and bravely shown its teeth is police performance. The Authority – the budget holder for the force – agreed to invest in performance and was rewarded with the significant uplift that has been witnessed over the last few years.

“Our role is to ensure that improvements happen and then scrutinise performance to check that they are being sustained. We want to make sure that the areas that we improve are those that will continue to make the most difference to the communities in the Humberside Police area.

“I want to see us take every opportunity to increase our involvement with the community. We will continue to monitor how well the Force is meeting the standards of the Policing Pledge and the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Policing Programme.

“However, we also need to ensure that our strategic decisions are driven by public opinion. Authority members have a very committed and able team in the Secretariat to support them in their work and an ambitious programme of engagement has been drawn up for the coming months, one that we hope will reach every community.

“A great deal has been achieved in the last two years and I look forward to the next year, at the end of which I will be able to say to people, ‘You said – We did’.”

- Ends -

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