



Durham Police Authority

# PRESS RELEASE

## **Term extended for Independent Members of policing scrutiny body**

Existing Independent Members of Durham Police Authority may have their terms of office extended to November 2012, following a report to a Special Meeting of the Police Authority on Thursday 1 December 2011.

Currently, Durham Police Authority is made up of 9 elected members representing Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council, plus a further 8 Independent Members who are local people representing the views of local communities throughout the Durham Constabulary area; providing a balance of political and non-political views in the decision making, monitoring and scrutiny of local policing.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act will come fully into effect on 15 November 2012 when police authorities nationally will cease to exist. They will be substituted by Police and Crime Commissioners' who will be elected through the ballot box on that date. In the meantime all Members of Durham Police Authority will continue to ensure effective policing governance and accountability for the residents of County Durham and Darlington.

The Home Office has invited police authorities to comment on arrangements to extend the terms of Office for Independent Members. Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said:

“Durham Police Authority continually works hard to ensure that the performance of local policing is the best that it can be by setting realistic yet sometimes stretching targets of which these are monitored and challenged throughout the year. Current Members of the Authority are experienced local people who care a great deal about the local communities they represent. If they choose to continue in their current role until November 2012 I believe that they will continue to provide a substantial contribution to policing governance”.

Members of the Authority also agreed at its meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> December to continue to remain a member of the Association of Police Authorities until the

end of its term in November 2012, to ensure Durham continues to be represented at a national level.

## **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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