



## HUMBERSIDE POLICE AUTHORITY

# PRESS INFORMATION

DATE: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010

### Money Matters For Police Authority

Faced with one of the most challenging financial scenarios ever seen by the public sector, Humberside Police Authority is firmly focussed on getting the maximum benefit from every penny in the police budget on behalf of local taxpayers.

In March 2009 the Authority asked the Chief Constable to balance the Force's budget by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. This means that £15m of permanent savings need to be made and a relentless drive for efficiency savings began across the Force. A structured review of every area of Force business is underway to identify where savings can be made. In the first year, the programme has delivered over £2M of cash savings.

To minimise fluctuations in performance, the Police Authority has asked for regular updates on the Force's progress. Members are watching carefully for any signs that recent improvements to performance may not be sustained.

Chair of the Police Authority, Alene Branton, MBE, said: "We feel that our decision to ask the Chief Constable to achieve a balanced budget by April 2014 will help secure the financial stability of the Force for the future.

"We acknowledge that this was a bold move, and a challenge that has been made more difficult in the current economic climate. However it is our job is to work on behalf of local people to make sure that the police service in Humberside Police area remains efficient and effective.

"We are keen to ensure that the quality of the service provided by the Force is maintained and continues to improve.

Future funding issues have also been highlighted by the recent budget setting process when, acknowledging that many people are struggling financially, members of the Authority agreed one of the lowest increases in the country for the amount of Council Tax paid for policing for 2010/11. The 2.5% increase works out at less than 8 pence a week for an average (Band D) household.

- Ends -

Media Enquiries: Sallie Blair, 01283 821012 / 07702 541401