



Durham Police Authority

# PRESS RELEASE

## Force Congratulated for Metal Theft Action

Durham Police Authority has congratulated Durham Constabulary for the Force's unprecedented action to combat metal thefts in a bid to drive down crime.

In a report to the Police Authority's Partnership and Engagement Committee Members considered the Force's current plans to tackle metal theft, which was identified as a key threat to Force performance, with thefts accounting for around 20% of all stealing offences and 10% of overall crime.

The police are addressing metal thefts issues across the North East by working in partnership with Northumbria and Cleveland police forces as well as community and corporate partners. An intelligence-led operation earlier this month resulted in a number of arrests at targeted scrap yards across County Durham and Darlington.

Members will continue to monitor the work and of the four metal theft teams across the Force area and have praised the work undertaken by Durham Constabulary so far. Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said:

"Both the Police Authority and Constabulary continue to work hard to ensure the safety and well-being of local people. I am delighted with the proactive methods the Chief Constable and his staff are taking to increase productivity and efficiencies in local policing. The recent approach to tackle metal theft locally is just one example the Constabulary is continuing to drive down crime, to ensure that the residents of County Durham and Darlington have confidence in the knowledge that they live in one of the lowest crime areas in the whole of the United Kingdom".

**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

For further information or comment, please contact Durham Police Authority:

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