



## Durham Police Authority

# PRESS RELEASE

### **PUBLIC VIEWS WELCOMED ON POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER PROPOSALS**

Durham Police Authority has welcomed an invitation by the Public Bill Committee for people to submit their views on the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. One of the proposals of the Bill is that police authorities would be scrapped from 2012 and replaced by Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) who would hold the police to account on behalf of the public.

Chairman, Mr Peter Thompson said: "It is very important that the public take this opportunity to tell Parliament what they think of plans to introduce locally elected Police and Crime Commissioners. This is a significant opportunity for the public to have their say on the government's new governance proposals.

"Durham Police Authority, the Association of Police Authorities and others have expressed concern at introducing PCCs. These concerns are around the significant costs of holding elections for PCCs, the politicisation of policing, and the timings of elections.

"This consultation will now provide an opportunity for a cross-party group of MPs to listen to public views on the government plans. I strongly encourage local people to have their say using the email address below, before 18 January."

The public can respond to the consultation by sending their views to [scrutiny@parliament.uk](mailto:scrutiny@parliament.uk). The views expressed will be considered by the Public Bill Committee - a cross-party group of 20 MPs. For further details of police authority concerns about the proposals please go to [www.apa.police.uk](http://www.apa.police.uk).

**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

For further information or comment, please contact: Nyama Johnson, Durham Police Authority Tel. No: 0191 3836471

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