

People & Careers March 2006

Michael Banks Durham's Last ACC

A senior commander who played a key role in recommending the restructuring of the police service will be **Durham Constabulary's** last assistant chief constable.

Chief Superintendent Michael Banks, a member of the HMIC team which advised the Home Office to amalgamate forces, admitted his appointment was a 'bitter-sweet' moment as Durham will go in the re-organisation.

'This is truly the high point of my career but it is something of a bitter-sweet moment.

'It is certainly a shame that a force with such a great history and tradition will disappear but a single strategic force for the whole of north east is truly the right thing for the people of County Durham and Darlington. If we do not re-organise we will be doing the people we serve a huge disservice.

'To be appointed the last ACC and to be given the opportunity of shaping the future of the region's policing is an overwhelming honour,' said the father-of-two, who lives on the outskirts of Durham City.

The senior officer has twice served on the staff of the HMIC - returning two months ago following publication of the radical report 'Closing the Gap,' the basis for the country's current programme of restructuring. On his return he headed the corporate development department.

Ch Supt Banks takes up his post on December 12th

SOURCE

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Mr Banks Assistant Chief Constable sits on the Durham Common Purpose Advisory Group. The amalgamation of police forces is an EU regional objective. Was this discussed with pro EU Common Purpose under Chatham House secrecy rules? The problem is the public have no way of knowing. Transparency, probity and accountability are lost.