



Durham Police Authority & Durham Constabulary



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Chairman confirms local policing is on track

Commenting on the Home Secretary's speech on Police Reform earlier today, Durham Police Authority Chairman, Mr Peter Thompson, said:

"Recent figures show that Durham Constabulary still continues to be one of the best performing forces in the country.

"The Home Secretary's speech earlier today highlighted the Government's proposals for changes to police reform nationally and a pay freeze for policing jobs. I agree with the Association of Police Authorities' (APA) standpoint, that on a national level the public are not convinced of the need for a costly overhaul of policing governance in the form of new Police and Crime Commissioners at a time when the police service is facing huge financial challenges.

"Locally, we cannot ignore the 80% of the policing budget which accounts for pay and conditions of police officers and therefore await with interest Tom Winsor's review on pay and conditions next Tuesday."

Mr Thompson continued: "This year the Police Authority agreed to freeze the police part of council tax for local residents. However in order to make substantial savings and efficiencies which were necessary as a result of the Government's cutbacks, the Authority has had to make some difficult financial decisions, including the recent redundancy programme affecting non-uniformed staff.

"We are committed to keeping crime low and recent local figures show that even in these challenging times our Police Force continues to improve and address the needs of our communities."

Durham Chief Constable Jon Stoddart said: "At this stage it's too early to say what the likely impact of the Winsor Report will be on Durham Constabulary. We will monitor developments with interest.

"My concern is to ensure that we continue to provide an effective policing service to the people of County Durham and Darlington.

"All our officers and staff are committed to providing a public service which is second to none and which represents excellent value for money. We intend that this will continue."

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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