



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Chat with the Chair - Budget setting for 2012/13

Durham Police Authority finances its budget with funding from government grants, council tax payments and non-domestic rates. Non-domestic rates, or business rates, are collected by local authorities from occupants of non-domestic properties.

Members of the public who have a question about how the police budget is set or would like to feed in their views about the proposed police budget for 2012/13 can either speak with the Chair of Durham Police Authority directly, or have the opportunity to attend a meeting at County Hall in Durham.

The Police Authority will be meeting with business rate-payers (at 5.00p.m.) and their Citizens' Panel (council tax-payers, at 5.30p.m.) on Tuesday 17 January in Committee Room 2 at County Hall, Durham. Business rate-payers and members of the public are welcome to attend the appropriate meeting to feed in their views on the budget proposals for 2012/13.

Mr Peter Thompson, Chairman of Durham Police Authority said:

"At this time of the year the Police Authority has to make a judgement around what can be realistically funded and what residents can afford and it is important that we consult widely with the general public to this end. The Citizens' Panel is one way of doing this.

"Whilst we continue to put front-line policing services at the forefront of our thinking the Police Authority also needs to support the Chief Constable and his officers in every way possible to ensure that Durham Constabulary maintains its status as one of the best performing forces in the whole of the country".

Residents of County Durham and Darlington who cannot attend the meeting but wish to discuss any aspect of the 2012/13 budget have the opportunity to speak to the Chair of the Authority by telephone on 0191 3833503, 07824460463 or 07798816737 on the dates and times shown below:

Monday 16 January 2012: 08.00a.m. - 10.00a.m., 12 noon - 4.00p.m. and 5.00p.m. - 7.00p.m.

Tuesday 17 January 2012: 10.00a.m. - 12.00 noon, 4.00p.m. - 5.00p.m. and 7.00p.m. - 8.00p.m.

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