



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Durham Police Authority Pays tribute to Councillor Jo Fergus MBE

Members and officers of Durham Police Authority and Durham Constabulary are today paying tribute to one of the Police Authority's longest serving members following the death of Conservative Member Mrs Jo Fergus MBE, aged 77 at the weekend.

Councillor Jo Fergus died peacefully at home in Gainford with her family at her side. Born a farmers daughter in Staffordshire, Jo relocated to Teesdale where she married and raised a family. She worked as a social researcher for 25 years before becoming senior manager of National Recruitment and Training.

Jo was elected to Durham County Council in 1981 and was a member of the old Police Committee before it became Durham Police Authority in 1994.

She had served on many local committees from Children's Sports through to Guide Dogs for the Blind and was awarded the MBE in 1988 for Public and Political Service.

Jo brought a lot of expertise to the Police Authority and was well respected as a senior member. Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority paid tribute to Jo, saying:

"After so many years on the Authority it is going to feel very strange not having Jo at our meetings. She has made a strong contribution and seen a lot of changes over the last decades to policing in this country and in particular here in Durham and Darlington. She will be a sad loss for the Police Authority and we will miss her dearly."

The Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary, Mr Jon Stoddart said

"Jo was a larger than life character who didn't suffer fools gladly. She represented the rural communities brilliantly and she gave considerable support to Durham Constabulary over more than 30 years public service. She will be sorely missed."

Notes to Editors

Durham Police Authority is an independent body responsible for ensuring Durham Constabulary delivers an efficient and effective police service. It is made up of 17 local people who include 9 councillors, 8 members of the public who are the independent members.

The Authority ensures that the Constabulary is accountable to the people of County Durham and Darlington and ensures that citizens have a say in how they are policed.

The Authority is responsible, amongst other matters, for setting the budget for the Constabulary and, following consultation with local communities, mapping out the strategic direction of policing. This includes agreeing policing priorities and setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher.

The Authority's vision

“To be the effective voice of our communities in securing delivery of the highest quality policing.”

Our mission

“Working in partnership to ensure fair, effective and visible policing”

The Authority aims to: -

- Exercise strong and effective leadership in partnership working
- Engage positively with our Citizens and Communities to build confidence in local policing.
- Promote equality, tolerance and respect for human rights.
- Scrutinise and challenge police performance & procedures to secure continuous improvement
- Ensure Effective use of resources

For further information or comment, please contact: Victoria Fielding, Policy and Communications Officer Durham Police Authority Tel. No: 0191 3835511

Email: durham.pa@durham.gov.uk

Website: www.durham-pa.gov.uk