



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

5 April 2011

Durham unveils three year plan to drive down crime

Durham Police Authority and Durham Constabulary have agreed ambitious targets to continue to drive down crime, despite recent cuts to policing budgets.

The Authority's Annual Report 2010-11 and Policing Plan 2011-14 demonstrates how the Authority and Force will work together to continue to improve performance measures and address local policing priorities, influenced by the views of local people. The chosen priorities were agreed after an exhaustive consultation exercise and are proposed in conjunction with Partners.

Tackling anti-social behaviour continues to be one area of high importance to local people. The plan reveals a 12 per cent drop in recorded incidents for anti-social behaviour during the last 12 months and details the continuing commitment to reducing the impact of this crime on local communities.

Two other top priorities for the residents include protecting vulnerable people from harm and reducing the impact of drug and alcohol abuse on people and communities. The new-look policing plan outlines how Durham Constabulary will address these priorities and how the Police Authority will monitor and scrutinise these targets.

This year, the plan is a much smaller, magazine style document, aiming to attract a wide variety of local people to view it. Police Authority Members welcomed the new format, recognising the need for less bureaucracy and a more reader-friendly approach.

Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said: "Protecting the communities of County Durham and Darlington is at the heart of this plan and the priorities we have outlined demonstrate our commitment to tackling the issues which are of greatest concern to the public.

"The Authority has a responsibility to ensure value for money for council taxpayers and our local policing plan illustrates the targets we have set for Durham Constabulary. Despite the financial pressures and uncertainties, Durham Constabulary continues to be one of the country's top-performing

police forces. The plan details how this good work will continue over the next three years”.

Chief Constable Jon Stoddart said: “We are committed to working with our communities, finding out what concerns them most and addressing those issues, so that we provide a citizen-focused policing service at all levels.

“Our local communities are at the centre of the service we provide, now and in the future.”

The Annual Report 2010-11 and Policing Plan 2011-14 can be viewed on both Durham Police Authority and Durham Constabulary’s websites at www.durham-pa.gov.uk and www.durham.police.uk, or residents can call 0191 3835511 to request a copy if they do not have access to the internet.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Link to the Annual Report 2010-11 and Policing Plan 2011-14:
<http://www.durham-pa.gov.uk/Pages/PublicationItem.aspx?ItemID=138>

About Durham Police Authority

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 Durham Police Authority:

Tel: 0191 3836471

Email: durham.pa@durham.gov.uk

Website: www.durham-pa.gov.uk

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/DPAuthority>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/durhampoliceauthority>