



## Durham Police Authority

# PRESS RELEASE

### **Durham pushing for National Support for Special Constables**

Members of Durham Police Authority agreed to support the establishment of a national scheme that will benefit Special Constables up and down the Country, should they become injured or fall ill whilst on duty.

It was outlined at a meeting of the Authority on 22 February 2011, that there is inconsistency nationally for payment of benefits outside of standard regulations, which are made to Special Constables should they become injured or fall ill as a result of doing their duty.

Durham Constabulary highlighted in their report to the Authority that it was up to individual Forces to determine their own payment criteria and made Members aware that the Special Constabulary National Consultative Group (SCNGG) recommended a consistent approach across the country.

Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said: "I believe that payments to Special Constables should be fair and consistent across the Country and I fully support the requirement for a national approach. We have an opportunity to support Special Constables when injured or become ill as a result of undertaking duties as a Special Constable."

Durham Constabulary's Assistant Chief Constable Mr Michael Banks, who is also the National Lead for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) said:

"Our Special Constables put themselves on duty to protect and serve the public alongside their Police Officer colleagues. This can often mean putting themselves in positions in which they might become injured. It is only right therefore that we look after their welfare and take into account how that may impact on their ability to do their 'day job'."

**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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