

**Statement of Councillor Andy Kay- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council**

I was first elected in 1979 to represent the interests of residents in Ewood ward and in 1988 I was re-elected to serve the people of the Higher Croft Ward on Blackburn Council. In 1998 Blackburn with Darwen became a Unitary Council.

I have experience across the whole range of local government having served as a committee chair or Executive Member in most areas of council business covering such areas as finance, housing (both public and private sectors) human resources, strategic planning, regeneration, large scale redevelopments and standards. I am currently Executive Member with the Resources portfolio responsibility and a deputy leader of the Council.

I have represented the Council on national and regional bodies and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority. All of which gave me experience in the art of the possible and how to manage differing, and sometimes conflicting, opinions. Indeed taking the difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions has been the hall mark of our teamwork at Blackburn with Darwen.

The promotion of participation by residents of all ages and backgrounds in Council matters has been at the forefront of my activities for many years, including the setting up of tenants and residents associations and community associations throughout the borough. Together with local business interests we set up the Blackburn Partnership and other business forums. In particular as chair of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authorities Resources committee it was one of my duties to try to ensure diversity across the service (a very difficult task during periods of little and no recruitment). I also promoted and established Blackburn Town Centre Partnership and Darwen Town Centre Partnership, on both of which the Police Service was represented at senior level.

I have been a member of and have had responsibility for the Community Safety Partnership in Blackburn with Darwen through which I have worked with representative of NHS, Probation, Fire and CPS. Working with (and helping to fund!) our PCSOs and officers in Eastern Division of the service I have been able to help, with my colleagues, build up confidence and trust in the Police Service across the age ranges.

The Police Service faces many and varied challenges, as does the local government service, from direct operational issues to those of a financial variety. I have been involved for many years in an Excellent Council and one which has won the accolade of "Council of the Year" on two recent occasions. I believe that my experience working in a collaborative way and the dedication I will bring with my time commitment will assist the Police Authority in helping to deliver a Police Service which continues to be top rated and particularly - one in which we have confidence and importantly one we are all proud of.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Kay', with a stylized flourish at the end.