



**HUMBERSIDE**  
POLICE AUTHORITY

## HUMBERSIDE POLICE AUTHORITY NEEDS YOU!

4 Independent Police Authority Members (Allowance Payable £8,545)

We are seeking four independently-minded people to join us in our mission to secure outstanding policing for local people. This is a challenging and exciting role which involves holding senior officers of Humberside Police to account for the delivery of a police service that is responsive to the needs and expectations of local people yet is also capable of satisfying central Government priorities and targets. We work in partnership with local people, senior officers, local authorities, businesses and community and voluntary groups to ensure our policing area has an efficient and effective police service.

Humberside Police Authority wishes to reflect the composition of the area and welcomes applications from all eligible people. We want our independent membership to represent as diverse a range of people as possible. We are looking for people who:

- **Have a genuine interest in policing and community safety across the Humberside police area**
- **Are committed to improving the overall performance of the Force particularly with regards to the quality of service delivered via the 'Policing Pledge'**
- **Are capable of challenging senior officers to improve the robustness of local accountability mechanisms**
- **Welcome the chance of shaping the strategic direction of policing across Humberside and possess financial management and change management skills**
- **Can think strategically to help ensure greater efficiency without any reductions in productivity / performance**

So if you feel you satisfy the above requirements and can represent the interests of a wide range of people within the area, we would like to hear from you.

You will need to commit about 15 hours per week which will contain a mix of attending meetings of the Police Authority and its committees, keeping abreast of developments in local and national policing, attending public meetings and representing the Authority in discussions with interested parties. For this you will be paid an annual allowance of £8,545.

You must be over 18 and live or work in the Humberside police area and have done so for at least 12 months prior to appointment. All appointments will be for a maximum of 4 years.

For an application pack please contact Laura Hodgson (telephone 01482 317001 or email [member@humberside-pa.karoo.co.uk](mailto:member@humberside-pa.karoo.co.uk)) or alternatively download the information from our website at [www.humberside-pa.org.uk](http://www.humberside-pa.org.uk)

The closing date for the return of completed applications is 29 January 2010 and all appointments are subject to satisfactory security vetting.

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# Newsletter

Issue 01 January 2010



## Chair's Opening

I know that there are hundreds of newsletters, articles and publications circulated each week and many are put straight into the bin. Well for this one I hope you will pause and take a little time to read and get to know more about a group of people who are working hard to try and make your life safer.

I have spent most of my working life involved with the community, I am so proud and privileged to be the Chair of Humberside Police Authority. You may know very little of what a police authority does and possibly don't care, as all you want is to feel safe in your home, at work or when at leisure.

However, for the sake of a few minutes reading through this newsletter I hope it will reassure you that someone is looking after your interests and you know of our existence should you need us.

So what is a police authority all about? Well the law requires that for every police force, there must be a police authority. It is responsible for making sure local people get the best possible policing service. The Authority doesn't interfere with the operational side of policing but carefully examines how well the Force is doing, whether it is giving communities what they need and ensures the money it is given is used wisely.



All police authorities consist of seventeen members, some of whom are councillors and others are appointed on the basis of their experience of working in the public, private or community sectors.

The members make their judgements about whether the Force is performing well, through listening to and questioning the Chief Constable in public meetings, visiting staff at their place of work and scrutinising what service is actually being delivered to local people.

We consult with you, we listen to you and we act on what you tell us you expect from your local police. We challenge the Chief Constable to improve things when you tell us that the service is not good enough – and we get results!

**Alene Branton, MBE**

“Securing outstanding policing for local people”

[www.humberside-pa.org.uk](http://www.humberside-pa.org.uk)

Humberside Police employ about 2,100 police officers, over 2,000 police staff and over 300 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). The force is also supported by the Special Constabulary and Volunteers.

## You said.... We listened... and we acted

Some time ago you told us, very clearly, that trying to contact the police was difficult. Getting through to the police on the phone was very difficult. The Authority took this on board, made this the top priority for the new Chief Constable and approved the investment he needed to secure improvements.

Today, the call handling centre is not just meeting its targets, it is leaving them behind. In September 99.1% of 999 emergency calls were answered within three seconds (target is 10 seconds) and 95% of non-emergency call were answered within nine seconds (target is 30 seconds).

## Getting the Skates on...

Earlier this year, the Authority was made aware that the time it was taking the Force to complete Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks was unacceptable.

We again required the Force to rectify the situation as a matter of extreme urgency and asked for reports on progress at forthcoming meetings of the Authority.

By October, with 89% of checks were being completed within 10 days. There is still work to be done to speed up some of the longer-standing requests, but significant progress has been made.

## Action on Burglary

Members highlighted that burglary of people's homes on the south bank was a serious problem. Elsewhere burglaries were falling but not in North and North East Lincolnshire.

Members felt that the good work that had helped reduce the problem in Hull should be replicated in North and North East Lincolnshire. Again, the Chief Constable was tasked with reducing burglary on the South Bank.

The result speaks for itself: Between 1st April and 30th November 2009, the figures for burglary in North East Lincolnshire show a reduction of 415 burglaries compared to the same period in 2008 and in North Lincolnshire there have been 279 fewer over the same period.

## Money Matters

Like everyone at the moment, the Police Authority's purse is tightly stretched. Whilst there is some certainty over funding for 2010/11, full details have yet to be received. We know however that the amount of money that can be raised locally will continue to be limited by the Government. The prospects beyond next year are even more uncertain. The police, like all public services, are expecting cutbacks in the amount of money that is likely to be available. In view of this, in March 2009, the Chief Constable was asked to reduce the costs of policing over the next five years whilst minimising the impact on performance. He immediately started a wide-ranging review of the whole organisation, "the Choices Programme". The title reflects the fact that difficult decisions will need to be taken by the Force and the Authority in the years ahead if we are to live within our means. This process is now well under way and budget savings of £2m have been identified in this year. The Choices Programme is expected to deliver further savings of £13m in the next four years.

# Have your say!

As a police authority we have a duty to ensure that we obtain the views of the people in the area about matters concerning policing. With over 900,000 people living in the Humberside Police Force area, we achieve this in a number of ways.

One of the easiest ways you can make your views known is by attending one of the regular neighbourhood policing team meetings. These are held every month and you can find details of these meetings, and lots of other useful information about where you live, by going to [www.humberside.police.uk](http://www.humberside.police.uk) and clicking on 'my neighbourhood'.

We have recently recruited 6,000 people from the local area onto a Citizen's Panel and recruitment will be ongoing throughout the year. We will be surveying the panel every four months and aim to make sure we reach all ages, gender and races to ensure we get a good idea of what matters most to people like you. If you get a call please agree to join - we need your views; it won't cost a penny to take part and you can do it from the comfort of your own home.

Another way we find out what you want from your local police is by sending out questionnaires to every household in the area with the Council Tax information. This year we received nearly 1,000 back so, keep an eye out for them, and post one free back to us soon; we really want to hear from you!

Finally, throughout the year we also send out lots of information, such as our local policing summaries and these newsletters to keep you in touch with the work of Humberside Police Authority. If you would like to find out more, or let us know what you think through an e-mail, then visit our web site at [www.humberside-pa.org.uk](http://www.humberside-pa.org.uk). Alternatively why not give us a call on 01482 307235