



HUMBERSIDE POLICE AUTHORITY

PRESS INFORMATION

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New Members for Humberside Police Authority

Humberside Police Authority has announced the appointment of three new independent members.

Helena Spencer, David Smith and Neil Gammon have been selected following a rigorous recruitment process to serve for a four year term from 17 May 2010.

Hull-based Helena Spencer is the former Head of Democratic Services for Hull City Council. She said: "This is a new way to use my skills. I will be looking at things from the other side with the insight gained from years in a large public service organisation. I'm keen to see people's perceptions change, so that confidence will improve in the way police services are delivered. I think the Police Authority can really help do that and look forward to getting involved."

Former General Manager for BP Chemicals at Saltend, David Smith, first became interested and involved in policing through the Humberside Police Lifestyle project, sponsored by BP. Commenting on his appointment he said: "During my career I was responsible for managing change and delivering efficiencies. The same principles apply whether you are talking policing or corporate business. This role will enable me to put the experience gained over a lifetime to good use on behalf of the community thanks to the Police Authority's strategic role in policing."

Neil Gammon lives near Grimsby. After a 36 year career in the RAF which provided enormous experience in leadership and managerial positions, he felt membership of the Police Authority offered him the opportunity to use that knowledge and years of training to good effect.

"In the RAF I worked with a great many different people," he said. "Policing is all about people, so I felt I could make an effective contribution. Using my 'people skills' I would like to think that we can break down some of the barriers between police and different communities, to reassure residents that we, the Police Authority, listen to their views and thus enhance the way in which policing is delivered as a result."

Alene Branton MBE, Chair of the Police Authority, welcomed the new members saying: "Members of the Police Authority have the ability to shape the way in which policing is delivered locally, making sure that this meets the needs of different communities. I'm

sure that our new members will have a lot to contribute and if they only find it half as fulfilling as I have then they will be lucky.

“Independent members bring a wide range of skills to the Authority, which makes our decision making more informed. I am delighted that we have attracted people so well qualified for this role.”

The Police Authority has several key responsibilities including:

- appoint (and, if necessary, dismiss) chief constables and senior police officers
- consult with local communities to find out what they want the local police to do
- set the budget for their police force, and decide how much local people should pay for policing in the local council tax
- set the strategic direction for policing locally and decide what the police should focus attention on locally based on their consultations with local communities
- make sure the police force is continuing to do a better job

- Ends -

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