

## PNB staff side defends 'unique' police pensions

The Police Negotiating Board's staff side has submitted its reasons why police pensions should not be tampered with in a bid to find savings.

Ex-Labour cabinet minister John Hutton was appointed by the Conservative-Lib Dem coalition in June to head a commission looking into all public sector pensions, including the police service.

Last month, the PNB staff side submitted its position to the Public Service Pensions Commission.

The staff side's response to the consultation highlights the unique employment position police officers hold, in terms of the dangers they face and the restrictions their role places on their personal and professional lives.

Those in the Police Pension Scheme agreed in 1987 to contribute 11 percent of their pay towards their pension, the highest among all public sector workers. Even under the revised scheme for new entrants which was introduced in 2006, officers pay 9.5 percent.

Ian Rennie, General Secretary of the Police Federation and PNB Staff Side Secretary said: "Police officers hold the office of constable and, together with the armed forces and the judiciary, occupy a unique role in our society, which is essential to its continuation.

"Police pensions have been through a process of reform in recent years which has reduced both the costs to the employer and the rate of accrual for police officers. The contribution rates in the police pension schemes are the highest in the public sector and in return for their unique employment status, there has to be an assurance that police officers will be fairly provided for in their retirement."

The consultation forms part of the first phase of the commission's review, ahead of its interim report which is due at the end of September. The final report is expected in time for the 2011 budget.

## Reunion for officers in Surrey handover

Metropolitan police officers involved in the handover of stations in North Surrey from the Met to Surrey police ten years ago are invited to a reunion.

Surrey police took over responsibility for a number of stations including Banstead, Esher, Cobham, and East and West Molesey stations on April 1, 2000, following the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The areas had been under Met jurisdiction for 170 years.

Dozens of Met officers were seconded for up to two years to Surrey police to ensure a smooth transition. Former Met Sergeant Malcolm Brown and his colleague, former PC Kevin Gibbs are now organising a secondment reunion for mid-October.

"Although this was a fairly short period of time for these officers, new friendships were made and experiences shared," said Malcolm.

"We're looking forward to seeing some old friendly faces. I am sure that the vast majority of the individuals who took part in helping Surrey Police would love to attend and rediscover some of those at times sad, comical or very memorable moments."

The reunion is planned for Tuesday 19 October in Esher; for more information contact Kevin (Kevin.Gibbs@met.police.uk) or Malcolm (12082@surrey.pnn.police.uk).

Federation Secretary Ian Rennie has led the defence of pensions



The Met's original boundaries were within 'a horse ride' of Scotland Yard

