



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

The public's vote determines next year's policing priorities

Durham Police Authority and Durham Constabulary have undertaken a joint consultation in partnership with Darlington Community Safety Partnership and Safe Durham Partnership to seek the views of the public and other policing stakeholders on what should be the Local Policing Priorities for 2012/2013 in County Durham and Darlington.

A wide range of local people gave their views at various locations across County Durham and Darlington. Residents were surveyed at shopping centres, supermarkets and through various Area Action Partnership public meetings across County Durham. Local residents also had the opportunity to vote for their top priorities online or by text message.

The top three priorities resulting from the public consultation were:

1. Tackling anti-social behaviour in partnership
2. Reducing the impact of alcohol abuse on people and communities
3. Protecting vulnerable people from harm

Police Authority Member and Vice Chair of the Safe Durham Partnership Councillor Lucy Hovvells agreed with the public vote and was especially pleased to see that alcohol issues will continue to be dealt with by local police and their partners as one of the main priorities, especially due to the depth of the issue and the wide range of people this issue impacts upon.

Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Mike Barton said: "Although the results of some of the other priorities which people voted for came close, I think its right that the Police Authority give Durham Constabulary a strategic direction and focus on the top 3 results. This being said, we will still continue to solve local problems in partnership with other agencies and other issues such as drug abuse."

Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said:

"The Police Authority and our partners regularly obtain the views of local people about policing and community safety. We have always valued the opportunity to consult with the people who live and work within County Durham and Darlington, as well as our key stakeholders."

This year, we have welcomed the collaboration of wider partners coming together to set priorities. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter to our communities can only be done effectively by all of us working together towards a common goal. This consultation was very important to us as it reflects the views of local people. It is particularly important that we co-operate and collaborate with our partners at this time when we all have to deliver our respective services within a more constrained budget”.

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:

Tel: 0191 3836471
Email: durham.pa@durham.gov.uk
Website: www.durham-pa.gov.uk
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/DPAuthority>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/durhampoliceauthority>