



CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

Thursday, 28th June 2007

Police Authority tributes on Chief Constable's retirement

All 17 members of Cumbria Police Authority, along with authority staff and the Constabulary command team, together paid tribute to their outgoing Chief Constable, Michael Baxter, at the oversight body's AGM on Wednesday, 27th June 2007; the Authority Chairman stating that he has been an excellent Chief Constable for the Constabulary and a great ambassador for Cumbria.

References by the Authority to just some of the major strategic issues in which he'd played such a pivotal role, working in partnership with them since 2001, were inevitable: embedding a successful model for Neighbourhood Policing in Cumbria long before many other forces or it became government policy; resisting the consequent threat of 'Capping' over the funding to pay for it in front of government ministers, as part of an Authority delegation which took them to a compromise 'score-draw'; turning the tragedy and damage of the 2005 Floods into an operational triumph for the Constabulary and an infrastructure investment opportunity for the Authority; not to mention the rollercoaster of the 2006 Amalgamations programme and what he's emplaced instead to deliver better Protective Services – in all these and many similarly-testing situations, Michael Baxter always stuck out for what his judgement told him was best for Cumbria Constabulary and the people who depend on the service it delivers.

Reg Watson, the Police Authority chair, said: "Performance is better than it has ever been. All the Constabulary's officers and police staff, not to mention the Police Authority, are rightly proud of everything that has been achieved in Cumbria through their joint efforts and under his wise stewardship. There is a lot to be proud about. On behalf of the Authority, I would like to thank Michael Baxter for the major part he has played in bringing that about. He'll be a hard act to follow as we move forward to build on that achievement".

(NB: Interviews for a successor will be conducted by the Police Authority's Personnel Committee on 5th and 6th July 2007, with an announcement expected at the start of the following week).

Editors' note:

Cumbria Police Authority is made up of local people - a mixture of councillors, magistrates and independent members - and acts as the bridge between Cumbria Constabulary and all communities across the county in policing matters. Legally, it owns all the buildings and land in the police property portfolio and is responsible for:

- *setting the budget for Cumbria Constabulary, including raising local council taxes for policing;*
- *consulting and engaging with local communities in Cumbria to find out what they want the local police to tackle;*

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- *setting the strategic direction for policing in Cumbria; deciding local priorities for policing and setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher*
- *appointing the Chief Constable; Deputy Chief Constable, and Assistant Chief Constables;*
- *monitoring and managing local police performance.*

NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS:

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