



Devon & Cornwall  
Police Authority

NEWS & INFORMATION  
4 / 2008

### Police Authority Meetings and News

The Police Authority met on 27 June 2008. The meeting was held at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor in Exeter and was the first meeting to be webcast from this location. Meetings of the Authority will now continue to be held at Police Headquarters and will be webcast. If you would like to come along to the meetings you will be made welcome, alternatively you can watch the meeting on the Internet as it is happening, or watch the archive of the meeting which will be available on our website a day or two after the meeting has taken place. Please visit the following web page for more information: <http://www.dcpa.public-i.tv/site/>

The dates of future scheduled meetings are:

Friday 26 September 2008 at 10am.

Friday 5 December 2008 at 10am.

Friday 13 February 2008 at 10am.

At the meeting on 27 June, Members approved the financial outturn for 2007-08. The outturn showed an underspend of £47,000, a variation of less than two hundredths of one per cent of the budget. This is a significant achievement. A more for less approach has been achieved; a significant increase in performance has been delivered at the same time as real cost reductions. The financial year has created the momentum for further cost reduction to be delivered in 2008-09 and 2009-10 which will release the necessary resources to add 200 extra front line officers by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

Also at the meeting, the Authority considered and approved a constitution. The purpose of the constitution is:

- to set out how the Police Authority will exercise its powers and duties to ensure the provision of an effective and efficient police service for Devon and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly;
- to set out how decisions will be taken;
- to ensure that the people responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable;
- to establish a means of holding decision makers to public account;
- to ensure that no member will review or scrutinise a decision in which he or she was directly involved other than to contribute to the debate when any decision is re-considered.

A copy of the approved constitution will shortly be made available on our website.

## **Green Agenda**

The Constabulary is reviewing energy consumption at all of its buildings to ensure that it is using energy resources in the most efficient and environmentally friendly way. A method of measuring energy consumption more accurately is being implemented by the force Energy Manager and this will give more timely and accurate meter readings. This activity will enable the Force to measure the impact of energy reduction measures. Not only will this help to reduce the carbon footprint but will also result in considerable financial savings.

## **Crime down, confidence up**

Last year overall crime in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly dropped by 10%. This included a fall in violence (down 7%), burglary (down 8%), and robbery (down 17%).

There was a 9% rise in the number of drugs offences. This rise is largely due to the more widespread use of police powers to issue warnings for cannabis possession.

Public confidence in the local police has increased. 56% of people questioned stated their local police do a good or excellent job, a figure higher than the regional and national average.

## **Local Policing Summary**

Every household in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will shortly be receiving its Local Policing Summary for 2008/9 from Devon and Cornwall Police Authority.

Local Policing Summaries are a means of getting information to the public about how policing is managed locally whilst aiming to strengthen the way the police interact with the public. We hope the leaflet will ensure you are better informed about how policing is being delivered, understand priority issues, as well as having a better idea of how to access, engage with and influence local policing.

We have made a real effort to ensure that the comments made by members of the public about earlier versions of the Summary have been incorporated into this year's version. This includes simplifying the performance information, making it easier to distinguish between the roles of the Police Authority and the Constabulary and demonstrating the value added by the Police Authority.

The cost, including the design, print and delivery to every household equates to less than 8 pence per copy.

## **Summer Consultation Events**

### **South West Disability Show**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June four members of Police Authority staff attended the South West Disability Show. This event advertised products and services that are available to individuals with disabilities. The Police Authority aimed to consult and engage with members of the public and wanted to assess the opinions of policing in relation to visibility and ease of contact. In addition, details were taken of individuals and organisations who expressed interest in taking part in future consultation. Results of the survey will be combined with other areas of consultation examining the same areas.

## **Youth Engagement**

Officers of the Police Authority were invited to attend presentations carried out by students studying for a national diploma in Public Services at Exeter College. These were informal presentations however feedback was provided to the students to improve their delivery.

In addition Police Authority staff attended formal presentations given by students on Foundation Degrees enrolled on the Public Services Course at Plymouth's City College. Guests included representatives from the Force (Assistant Chief Constable Netherton, BCU Commander Jo Tennant), Cornwall Magistrates (Carl Wallin), and Plymouth Racial Equality Council.

At the end of July, the Authority consulted with young people at a yearly youth festival held in Bicton for 13-19 year olds. It is estimated that around 500 young people attended this year.

## **Plymouth and Cornwall Pride Festival**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of June the Authority was represented at the Plymouth Pride Festival with 4 members of staff attending the event. This event celebrated gay pride. The Authority aimed to consult and engage with members of the public and assessed the opinions of policing in relation to visibility and ease of contact. Staff talked to roughly 100 people on the day about the Authority. Results of the survey will be combined with the other areas of consultation. The Authority will be represented at the Cornwall Pride Festival held in Truro on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August. A similar survey used at Plymouth will be used during this event.

## **Respect Festival**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, the Authority attended the Exeter Respect Festival to consult and engage with the public. The event celebrated diversity. The Authority was invited by the organisers to come back again this year. A survey was carried out with members of the public and results of the survey will be combined with the other areas of consultation.

## 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 77444**

*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)