



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Planning consent sought for new HQ

Durham Police Authority is seeking full planning permission for a new police headquarters at Aykley Heads, Durham.

At the same time, Durham County Council is also being asked to give outline planning consent for housing on the site of the present HQ.

If the go-ahead is given, it is hoped that building work will start in the autumn on what is envisaged to be an 18-month contract, with completion due in the spring of 2014. A decision on the developer will be subject to tender.

The new development is being designed with the highest 'green' credentials as well as creating a modern office environment.

The estimated total cost of the new building is approx £14m and it is expected to generate substantial annual savings in running costs.

In support and in advance of the planning consent, the proposed plans went 'on the road' around the force area in October, for the benefit of interested members of the public as well as officers and staff.

Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority, said: "This is an exciting project for the Police Authority and the Constabulary.

"We're looking forward to working with the County Council to produce a development which is both worthy of and sympathetic to the site.

"The new premises should generate substantial savings and enable the constabulary to deliver an even better policing service to the people of County Durham and Darlington."

The present HQ dates back to 1969 when the first phase was opened by former Prime Minister Jim Callaghan, who was then Secretary of State.

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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