



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 26 November

Durham Police Authority launches new website to help reach more people

Durham Police Authority launches its new website with the emphasis firmly on two-way interaction with the public. The website is part of Durham Police Authority's work programme to help realise its vision 'to be the effective voice of our communities in securing delivery of the highest quality policing'.

The Office of National Statistics indicates that 65% of households now have internet access. With this in mind, the launch of the new website signifies Durham Police Authority's commitment to modernise its communications and to reach a wider audience.

Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority commented

"The new Police Authority website is an important communication and consultation tool. It builds upon what we already have in place for example our 'Your Police, Your Say Days'. We recognise that due to work, family and other commitments, not everyone can attend our meetings. The website helps us to plug this gap, taking information to the public in the comfort of their own home."

"We are passionate about working with our communities and receiving their views on policing. We encourage the public to have a look at the work that we do and tell us if there is anything that you would like to see on our website."

The website can be accessed at www.durham-pa.gov.uk where you will find information about how the Police Authority works, police performance and how you can get more involved in shaping policing services in your area.

The Audit Commission recently appraised the Authority's approach to communications, commending the new website as a 'good practice' public sector website.

Notes to Editors

Durham Police Authority is an independent body responsible for ensuring Durham Constabulary delivers an efficient and effective police service. It is

made up of 17 local people who include 9 councillors, 3 magistrates and 5 members of the public who are the independent members.

The Authority ensures that the Constabulary is accountable to the people of County Durham and Darlington and ensures that citizens have a say in how they are policed.

The Authority is responsible, amongst other matters, for setting the budget for the Constabulary and, following consultation with local communities, mapping out the strategic direction of policing. This includes agreeing policing priorities and setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher.

The Authority's vision

“To be the effective voice of our communities in securing delivery of the highest quality policing.”

Our mission

“Working in partnership to ensure fair, effective and visible policing”

The Authority aims to: -

- Exercise strong and effective leadership in partnership working
- Engage positively with our Citizens and Communities to build confidence in local policing.
- Promote equality, tolerance and respect for human rights.
- Scrutinise and challenge police performance & procedures to secure continuous improvement
- Ensure Effective use of resources

For further information or comment, please contact: Victoria Fielding, Policy and Communications Officer Durham Police Authority Tel. No: 0191 3835511

Email: durham.pa@durham.gov.uk

Website: www.durham-pa.gov.uk