



Durham Police Authority

# PRESS RELEASE

## **Police Authority back plans for Darlington as a National Pilot Site**

Members of Durham Police Authority have backed plans that will see Darlington as a pilot site for the National Citizens Service for 2012.

The National Citizen Service was introduced by the Coalition Government in 2010. The intention of the Service is to promote a more unified society by mixing school leavers from different backgrounds and supporting the transition into adulthood by enabling them to work together to create projects in their own communities. The Service is aimed at those who have finished their Year 11 at school and will take place in the summer holidays before they move on to further education, employment or training.

At Durham Police Authority's recent Partnership and Engagement Committee, Members considered the benefits of the service and are delighted that up to 250 people from Darlington will be taking part in the pilot.

Chief Superintendent Andy Reddick said: "It is excellent that we've been successful in securing Darlington to be the pilot for 2012. The National Citizens Service is all about assisting young people from across the spectrum to work together to develop themselves and improve their communities. The project will also provide wonderful opportunities for developing community projects which will benefit Darlington and demonstrate in the best possible way the quality of our young people. I think this will be an exciting process, and as the Government intends this to be in operation across all Local Authority areas from the summer of 2013; it means we are well ahead of the game".

Mr Peter Thompson, Chairman of Durham Police Authority said:

"As a Police Authority, we fully support this scheme. It is an excellent opportunity for the young people of Darlington to meet others from different backgrounds and to learn something about themselves and the

communities they live in. Furthermore the learning from the Darlington pilot will be cascaded to County Durham before the National Citizens Service is rolled-out across the UK in 2013”.

## **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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