



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

'Policing the Police' Handover

Members of Durham Police Authority have received a report about progress of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill and the changes to policing.

'The Bill' has just completed its third reading in the House of Lords and will return to the House of Commons in September. If the Lords amendments are overturned the Bill will then go back to the Lords and in theory a process of 'ping-pong' could result until agreement is reached. Following this the Bill would receive 'Royal Assent'. This needs to happen by mid-October at the latest if elections are to go ahead in May 2012.

The report highlighted a number of government amendments to the Bill and the arrangements which Durham Police Authority are putting into place on the basis that the Bill is passed.

The Police Authority has set up a Local Transition Board which has representation from both Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council. The first meeting of the Board took place on 20 July 2011 where the terms of reference and a transitional work plan was considered and agreed.

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. It is important that the handover from Police Authority to Police and Crime Commissioner (if it happens) is as smooth and seamless as possible and the Transition Programme will enable this."

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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