



Durham Police Authority

# PRESS RELEASE

## Managing the 'Policing the Police' Handover

Members of Durham Police Authority have agreed a report about how the Authority will manage the changeover from Police Authorities to Police and Crime Commissioners, should the Government's controversial plans for Police Reform go ahead.

The report, proposed to Members at a Special Meeting of the Authority on Friday, details a 'two-pronged approach' as to how the local changes to policing governance will be managed in County Durham and Darlington.

The changes to policing are outlined in the Government's Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill which was initially presented to Parliament in November 2010. However there is still some uncertainty around the proposals which are currently being debated in the House of Lords. Mindful of the short timescales, Durham Police Authority is carefully planning ahead on the basis that the Bill is passed and Police Authorities up and down the country are replaced with Police and Crime Commissioners in May 2012.

Mr. Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said: "We will continue to the best of our ability to ensure that the delivery of local policing meets the needs of our local people in the most efficient and effective way possible until such time that Police Authorities are abolished. We firmly believe that failure to plan ahead would pose a significant risk on the future governance of policing and we owe it to our local communities not to take any chances. It is important that the handover from Police Authority to Police and Crime Commissioner (if it happens) is as smooth and seamless as possible. The Transition Programme will enable this."

Stage one of the programme will address the key legalities and technicalities such as the transfer of police staff, estates and other major assets from Durham Police Authority to the new Police and Crime Commissioner and stage two will address other significant considerations such as the relationships with key service delivery partners such as Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council, Health, Fire and Rescue Service and Community Safety Boards.

## ENDS

### Notes to Editors

#### **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

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