



Durham Police Authority

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **The Public have their say on next year's Local Policing Priorities.**

This year Durham Police Authority and Durham Constabulary have undertaken a joint consultation in partnership with Darlington Community Safety Partnership and Safe Durham Partnership to seek the views of the public and other policing stakeholders on what should be the Local Policing Priorities for 2011/2012 in County Durham and Darlington.

A wide range of local people gave their views at various locations across County Durham and Darlington. Residents were surveyed at shopping centres, colleges and supermarkets within the Constabulary area, and also had the opportunity to vote for their top priorities online or by text message.

The top three priorities coming out of the consultation were:

1. Tackling anti-social behaviour
2. Protecting vulnerable people from harm
3. Reducing the impact of alcohol and drug abuse on people and communities

Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said:

*"The Police Authority and our partners regularly obtain the views of local people about policing and community safety. We have always valued the opportunity to consult with the people who live and work within County Durham and Darlington, as well as our key stakeholders."*

*This year, we have welcomed the collaboration of wider partners coming together to set priorities. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter to our communities can only be done effectively by all of us working together towards a common goal. This consultation was very important to us as it reflects the views of local people. It is particularly important that we co-operate and collaborate with our partners at this time when we are all having to deliver our respective services within a more constrained budget".*

**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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