



Devon & Cornwall  
Police Authority

NEWS & INFORMATION  
1 / 2007

### **Police Authority Meetings and News**

The Police Authority met on 8 December 2006. At the meeting, Members considered a new style of report from the Chief Constable. The report included a strategic update of the key issues affecting the Departments of the Chief Officers and Directors and where possible, responded to issues raised at Police Authority Liaison Meetings.

The previous Police Authority Liaison Information leaflet provided details of the Force Development Programme which will take a fresh look at the way policing is delivered. Alongside this, the Police Authority is also re-evaluating how it operates. At the meeting the Chief Executive provided an oral report updating the Authority on progress made towards operating as a Strategic Police Authority. Work in progress includes the preparation of an annual 3-year rolling Strategic Plan and increasing capacity to manage Force performance.

Under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 there is a requirement for the Police Authority and the Constabulary to publish a Disability Discrimination Scheme. There is also a requirement to report and publish progress each year and review and revise the schemes every 3 years. At their meeting on 8 December, the Authority considered and approved Disability Discrimination Schemes for the period 2006 - 2009 for both the Police Authority and the Constabulary.

### **Chief Officer appointments**

Following the Chief Constable recruitment process reported in the previous issue, Stephen Otter was appointed and took up his tenure with Devon & Cornwall Constabulary on 15 January. Stephen was the Deputy Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

As a result of the forthcoming retirement of Deputy Chief Constable Nigel Arnold, the post of DCC was advertised on 3 November with a closing date for applications of 25 November. A panel of 5 Members undertook the selection process which comprised a 2 day assessment. Tony Melville, the current Acting Deputy Chief Constable for the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, was the successful candidate.

The appointment of Tony Melville leaves an Assistant Chief Constable vacancy within the Force, and a recruitment process is currently underway to fill this. Interviews for this position will take place in early 2007.

## **Job and Grading Review for Devon and Cornwall Police Staff**

The Police Authority and Constabulary are developing a pay and reward strategy and the expectation is that this exercise will be undertaken over the next couple of years. Critically, both the Authority and the Constabulary have learnt vital lessons as to what went wrong when the original exercise was undertaken and there will be a greater level of communication both with staff and their representative associations during the new exercise. The Police Authority will retain overall accountability and control of the programme including its strategy and outcomes.

### **Major Crime Investigation Team (MCIT)**

A Major Crime Investigation Team is now in place across the Force. MCIT comprises dedicated police officers who deal with all homicide investigations. In the past, such investigations necessarily required the temporary abstraction of police officers from within basic command units, resulting in reduced resources to deal with crime at a local level. The introduction of MCIT has resulted in a 75% decrease in such abstractions.

### **PCSOs**

By April 2008 there will be 356 PCSOs dedicated to Neighbourhood policing within Devon and Cornwall. PCSOs currently have ten powers and these will increase to 42 in April 2007. PCSOs are not being deployed as a direct, one for one replacement for police constables. They are an additional neighbourhood resource, integrated into neighbourhood teams working alongside their police officer colleagues. The additional number of PCSOs has enabled the Constabulary to examine the roles of police officer posts within neighbourhood teams. There will be a smaller number of neighbourhood constables, with an enhanced skill set, working to a neighbourhood agenda without risk of abstraction, Neighbourhood constables will lead members of the extended police family (special constables, wardens, PCSOs) in response to community concerns and be ring fenced in that role.

All traffic warden posts will be lost by April 2008. To manage the transition, traffic management issues will be undertaken by police officers and PCSOs designed with traffic warden powers.

## **How to contact the Police Authority**

*You can contact the Police Authority at*

***PO Box 229, Exeter, Devon EX2 5YT***

***Telephone - 01392 268333***

***Fax - 01392 268330***

*Or via the website:- [www.dcpa.police.uk](http://www.dcpa.police.uk)*

# How to contact the Police

GENERAL ENQUIRIES (24 HOURS):

**08452 777444**

*To report crime or criminal damage  
To request police advice or attendance  
To be connected to a police station*

**999**

*When life is at risk, Offenders are nearby  
Someone is injured, Immediate action is required*

Minicom Users  
Crimestoppers  
Website

01392 452935  
0800 555111  
[www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)