



# PRESS INFORMATION

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## Retirement Looms for Senior Police Officers

The two most senior officers within Bedfordshire Police have announced that they will retire this year having reached pensionable age. Chief Constable, Gillian Parker, will step down in December and Deputy Chief Constable, Martin Stuart will put his uniform away in September.

Both officers will have served in the Police Force for 30 years.

Over the last few years Bedfordshire Police has delivered some significant improvements in performance and the Authority is keen to see this progress maintained on behalf of local residents.

Gillian Parker said, "Making the decision to retire in December has been an exceptionally hard thing to do especially as I am looking forward to the challenges of the rest of the year. Being the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire is a real privilege which I will cherish and I will continue to do my best for the force whilst I remain in post."

Martin Stuart added, "I am passionate about policing and public service and will, of course, miss both the people I have had the pleasure to work with and also the significant challenges of the role. As Gillian has said, it really has been a privilege to serve the public of Bedfordshire and to be just a small part of an excellent policing service'.

Peter Conniff, Chair of Bedfordshire Police Authority, said: "The Authority would like to place on record its appreciation of the contribution these two senior officers have made to Bedfordshire Police. However, it is a fact of life that people do indeed retire and it is now our job to find the right people to take over their responsibilities.

"We have considered the best way to ensure a smooth transition period and with this in mind will start our recruitment processes to find a new Chief Constable as soon as this is practicable.

"This is an exciting time for policing and there are some big challenges ahead, particularly for a small force, but performance improvements mean that our senior officers will be working in an efficient and effective police force. We need

to find someone who can build on this progress and who understands the needs and expectations of our diverse communities.

“However, to ensure that we retain a high level of corporate knowledge and understanding within the senior officer team, we would prefer to appoint a temporary Deputy Chief Constable from within Bedfordshire Police until a new Chief Constable is in post. We will then be in a position to review the situation in early 2011.”

- Ends -

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