



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 4 December

POLICE AUTHORITY WANTS YOUR VIEWS ON LOCAL POLICING PRIORITIES

Durham Police Authority is inviting the people of County Durham and Darlington to help determine the local policing priorities for inclusion within its 2009/2010 Policing Plan. The Police Authority is required by law to produce an annual Policing Plan which contains details of the Government's national priorities and local priorities to address public concerns within the County Durham and Darlington area.

In terms of the national priorities, the Home Secretary proposes the following key priorities for 2009/2010:

- Increasing public confidence in the police
- Building policing capacity to deliver protective services and tackle serious and organised crime in the most effective way.
- Greater working with partners and local communities to tackle terrorism and violent extremism.
- To ensure that Police Authorities and Forces make the best use of their resources and make services more efficient and effective through the use of new technology to remove unnecessary bureaucracy.

Whilst the Home Secretary sets the national priorities for policing, it is the Police Authority's responsibility to consult on local policing priorities.

Informed by Police data and working closely with our key Crime and Disorder Reduction Partners, the Authority is consulting on this year's local priorities including:

- Making our areas safer through effective Neighbourhood Policing, tackling Anti Social Behaviour and working in partnership with other agencies.
- Reducing the harm caused by Organised Crime Groups.
- Reducing the harm to communities caused by the effect of alcohol and drug abuse.
- Protecting vulnerable people from harm such as abuse, injury or assault.

- Providing an effective citizen focused service that is responsive to the needs of individuals.
- Ensuring value for money and the best possible policing service for the people of County Durham and Darlington
- Improving the ways in which the Police Service communicates and engages with individuals and communities.

The Police Authority invites you to their public meeting at County Hall, Durham, on **Tuesday 9th of December 2008** starting at 6 p.m. At the meeting details of the Chief Constable's vision and delivery of priorities will be given together with details of the National Policing Priorities and the Policing Plan Priorities 2009/2010. Members of the public will be asked for their views.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, the Police Authority would still like to hear from you. Your views can be given through a postal questionnaire. For a copy please contact the Police Authority at Durham Police Authority, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL or call 0191 3835511 or by email at durham.pa@durham.gov.uk. Alternatively you can complete our online questionnaire on our website www.durham-pa.gov.uk

Chair of Durham Police Authority, Mr Peter Thompson commented

“Both Durham Police Authority and Durham Constabulary are committed to engaging with local people and finding out what is important in terms of policing and community safety. We have always valued the opportunity to consult with the people who live and work within County Durham and Darlington, as well as those of our key stakeholders.”

“We are keen to hear from everyone and understand that not everyone can attend the meetings that we hold, with this in mind we have extended the way you can give us your views through our online questionnaire”.

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, 8 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