



## HUMBERSIDE POLICE AUTHORITY

# PRESS INFORMATION

DATE: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
REF: 248-Business Crime

### Police Authority Drives Drop in Business Crime

Business crime in Humberside is down thanks to Humberside Police Authority's rigorous target and priority setting processes. Latest crime figures reveal that between April 2009-Feb2010\* commercial burglary dropped by 17% (equating to 292 less crimes) and shoplifting fell by 11.4% (764 less crimes), significantly bucking the national trend.

Consultation with local businesses in early 2009 raised concerns, echoed by the local media, that crime such as commercial burglary and shoplifting were becoming an increasing issue as the economic gloom set in. As a result the Authority placed business crime firmly on its priority list for 2009-10.

The Authority set some challenging targets too. Over the two years ending March 2011, it requires shoplifting to be reduced by 20% and commercial burglary by 18%. Not even half way through the period, huge progress has been achieved.

To accomplish this result, each division included business crime in their local policing plans, and outcomes were monitored on monthly basis by the Authority.

Alene Branton, MBE, Chair of the Police Authority, said it was important that policing priorities reflected the whole community, of which businesses are an important element. "Our consultation with local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce highlighted several issues that we felt could, and should, be addressed. Therefore, we agreed to set challenging targets for specific crimes and put a focus on business crime in our Strategic Policing Plan.

"I'm very pleased to see that this has led to some significant reductions in crime. People often think that there are no victims if a crime is committed against a business, but actually, we are all victims. Shoplifting leads to price increases and commercial burglary will see insurance premiums going up, which again, has to be passed on to the end customer.

"I'm also pleased that we have been able to build confidence with the business community, members of which have recently attended an event to inform them of the progress we have made."

Dr Ian Kelly, Chief Executive of Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce, said: "Crime against businesses causes prices to rise and in the worst cases can mean companies close and jobs are lost. It deserves to be taken seriously and we are pleased that good progress is being made in our area.

"We look forward to continuing to work closely with Humberside Police Authority to ensure that business crime is brought down and would encourage all businesses to report any crimes against them, no matter how small."

There will be no let up in the coming year. The Authority has agreed to continue its focus on business crime, and has included a new priority - 'work with the local business community to improve confidence and tackle their priorities' – in this year's Policing Plan. The aim of this will be an ongoing reduction in shoplifting, a focus on improving detections at commercial burglaries and an increase in confidence amongst local businesses.

- Ends -

Media Enquiries: Sallie Blair, 01283 821012 / 07702 541401

\*Compared to the same period the previous year.