

# Police Reform

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# Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting police and the people

- ...restoring once more the connection between the police and the people, putting the public back in the driving seat and enabling the police to meet the new crime and anti-social behaviour challenges.
- This paper signals the most radical change to policing in 50 years.
- We will transfer power in policing – replacing bureaucratic accountability with democratic accountability.
- First we will transfer power back to the people – by introducing directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners, representing their communities, understanding their crime and anti-social behaviour priorities and holding the Chief Constable to account for achieving them, and being able to fire her or him if they do not.
- Chief Constables will be responsible for the day to day operations of their police force but accountable to the public via these individuals and not Whitehall.
- Our plans will make the police more accountable, accessible and transparent to the public and therefore make our communities safer.
- Regular beat meetings will allow people to challenge the police's performance and accessible 'street level' crime data will shine a light on local crime trends and concerns.



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# Watch Committees

In 1835 the Municipal Corporations Act introduced ratepayer democracy to the several hundred self-governing towns of England and Wales. The only compulsory duty of the newly elected councils was to select a watch committee from their number to run the police force.



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## The Police Act 1964

The Police Act 1964 updated the legislation governing police forces in England and Wales. Watch committees were replaced by new police authorities and the Home Secretary also received new powers to supervise local constabularies. The Act also allowed for the amalgamation of existing forces into more efficient units.

*1 April 1967 Amalgamation of Durham County and Sunderland Borough Police Forces.*

*1 April 1968 Teeside Constabulary formed including a bit of Durham County, Middlebrough and parts of N Yorks.*

*1 Oct 1968 Amalgamation of Durham County, Gateshead Borough and South Shields Borough Police Forces.*



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## **Police and criminal Evidence Act 1984**

Following the Scarman report into inner city disturbances in the early 1980's this Act required Police Authorities to consult the public on policing priorities.



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## Police and Magistrates' Courts Act 1994

- An Act which introduced independent members to police authorities alongside JPs and councillors.
- The publication of a Local Policing Plan was made mandatory.
- The Police Authority could also charge a separate policing precept.
- In effect this separated the functions of police authorities from council bodies and established them as stand alone bodies.



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# Neighbourhood Policing and PACT (Police & Communities Together/Partnerships & Communities Together)

- Good practice and which first appeared in Chicago.
- National Reassurance Policing Programme between October 2003 and March 2005. Following the small-scale pilot, the three-year Neighbourhood Policing Programme was officially launched in April 2005 - introduced PACT meetings to UK.
- The Policing Pledge in 2009 formally introduced PACT meetings as one of the ten basic standards.
- Currently there are **1,956** PACT meetings in the Durham Constabulary force area every year.



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# Darlington's PACT priorities – 25<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011

- Anti social behaviour (various locations).
- Motorcycle nuisance in Whinfield area.  
Speeding Westmoreland Street.  
Vehicles entering no entry Leyburn Road.  
Anti-Social Behaviour reference rival groups of youths.
- Speeding on Corporation Road and Station Road.  
General metal thefts on Redhall Estate from dwellings/sheds and rear yards.  
ASB in Springfield Park where youths congregate and consume alcohol.
- Speeding on Wylam Avenue and Hutton Avenue.  
Maidendale Nature Reserve Firthmoor - off road motorbikes and persons using air weapons.



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# Durham City's PACT priorities – 25<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011

- ASB youth congregation and associated littering.
- ASB and street drinking around Cheveley Park, Belmont. Youths are gathering in large numbers within the shop complex and nearby park area most evenings. They are pestering shoppers to buy alcohol for them and causing a nuisance.
- Off road bikes around the rear of Springfield Meadows and fields opposite New Road. Also persons riding through streets of the village.
- Anti-social behaviour and evidence of drug taking to the rear of Margaret Street.
- Parking issues and speeding vehicles throughout Pittington village. Problems with youths hanging around the X-roads and behind the Community Centre.
- Sherburn Hill - speeding on main road through the village.
- Sherburn Road -Off road motorcycles causing a nuisance to the rear of Laurel Avenue Sherburn Road Estate.
- West Rainton -Youths causing annoyance with underage drinking around the park area and to the rear of Tollgate Fields. Youths causing problem in Finchale View Play park.
- Bowburn - Boy racers are congregating under the motorway bridge that leads from Tail Upon End Lane to Old Quarrington. This is causing problems for the local residents as they feel intimidated.



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# Durham Constabulary Organisational Performance

Analysis of the Impacts on NI21 Force	Importance based on potential increase in agreement with NI21	Percentage of respondents who agree:			
		Jun 10	Sep 10	Dec 10	Mar 11
People are aware the police hold regular public meetings, i.e. PACT meetings.	Medium	34.2% (371/ 1084)	38.6% (393/ 1019)	39.4% (441/ 1118)	40.0% (547/ 1369)

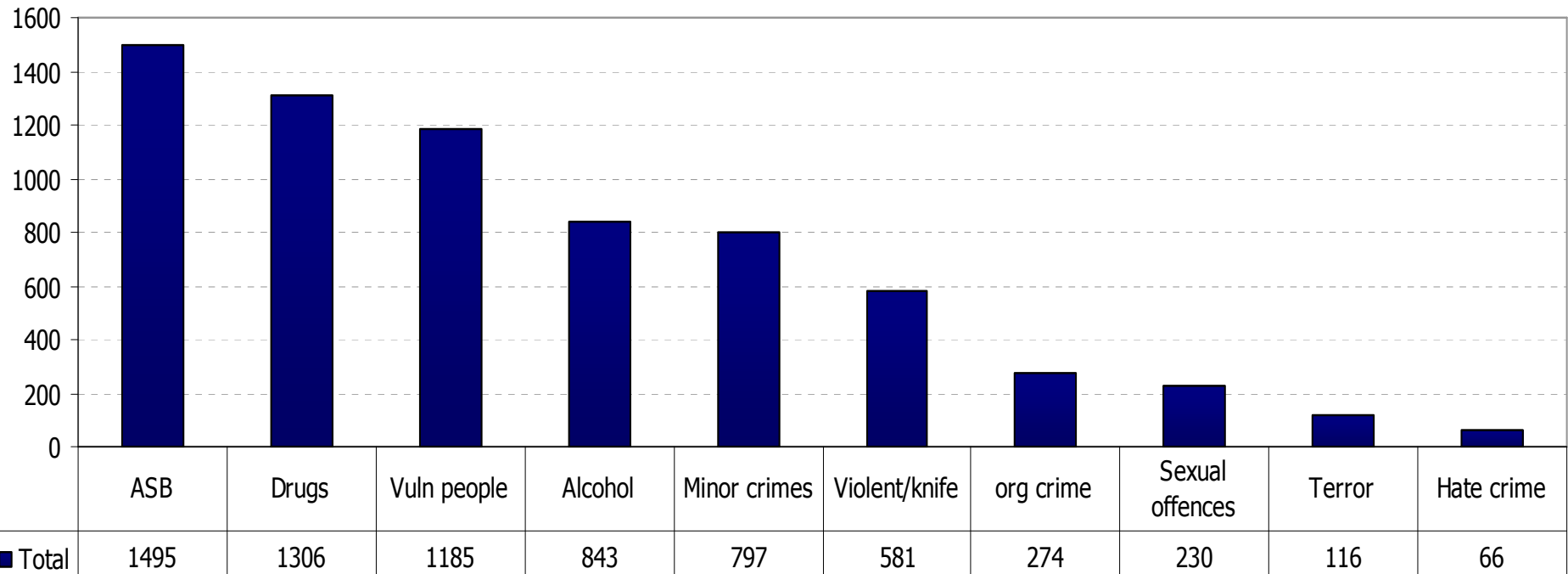


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# Durham Constabulary Organisational Performance

The Public Confidence Survey asks: "Which of the following issues do you feel are the **three** most important for the police to be dealing with in your local area?" Each respondent's first choice scores 3 points, second choice 2 points and third choice 1 point. For the selected location, the total score is calculated for each issue and the result is displayed below as a percentage of the overall total.

**What Matters - Force**  
**Public Confidence Survey: March 2011**





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# Issues

- Tri-partite structure
- Operational independence
- Transition
- Role and composition of panel
- Potential threats
- Potential benefits



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