



## Durham Police Authority

# PRESS RELEASE

### **Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair of Durham Police Authority**

Mr Peter Thompson was today (5<sup>th</sup> June, 2009) unanimously reappointed as Chair of Durham Police Authority at the Police Authority Annual Meeting. This will be his third term of office.

Mrs Elsie Davies, was re-elected as Deputy Chair of the Authority in another unanimous show of support.

Mr Peter Thompson said: "It is a tremendous privilege to serve in this position. Together with my colleagues on Durham Police Authority we will continue to be the effective voice of the communities of County Durham and Darlington to secure the delivery of the highest quality policing. I am very proud to be part of an organisation that ensures County Durham and Darlington remains one of the safest places to live, work and visit in the whole of the Country.

Mr Elsie Davies added: 'It is a great honour to be able to continue in the role of Deputy Chair for Durham Police Authority. I look forward to working with my fellow colleagues on the Authority and with the police and our partner organisations, to face the challenges that lie ahead. '

Mr Peter Thompson also took the opportunity to thank two outgoing members Councillor John Shiell and Councillor Joan Gray and paid tribute to Councillor Jo Fergus. Mr Peter Thompson welcomed three new members to Durham Police Authority, Councillor Edward Bell, Councillor Richard Bell and Councillor Len O'Donnell.

Councillor Edward Bell is a retired Police Officer for Durham Constabulary and retired in 1998 after 30 years in service. During his time at Durham Constabulary, he was responsible for introducing Asp baton and Quick cuffs and he was instrumental in developing officer protocols to deal with conflict management.

He has been a town and district councillor for 8 years and currently is a member of Durham County Council where he is the Chair of the Audit Committee and sits on both the Standards and licensing Committee.

Councillor Richard Bell works as a Technical Manager for the pharmaceutical industry. He is currently an Officer of the Conservative party for the Cleveland & Durham Area and is the Leader of the Conservative Group on Durham County Council and he is also the Regional Deputy Chairman for the Conservative party. He has previously served as a Member of Durham Police Authority for one year.

The third appointee is Councillor Len O'Donnell. Len has served as a Durham County Councillor for the past 17 years and was recently Chairman of the County Council. He served as a Member of the former Durham Police Committee and continued as a Member when the Committee became a Police Authority.

He is a retired Chairman of Durham and Darlington Fire Authority, and an observer on the Wingate/Hutton Henry/Station Town Partnership, The Castle Eden Village Hall Association, Wingate Community Centre and Peterlee Youth Club.

### **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

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