



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

POLICE COMMISSIONERS WILL POLITICISE POLICING AND COST POLICE JOBS TO IMPLEMENT

Commenting on the Government's plans to introduce Directly Elected Police Commissioners in England and Wales by May 2012 through the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill released today, Durham Police Authority Chair, Peter Thompson said;

"The Government is continuing to bulldoze this approach through despite the strong opposition."

Directly Elected Police and Crime Commissioners are set to replace Police Authorities which have been criticised by the Home Secretary, Theresa May as 'being invisible'. Responding to this, Peter Thompson said:

"What matters is that people feel safe. Police Authorities have consistently demonstrated their worth. Just days before the Home Office issued their consultation on these plans, they reported that overall crime is down by 50%, violent crime is down by 50% and property crime is down by 55% since politically balanced Police Authorities came into power. It's ironic that in the current fiscal climate the Government not only wants to politicise policing but also wants to spend an estimated £50m on elections. I'm sure that the public would prefer that this money is used to retain full-time Police Officers rather than have it spent on profiling political figureheads."

Other proposals in the bill are welcomed by Durham Police Authority including changes to the Licensing Laws to impose late-night levies on drinking establishments and higher fines for those serving underage persons in a bid to combat binge drinking.

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 be the effective voice of our communities in securing delivery of the highest quality policing.”

Our mission

“Working in partnership to ensure fair, effective and visible policing”

The Authority aims to: -

- Exercise strong and effective leadership in partnership working
- Engage positively with our Citizens and Communities to build confidence in local policing.
- Promote equality, tolerance and respect for human rights.
- Scrutinise and challenge police performance & procedures to secure continuous improvement
- Ensure Effective use of resources

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