

PRESS RELEASE



Thursday 18th December

Durham Police Authority welcomes the Governments decision to keep extremism out of Policing

All 17 members of Durham Police Authority are overjoyed that the Government has listened to their views not to introduce Directly Elected Crime and Policing Representatives onto Police Authorities.

Durham Police Authority has always believed that appointing directly elected representatives could open the floodgates for politically extremist groups to take control of local policing.

Mr Peter Thompson, the Chair of Durham Police Authority commented

“As I have said on many occasions the inherent risk in the Governments proposals for direct elections could have been used as a mechanism for inappropriate organisations to gain representation onto what is currently accepted as a proportionately structured and properly appointed body made up of local councillors and independent members.

“The electorate would have had little enthusiasm for voting in such an election and some thoroughly inappropriate and unsuitable individuals could have generated campaigns to get themselves elected potentially on single issues and emotive topics. “

“The introduction of direct elections would have undermined the important role of elected councillors on Police Authorities and would have proved damaging to the excellent relationships between Local Authorities and the Police.”

“Durham Police Authority is now looking forward to working with the Governments review body in developing the Policing and Crime Bill and hopes that serious and earnest consideration of Durham Police Authority’s proposal to introduce Community Partnership Representatives onto the Police Authority without the need for costly elections, will be seen as the way forward. The Authority will work to fulfil its vision to be *“To be the effective voice of securing delivery of the highest quality policing”*.

To see the Police Authority’s response in full, please visit the website www.durham-pa.gov.uk .

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

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