

# **NIKI HOWARD**

## **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

### **CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY**



Niki joined local government in 1986 in the Treasury Department at Leicester City Council as a Finance Clerk. She moved upwards through a variety of Finance roles completing her CIPFA exams along the way, and including a 4 year move to the East Midlands Development Agency as Head of Finance.

Her first role as a Director was for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council as Director of Resources managing Finance, Legal Services, Estates, ICT, Internal Audit and Reception Services. Since leaving Oadby & Wigston, Niki has completed a 16 month assignment in London with the Local Government Association (LGA) leading the project to bring the Financial Service Departments of 6 LGA bodies under one shared service.

She joined the police service in October 2006 as Director of Finance with Cambridgeshire Constabulary, which carries the rank of ACPO. Until she joined the police service she had never even heard of ACPO, much less realised what it would mean to her professionally.

The best part of her role is being involved in very senior decisions and being able to really make a difference to the police officers on the frontline. She regularly goes out on patrol or out in a roads policing car so that she can understand the problems on the frontline. This understanding helps her to ensure that the budget is going to the right areas of business. An example of this would be a visit to Firearms; she met with the Armourer and was quite shocked at how “tatty” the guns looked having expected shiny new weapons. She was informed that the guns were getting on for 20 years old. Having spoken with her ACPO colleges about a replacement policy, and finding that there wasn’t one in place, she set about agreeing with the Police Authority the purchase of a complete new set of firearms. The team regularly speak with her and are still thanking her for the time she spent understanding their service needs.

All eyes are now turning to the financial situation the public sector finds itself in and the police service is no exception. She was recently asked to join the Home Office High Level Working Group, whose remit is to consider savings for the service on a national level. She is honoured to be the only Police Staff member of the group, which contains Senior Civil Servants and several Chief Constables.