



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 28 January 2009

Durham Police Authority approves Strategic Policing Priorities

Durham 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.

The Authority's Effective Policing Committee today approved the Durham and Darlington local policing priorities for 2009/10.

Chairman of the Committee Mr Norman Vaulks said:

'Public consultation has been a critical part of the process of determining our strategic priorities. Our communities have told us what is important to them and we have made sure these views are taken into consideration in the development of our plans.

'It is our duty to be the effective voice of our communities in securing the delivery of the highest quality policing and we will be working with the constabulary to set challenging targets and we will measure their progress through key performance indicators'.

The four strategic priorities for 2009/10 are:

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

Mr Vaulks added 'These priorities will be underpinned by our commitment to ensure that we engage with all who live in our communities across County Durham and Darlington.'

The committee also discussed the controversial new Home Office target that aims to measure public confidence through surveying people about their perceptions on Police and Partnership approaches to dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour issues.

Mr Norman Vaulks said

'The Home Office is setting very high targets for Authority's and Force's which will be very difficult to meet. However, working closely with our partners in Local Government and elsewhere, we are committed to delivering those improvements that matter most to the people of Durham and Darlington.'

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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