

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2008/09

BERNARD GREAVES

Everything I have done on the Police Authority has been motivated by a belief that an efficient and effective Police Force that enjoys the trust of the public it serves is an essential prerequisite for a civilised and harmonious society. The Authority plays an essential role in creating that trust and in holding the force to account on behalf of the public.

That has involved my taking an active part in Authority meetings in decisions involved in setting the Police Precept for the Council Tax, agreeing the Annual Policing Plan, setting the force's local objectives and scrutinising its performance against its national and local objectives and targets. I have sought to ensure there is a proper balance between its emphasis on visible neighbourhood policing and local partnership on the one hand, and the less visible but vital need to address serious organised crime on the other.

I have pursued those objectives in greater depth as a member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and taken part in financial training to increase my grasp of police funding and financial control.

As a member of the Consultation and Communications Committee I have contributed to the development of strategy and a programme of action in this area, including agreeing the structure and content of consultation questionnaires. I have taken part in consultation events and chaired them within the areas of the Hinckley Road and Syston Local Policing Units, for which I have been the lead member on behalf of the Authority.

With other members based in the city I have taken part in regular meetings with the Commander of the City Basic Command Unit. Arising out of that, I have observed the policing of a football match at the Walkers Stadium, and of the drinking culture of the city centre through a Friday night. I am satisfied, on behalf of the Authority, that these two challenging areas of policing are being carried out effectively.

I have attended meetings of my local Neighbourhood Watch on a regular basis and given a talk to them on the role of the Police Authority.

As a member of the Publications Panel I have contributed to overseeing the publication and distribution of the Annual Police Report, the Local Policing Summary leaflets and the leaflets setting out the Policing Pledge.

On the Diversity Panel I have had two priorities: seeking to resolve some of the difficult issues in relation to the Black Policing Association; and maintaining effective liaison and partnership working with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities in co-operation with the Gay Policing Association. I have also sought to provide effective scrutiny of the force's conduct of Stop and Search. I attended the Stephen Lawrence Conference on behalf of the Authority and took part in training for Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment.

I have been the Authority Champion in three policy areas: Property, Environment, and Health and Safety, in all of which I have taken a proactive role in ensuring that effective strategies and policies have been developed.

Bernard Greaves
30 April 2009.