



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Police Authority and Constabulary receive the thumbs up from Government Inspectors

Durham Police Authority and Durham Constabulary have been praised by Government Inspectors for being ahead of schedule in the recent 'Valuing the Police' inspection. Both organisations are delivering savings whilst maintaining strong performance, despite the Government's financial cuts.

Following the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010 in which 22% cuts were made to central police grant funding across all 43 forces in England and Wales by 2014/15, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) commented on the good progress already made in delivering savings whilst continuing to deliver strong performance which benefits local communities. Praise was given for the forward-planning of the new Force Operating Model, a restructure necessary to continue to improve performance and efficiencies with reduced resources and maintaining front-line policing services. Further saving reductions were commented on through proactive collaboration ventures relating to savings in expenditure and income, currently amounting to £2.261 million.

HMIC also commended the Authority's and Force's drive to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, which is down by 4% and 14% respectively. Furthermore, praise was given to the preparedness of the transition from the Police Authority to the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner. The inspector highlighted that "The Police Authority has been a national lead in progressing arrangements; it was one of the first nationally to establish a Local Multi-Agency Transition Board and has provided advice to numerous other authorities".

Mr. Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said: "Durham Police Authority has a requirement to constantly look at ways and means to increase productivity and value for money within the Constabulary. That responsibility also requires the Authority to ensure that the Chief Constable and his staff continue to deliver the best possible service for the residents of County Durham and Darlington. I am delighted that the HMIC recognise the hard work of both the Police Authority and the Constabulary and have every expectation

that this will continue after the Police Authority ceases to exist when the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner comes into being in November of this year”.

Chief Constable Jon Stoddart said: “This reflects well on the support that the Force receives from the Police Authority and also all of the hard work and dedication from the officers, staff, PCSOs and special constables. The public can take reassurance that we are determined to tackle criminals, solve problems and protect neighbourhoods”.

ENDS

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 ensure that policing in County Durham and Darlington is fair, effective and visible”

The Authority’s Mission

“To be the effective voice of our communities in securing the delivery of high quality policing by:

- Exercising strong & effective leadership
- Engaging positively with communities to build confidence in local policing
- Strengthening partnership working
- Promoting equality, tolerance & respect for human rights
- Scrutinising and challenging police performance to secure continuous improvement
- Scrutinising and challenging business systems and processes to ensure effective use of resources

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