



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

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Durham Police Authority shows clear vision for local people, says Audit Commission report

The Audit Commission, an independent national watchdog, has reported that Durham Police Authority and its Constabulary is performing well and has put in place satisfactory corporate arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of police resources. The auditor stated that this is known as the 'value for money conclusion'.

Commenting at a Police Authority meeting, the Commission's auditor reported that: "Financial planning has clear links to outcomes and service provision is being reviewed to ensure that it provides value for money. Consultation with stakeholders and local communities has been improved and there is evidence of this consultation being used to decide local priorities and levels of spending".

The report, which also gives a clean bill of health in respect of the Authority's accounts for 2009/10, goes on to say: "The Authority has a good understanding of cost and performance and benchmarking is used effectively. There is a clear, effective approach to service review that is resulting in significant efficiencies; public confidence is third highest of all police Forces".

Mr Peter Thompson, Chairman of Durham Police Authority said:

"Durham Police Authority works hard to ensure that we continue to provide good value for money policing to our communities. I am delighted that our short-term and long-term financial planning has been recognised by the Audit Commission, which further shows our efforts to continue to achieve our Vision and Mission for the people of County Durham and Darlington".

Mr Thompson continued: "The results of the report have arrived during difficult financial times for the whole country, as well as awaiting the results of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. I firmly believe that clear planning and the strategic direction of policing in our area is vital to ensure that residents can receive the best value for policing in their communities".

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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