



## Durham Police Authority

# PRESS RELEASE

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### **Local Taxpayers will benefit from policing Council Tax Freeze**

Durham Police Authority has agreed a financial package for policing across County Durham and Darlington.

The Authority has made the decision to freeze Council Tax at last year's levels. To achieve this, the Constabulary and Authority have identified budget savings of £10.792m. With a zero percentage increase in Council Tax the Authority will qualify for a special Government grant receiving £0.727m for each year for the next four years.

Throughout the budget setting process, the Authority's main target has been to make the necessary savings to balance its budget, without diminishing service delivery. It has achieved this target by working with the Constabulary to establish a new model for service delivery across the Force area, a recruitment freeze of both officer and staff posts, together with a root and branch review of non staffing budgets.

Mr Peter Thompson, Chairman of Durham Police Authority commented:

"Despite the financial pressures and uncertainties as a result of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, Durham Constabulary continues to be one of the country's top performing police forces. The Authority and its police force have looked at a range of measures aimed at cutting costs and increasing productivity. I am pleased that the resulting savings have allowed Police Authority Members to freeze the police part of the Council Tax for 2011/2012, helping to ease the financial burden for council taxpayers within County Durham and Darlington".

Mr Thompson continued:

"We are determined to put front-line policing at the forefront of our priorities as we move ahead into an era of stringent financial restraint. The Police Authority will continue to support the Chief Constable and his officers in every way possible to ensure that the Constabulary maintains its status as one of the best performing Forces in the whole of the Country".

**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 and 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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