



Durham Police Authority

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Financial auditors give Police Authority clean bill of health**

“Good financial strategies and forward planning has helped put Durham Police Authority in good stead, both for this financial year, and the next” is the message external auditors expressed to Police Authority Members on Friday.

At a meeting of the Police Authority, Members reviewed the Audit Commission’s report. In terms of value for money, the Audit Commission’s report confirms the Police Authority “has robust systems and processes in place to effectively manage financial risks and opportunities”.

Furthermore, the report indicates that “the Authority and Force [Durham Constabulary] display high quality financial governance and leadership in meeting the financial management challenges and for securing financial resilience”.

Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said: “Long before the Government announced the Comprehensive Spending Review in September 2010, Durham Police Authority were already planning ahead, making financial decisions in order to address the policing needs of County Durham and Darlington.

“Whilst we recognise that difficult decisions have had to be made during the last 18 months, there are undoubtedly further challenges which lie ahead. The Authority and Durham Constabulary have worked hard to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources and I am pleased that the Audit Commission has recognised these achievements by announcing an unqualified Value for Money conclusion”.

**ENDS**

### **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, 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:

Tel: 0191 3836471

Email: [durham.pa@durham.gov.uk](mailto:durham.pa@durham.gov.uk)

Website: [www.durham-pa.gov.uk](http://www.durham-pa.gov.uk)

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/DPAuthority>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/durhampoliceauthority>