



## Durham Police Authority

# PRESS RELEASE

### **Police Authority agree Budget Savings for 2012/13**

Durham Police Authority have considered a report on Budget Savings for 2012/13.

2012/13 represents the second year of the Comprehensive Spending Review and the Force will receive further grant reductions. At present, there is expected to be a deficit of £1.4m in 2012/13. These figures are derived from the latest Medium Term Financial Plan and assume that the existing expenditure patterns of the Authority and Force continue post May 2012 when the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners are expected.

The report outlined the actions taken to date to deliver £1.2m of expected non salary savings and agreed options which may be available to deliver the remaining £1.4m of savings.

All areas of expenditure will need to be challenged and Managers who hold the budgets have been asked to identify ways to deliver the savings indicated. So far managers have identified a number of early wins, for example, catering review of custody provision has identified £12k pa savings following a procurement exercise. This has been implemented from 18 July 2011 and ICT, lower tariffs have been agreed for mobile telephones, likely to achieve savings of approx £50,000 per annum. There could also be a saving due to less demand for training.

In response to a question from a Member of the Police Authority, at the Full Authority meeting on Friday, regarding training implications following the recent disturbances in London and other major cities. The Chief Constable, Jon Stoddart ensured members that there had been a rigorous examination of training courses and that Durham had fulfilled its mutual aid commitment during the period of unrest, even though they had less resources. He added that he was confident that any changes would be absorbed within existing resources.

A proportion of the further £1.4m savings is expected to be delivered through the early retirement/voluntary redundancy process with the estimated savings for 2012/13 from these being £135,000, this figure should be increased throughout the year.

Mr Peter Thompson, Chairman of Durham Police Authority commented:

"Despite the financial pressures and uncertainties as a result of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, Durham Constabulary continues to be one of the country's top performing police forces.

Managing cuts is very challenging for the Authority and Constabulary. It is now more important than ever that our diminishing resources are managed strategically, getting value for money in all areas of spend"

### **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 and 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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