



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

14 November 2011

Public invited to ‘have your say’ on policing and community safety priorities in your area

Durham Police Authority, Durham Constabulary and Community Safety Partners are inviting local residents and businesses in County Durham and Darlington to have their say on their top policing and community safety priorities for 2012/2013.

Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said: “Representing the priorities of local communities is a core business activity for Durham Police Authority. We are undertaking this consultation in partnership with Durham Constabulary, The Darlington Community Safety Partnership and The Safe Durham Partnership, with the aim of capturing the information once to avoid the cost of duplication and using it to inform decision making processes”.

“We want to reach as wide an audience as possible and understand that not everyone can attend the meetings we hold. With this in mind we are exploring other options to enable the public to provide us with their views”.

The Chief Constable, Jon Stoddart said:

“It’s crucial that we inspire confidence in our communities by providing a policing service which reflects their needs and concerns. I would encourage as many people as possible to get involved in this survey so they shape their policing service.”

Councillor Bill Dixon, Chair of the Darlington Community Safety Partnership said:

“The Darlington Community Safety Partnership is committed to joining-up services at every level to ensure better outcomes for the communities that it

serves. Working with the Police Authority, the Constabulary and other partners on community engagement is just one example where we are streamlining our processes to enable resources to be freed up elsewhere to make a real difference”.

Ms Rachael Shimmin, Chair of The Safe Durham Partnership said:

“This consultation is important in shaping the delivery of services not just in County Durham, but in Darlington too. It is important that every resident and business is given the opportunity to have their say on community safety priorities”

Local people are asked to vote for their top three priorities out of the following list of seven priorities that were agreed earlier today at the Police Authority’s Business Planning and Productivity Committee:

1. Reducing the harm caused by Organised Crime Groups: Organised crime can be described as two or more people involved in a network of criminal activity. Organised crime causes serious harm and fear to others by intimidation and violence and groups may be involved in drug related crime, money laundering, metal theft, fraud, and importation of counterfeit goods.

2. Protecting Communities from Terrorism and Extremism: Terrorism can be described as the use or threat of action where it involves serious violence against a person, serious damage to property or endangers a person’s life to advance ideological causes. Examples: bomb threats/ attacks, extremists and radical groups.

3. Reducing the impact of Alcohol abuse on people and communities: Alcohol abuse has a range of harmful effects on communities. Examples are street drinking, public disorder, nuisance behaviour, rowdy behaviour, domestic abuse and can affect communities at all times of the day and night.

4. Reducing the impact of Drug abuse on people and communities: Drug abuse has a range of harmful effects on communities. It can result in burglary and theft, public disorder, nuisance behaviour, rowdy behaviour, and can affect communities at all times of the day and night.

5. Protecting vulnerable people from harm: This involves tackling issues such as violent crime, domestic abuse, hate crime, sexual offences, young people who go missing, child protection, adult protection and anti-social behaviour.

6. Solving local problems with Partners: This would involve early intervention to deliver positive long term solutions on problems in specific localities that can have a negative impact on the lives of residents.

7. Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour with Partners: Anti-Social Behaviour can be defined as any nuisance, intimidating or destructive activity that damages or destroys another person's quality of life. Examples: nuisance neighbours, vandalism, graffiti, rowdy behaviour, anti-social street drinking, littering.

The consultation will run from 14th November until 1st December 2011. You can choose to vote online (visit www.durham.police.uk), by text message or face-to-face at a supermarket or shopping centre (details provided below). People also have the opportunity to vote at the Area Action Partnership (AAP) Forum Market Place Events.

To vote by text VOTE to 07786 027280 followed by your chosen 3 priorities from the list above, plus your postcode (your text should look like this example: VOTE 2,4,5, DH1 5UL).

Alternatively, residents can visit one of the following locations to have their say:

Date / Time	Venue	Area
14 November (11am-3pm)	Tesco	Bishop Auckland
16 November (10am-2pm)	Cornmill Shopping Centre	Darlington
17 November (11am-3pm)	Asda	Stanley
24 November (10am-2pm)	Asda	Peterlee
28 November (starts 6pm)	(Public Forum) County Hall	Durham

To vote at one of the Area Action Partnership Forum meetings, you can attend one the following venues, which start at 6pm, unless otherwise stated:

East Durham Rural Corridor	15th November - start at 5.00pm	Coxhoe Village Hall, Front Street, Coxhoe, Durham DH6 4DA
Mid Durham	16th November	Lanchester EP Primary School, Lanchester, DH7 0HU
Teesdale	16th November	Jersey Farm Hotel, Darlington Road, Barnard Castle, DL12 8TA
Three Towns	17th November	St Catherine's Community Centre, 6 South Street, Crook DL15 8NE
Stanley	22nd November	Lamplight Arts Centre, Front Street, Stanley, DH9 0NA
Great Aycliffe & Middridge	22nd November	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4HT
Spennymoor	23rd November	Spennymoor Town Hall, High Street, Spennymoor, DL16 6DG
Derwent Valley	23rd November	St John's Church Hall, Moorside,
Weardale	24th November	Wolsingham School and Community College
Bishop Auckland & Shildon	24th November	King James 1 Community College, South Church Road, Bishop Auckland DL14 7JZ
Durham City (to include Medium Term Financial Plan information)	28th November	Durham Town Hall, Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ

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: Nyama Johnson, Policy & Communications Officer, Durham Police Authority

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