

## **MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Police Authority appoints new Chief Constable**



**26 April 2010:** Leicestershire Police Authority today appointed Simon Cole as the new Chief Constable for Leicestershire. Mr Cole will take up his role in the summer, although no commencement date has yet been confirmed.

Mr Cole is currently Deputy Chief Constable of Hampshire Constabulary and will take up the position following the departure of Matt Baggott, who moved to become Chief Constable for Northern Ireland in September last year.

Mr Cole started his career with the West Midlands police in 1988 and continued his career there until he moved to Hampshire Constabulary on promotion to Assistant Chief Constable in 2003. As Assistant Chief Constable he took the lead on Safer Neighbourhoods and was involved in the Special Constabulary in Hampshire and for the South East Region of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). He has also been a staff member of the Strategic Command Course which helps train senior officers so that they may become Chief Officers of the future.

Mr Cole said "I am really excited at the prospect of leading Leicestershire Constabulary. There are many areas where it is performing strongly and my job will be to build on the good practice and make still further improvements for the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland."

Byron Rhodes, Chairman of Leicestershire Police Authority said: “We are delighted to have appointed Simon Cole, who comes to us with a wealth of experience and skills to enable him to lead the force through these challenging times.”

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors:**

Leicestershire Police Authority’s role is to ensure Leicestershire Constabulary provides efficient and effective policing in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Leicestershire Police Authority is made up of 17 members; eight independent members and nine councillors nominated by local authorities (four Conservatives, three Labour and two Liberal Democrats).

Police Authorities are independent bodies made up of local people. Police Authorities hold the Police Force to account on behalf of local communities. One of their duties is to appoint senior officers, such as the Chief Constable, to the Constabulary.

Local Police Authorities along with the Home Secretary and Chief Officers of Police make up the tripartite relationship which is responsible for the governance of policing in England and Wales.

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