



Chris Burrows is Chairman of Greater Manchester Police Federation

Chief will be a hard act to follow

copper's copper' and he supported us on many issues, including the current dispute over pay. In truth he will be a very hard act to follow.

As I adjust to my new role as Chairman of GMP Federation, one of our major concerns in GMP is trying to maintain police officer numbers. There is also a move away from the omni-competent officer to more specialist roles. This is something we will continue to resist and believe that the response officer must come first. Issues such as these are likely to dominate over the coming months and years.

Our attentions are also turning towards this year's Federation conference in Bournemouth. We have tabled two motions this year, including a call for all Joint Branch Boards' Executive committees to have a reserve seat with voting rights. We have one, but that is not the case everywhere, and not required by Federation regulations. If we are to be an inclusive organisation then we believe it is important for all JBBs to have such reserve seat representation and hopefully we will be able to persuade them of that in May.

There is no doubt that the death of Chief Constable Michael Todd has come as a huge shock to all of us. I took over the role of chairman of GMP Federation in December and I could not have predicted that just three months later I would be faced with the death of such a respected chief.

I met Mr Todd exactly a week before he died. He appeared to be his usual cheerful and approachable self. During the meeting he took the opportunity to tell me that he was totally committed to his role with GMP and that, despite a number of rumours that had been flying around, he had no intention of returning to the Met. This was good news for us. Our Branch Board had always felt that Michael Todd was good for Greater Manchester Police, maintaining a high profile for the force.

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His death is a tragic loss, but he has left a strong legacy. He has certainly made us not only more accountable as a force, but also more inclusive. He managed to reach communities that previously had little to do with the police. The memorial service that is due to take place at Manchester Cathedral is expected to attract a thousand people which sums up his popularity and standing within the force and the wider community.

Of course, as a Federation we might not always have agreed with him, but we could always talk to him. I believe the fact that he was a constable for eight years or so meant he always understood the issues facing the frontline. It is extremely rare to come across an ACPO officer with that amount of experience in a junior rank, but Michael Todd had it and it certainly earned him considerable respect. He was often referred to as 'a