



Devon & Cornwall  
Police Authority

NEWS & INFORMATION  
1 / 2008

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

The Police Authority met on Friday 5 October and Friday 7 December 2007 at County Hall in Exeter; both meetings were broadcast live on the Police Authority website. Figures from the October meeting indicate that 42 people watched the live broadcast and since then, 284 viewers have watched the archived broadcast. The next Full Authority Meeting will take place on 15 February 2008 where the Policing budget for 2008/09 will be discussed and from this the Police Authority precept of the Council Tax will be determined.

The Police and Justice Act will result in changes to the membership of Police Authorities in relation to the Lay Justice element. It is anticipated that from 1 October 2008, Authorities should comprise 10 Councillor and 9 Independent Members, at least one Independent Member should also be a Lay Justice.

The retirement of Mr William Thomas, a Lay Justice Member of the Police Authority, was noted at the Full Authority Meeting in December. He officially retired at the end of December 2007, after seven years as a Member and was thanked for his valued contribution throughout his term of office.

The Performance report indicated that the Constabulary had improved from 37<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> nationally in terms of overall satisfaction with the service provided by the police, and is striving to improve this further as well as its position within its family of similar forces in 2008.

For more information concerning any of the above, please contact the Police Authority – see page 4 for details.

### **Decriminalisation Of Parking Will Free Up Officer Time**

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary is planning to discontinue the traffic warden service from 31st March 2008. Parking enforcement will become the responsibility of local authorities, and savings for the constabulary will be reinvested in the delivery of frontline policing services.

In practice, this passes the control of on-street parking restrictions (no waiting/limited waiting) to the local authority as a civil matter. Income from penalty charges, which is currently passed on to the Treasury, will now be retained by the local authority for reinvestment in transport schemes and provision of the enforcement service. Enforcement will be undertaken by parking attendants employed by the local authority, as is the case in Plymouth, or contracted to a commercial company, as in Torbay, where the councils have already decriminalised parking enforcement.

## **Transitional Arrangements**

Both Devon and Cornwall County Councils have applied to the Department for Transport to decriminalise parking enforcement. Until they are awarded the powers to enforce parking restrictions, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary will continue to provide parking enforcement.

On an average day, between 150 and 200 motorists will receive a parking ticket in Devon and Cornwall, excluding Plymouth and Torbay, and be fined £30. When parking does become decriminalised, parking offences, clearway offences, limited waiting, on street pay and display and residents parking, will no longer be criminal matters and will be under the control of local authorities.

Police officers, police traffic wardens and PCSOs, will have no powers to enforce these regulations. The only offences remaining for the Police to enforce will be offences of obstruction, vehicle excise licence and 'endorsable' offences. This is currently the situation in Plymouth and Torbay and will become the situation throughout Devon and Cornwall. The most significant of the benefits is that it will free up a considerable amount of Officer time to answer emergencies.

## **Targets**

As of 30 November 2007, (the latest figures available at time of print), the Force was achieving 11 of 16 targets set by the Police Authority. These achievements include targets to reduce overall crime, including violent crime in a public place and criminal damage and to increase the detection rate and the amount of time police officers spend on visible policing.

Between April 2007 and the end of November 2007 there were 5,500 fewer crimes including 2,440 fewer reports of criminal damage than between April and November 2006.

## **Single Non Emergency Number**

The SNEN or '101', was to be a telephone service that would provide the public with direct access to advice, information and action for community safety issues, including non-emergency crime, policing and anti-social behaviour. The service was to be delivered through a partnership between the police and local authorities and phased in over 3 years.

101 is currently live in 5 areas across England and Wales: (Hampshire & the Isle of Wight, Cardiff, Sheffield, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Leicester City, Rutland, Melton and Harborough).

However in November 2007, Home Office Ministers decided to end Government funding for the live SNEN areas and not to fund any new start-up initiatives. The 101 number itself will remain operational in those areas above but given the new funding pressures the entire service must be in doubt.

The Home Office acknowledges the many benefits achieved by the five live 101 partnerships and the commitment to improving services that these achievements represent. It is hoped that the lessons learned about effective partnership working and improved access and quality of service in dealing with community safety issues, will be mainstreamed into local operations wherever possible.

## 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)