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Press Release

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District Policing Partnerships Reviews First Year

The recent meeting of Cookstown DPP (Monday 1st March 2004) marked a year since the Northern Ireland Policing Board launched the existence of District Policing Partnerships in each of the twenty-six district council areas across Northern Ireland.

Remarking on the first year incoming Chairman local Ulster Unionist representative Cllr Trevor Wilson said, “although the DPP had achieved a lot, more had to be done to tackle crime at all levels plaguing local communities throughout the district, and to engage with the wider community.

Cllr Wilson was nominated Chairman and Cllr Peter Cassidy Vice-Chairman of Cookstown DPP at a meeting of Cookstown District Council in February 2004.

In paying tribute to the work of the outgoing chairman, Cllr Patsy McGlone during his year in office, and the determination of the DPP membership Cllr Wilson said much had been achieved under his direction for the benefit of the community in the face of highly publicised threats and attacks from faceless individuals whose only aim was to see the DPP de-railed and have the district policed by thuggish elements within our society.

The local councillor also remarked upon the work of the District Council Chief Executive, Michael McGuckin and praised his determination for having Cookstown chosen for the site of the new PSNI police college. He said, “the college would not only

be a long-term major infrastructural investment for the district but would also have a great impact on the local economy.

Cllr Wilson continued, “although the DPP has been carrying out its duties as required in terms of; monitoring police performance; providing views to the District Commander on the policing of the district; consulting the public; and helping the local police to set the district policing plan more needed to be done to prevent crime, especially those crime areas identified within this years local policing plan. Namely, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour, domestic burglaries and crimes committed against the most vulnerable.

Cllr Wilson said the only way to have the greatest impact on reducing crime and the fear of crime would be to engage with the wider public to encourage them to assist the police in halting the efforts of local criminal elements.

Cllr Wilson, continued, “in addition to building upon what has been achieved to date, the DPP will be seeking to develop innovative ways for the public to start assisting the police in eradicating the many types of crime occurring on a regular basis in an effort to make our neighbourhoods safe for everyone to live and work in. The Chairman stressed that he intended to make this a priority for the DPP in the year ahead.

Whilst as Chairman of the DPP I will be serving at a local level it is important not to lose sight of the structural changes impacting upon the resources of the PSNI, especially around the future of full-time reservist officers said Cllr Wilson.

As an elected representative I have concerns at the effect the loss of many experienced officers would have on the ability of Cookstown police to deliver an effective community centred service, said Cllr Wilson. For this reason, continued Cllr Wilson, it is important for the PSNI and the Policing Board not to allow such experience in dealing with the community to be lost.

Ends.

For further information contact:

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Note to the Editor

1 DPP Membership

Cllr Mary Baker	Mrs Ursula Marshall
Mrs Elizabeth Baxter	Cllr Patsy McGlone
Cllr Peter Cassidy (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Samuel Parke
Mr Eoin Doyle	Mrs Ita Pickering
Cllr Samuel Glasgow	Mr Tony Quinn
Mr Samuel Laughlin	Mr Phonsie Eastwood
Cllr Ian McCrea	Cllr Trevor Wilson (Chairman)
Cllr James McGarvey	