



Durham Constabulary

Press Release

19th October 2011

PLANNING CONSENT SOUGHT FOR NEW POLICE HQ

Durham Police Authority and its Constabulary are seeking the go ahead to build a new headquarters fit for 21st century policing.

Full planning consent is being sought for a three-storey building at Aykley Heads, Durham.

At the same time, Durham County Council is also being asked to give outline planning consent for housing on the site where the present police HQ is located.

If the go-ahead is given, it is hoped that building work will start in October next year on what is envisaged to be an 18-month contract. If it all goes to plan the new premises could be open as soon as April 2014.

In support and in advance of the planning consent, the proposed plans will go 'on the road' around the force area, for the benefit of interested members of the public as well as Durham Constabulary officers and staff.

These roadshows will be held at the following locations on the dates and times specified:

Monday 24th October at Darlington Town Hall foyer from 5pm – 7pm
Tuesday 25th October at Newton Aycliffe Police Station from 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Wednesday 26th October at Peterlee Police Station from 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Thursday 27th October at Consett Police Station from 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Friday 28th October at Bishop Auckland Police Station from 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Monday 31st October at the Durham Room, County Hall, Durham from 5pm – 7pm

The new development is being designed with the highest 'green' credentials as well as creating a modern office environment for up to 480 officers and staff.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Tel: 0191 375 2157

email: pressoffice@durham.pnn.police.uk

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The present headquarters dates back to 1969 when the first phase was opened by former Prime Minister Jim Callaghan, who was then Secretary of State.

It is no longer considered fit for purpose, with extremely high running and maintenance costs, coupled with the fact it does not lend itself to modern working conditions.

“The new building will represent a considerable saving to the Police Authority, at a time when every penny spent is being scrutinised and must be justified,” says Durham Police Authority Chairman Peter Thompson.

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