



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

16 November 2010

Durham Police Authority invites you to have your say on policing and community safety issues

Durham Police Authority invites the residents and businesses of County Durham and Darlington to have their say on what should be the top local policing priorities for 2011/2012.

The Home Secretary sets the national priorities for policing however Durham Police Authority is responsible for setting the local policing priorities.

This year the Police Authority and Durham Constabulary are undertaking this consultation in partnership with Darlington Community Safety Partnership and Safe Durham Partnership. The aim is to seek to avoid duplication in the way we all collect information from the public and stakeholders.

Members of the public attended the Police Community Consultative Group meeting at County Hall, Durham on Monday 16 November which was the first of the many opportunities for people to have their say. Residents can vote online, by text message or face-to-face at one of the supermarkets or shopping centres near you (details below) until Friday 3rd December 2010.

Local people are asked to vote for their top three priorities out of the following seven options:

1. tackling anti-social behaviour
2. protecting communities from terrorism and extremism
3. reducing harm caused by organised crime groups
4. reducing the impact of drug abuse on people and communities

5. reducing the impact of alcohol abuse on people and communities
6. protecting vulnerable people from harm
7. delivering local solutions to address and prevent local problems

To vote online, visit www.durham.police.uk or text VOTE to 07786 027280 followed by your chosen 3 priorities from the list above and your postcode (your text should look like this example: VOTE 2,4,5, DL14 7PY).

Alternatively, residents can visit of the following locations between 11am-3pm to have their say:

Venue	Area	Date
Tesco	Chester-le-Street	16 November
Morrisons	Consett	17 November
Asda	Bishop Auckland	18 November
Sainsbury's (Arnison Centre)	Durham	22 November
Asda	Stanley	23 November
Asda	Peterlee	24 November
Asda	Darlington	25 November
Morrisons	Barnard Castle	26 November
Asda	Spennymoor	29 November
Co-op	Crook	30 November
Byron Place Shopping Centre	Seaham	1 December

Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said:

“The Police Authority and our partners regularly obtain the views of local people and businesses about policing and community safety.

“We are keen to reach a wider audience as possible and understand that not everyone can attend the meetings we hold; with this in mind we are exploring other means to enable the public to provide us with their views. This includes a presence at supermarkets, a text message service and an online questionnaire”.

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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