



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Police continue to benefit from video conferencing initiatives

Members of Durham Police Authority considered a report detailing the ongoing benefits of Durham Constabulary's video conferencing facilities at the Authority's Business Planning and Productivity Committee on Monday 6 June 2011.

One main advantage to the Constabulary since it was introduced in 2006 is the reduction of travel time needed to attend meetings or briefings, both within the force area and nationally.

Police Authority Members considered the possible future benefits by expanding the video conferencing system to support the new Force Operating Model, a major re-structure of Durham Constabulary aimed at protecting front-line policing while improving performance with reduced resources.

Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said: "Durham Police Authority fully support Durham Constabulary's initiative, of finding ways of doing more with less. Due to the diverse geographical areas covered by Durham Constabulary, providing remote briefing facilities across the region will not only benefit the Force in travel time, but also provide value-for-money in areas such as fuel costs and environmental benefits in the longer-term."

Deputy Chief Constable Mr Mike Barton said: "Looking forward, a number of opportunities have been identified as to how we can further enhance our use of video conferencing technology. We are always planning ahead, looking at how we can reduce the need for unnecessary travel time for police officers and staff, cut waste and improve the service we deliver".

It is intended that video conferencing points will be introduced for officers at the following locations:

Bishop Auckland – Crook & Barnard Castle
Darlington – Newton Aycliffe
Durham – Chester-le-Street

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

For further information or comment, please contact Durham Police Authority:

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