



Devon & Cornwall
Police Authority

NEWS & INFORMATION
1 / 2009

Police Authority Meetings and News

The Police Authority met on 26 September and 5 December 2008. At the meetings, members considered a number of issues, which included the following:

New Independent Police Authority Members

The Authority has been running a process to recruit 3 independent members of the Authority. The Selection Panel undertook a paper sift assessing the applications against the Association of Police Authorities / Home Office competencies and invited 21 people to attend an initial interview. Following the initial interview the Selection Panel nominated 6 people (as required by legislation) for final interview. The Interview Panel met on 18 and 25 September and interviewed the nominated 6 people assessing skills against the Association of Police Authority / Home Office competencies. At the meeting, it was resolved that the following people be appointed as Independent Members of the Police Authority with effect from 1 October 2008 for a period of 4 years:

- Mrs Lynda Price
- Ms Linda Williams
- Mrs Jayne Zito

The next meeting is on 13 February at which the Authority will discuss and decide the budget requirement and capital programme for 2009/10, including provisions, reserves, and council tax. This meeting will be webcast and can be watched live on the Internet, or its archive can be viewed a day or two afterwards at <http://www.dcpa.public-i.tv/site/>

Appointment of two Independent Police Authority Members

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority is looking to appoint two independent members to serve on the Authority from 1 November 2009. The members will help to secure an efficient and effective police force in Devon, Cornwall, and the Isles of Scilly. This includes consulting the public about the work of the police and building partnerships between the police and local communities. Members attend and take an active part in a variety of meetings, participate in public consultation on local policing issues and keep themselves informed of national and local policing issues. For further information or to apply please contact the Police Authority Office – contact details on the back of this leaflet.

Operation Quest

Operation Quest is a Home Office initiative, sponsored by the Value for Money Unit, to provide specialist support for selected police forces to improve their operational policing processes. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary is one of four forces which have been selected to participate in the latest round of Quest. There have been 3 rounds of Operation Quest to date with 10 Forces having participated and significant performance, efficiency and customer satisfaction improvements reported as a result.

Task and Finish Groups

Members agreed the proposed membership to the Task and Finish Groups that have recently been established. Task and Finish Groups cover areas of business of importance to the Authority that clearly align with the Authority's Business Plan and Risk Register in support of the shared Strategic Plan and Five Year Vision. These groups benefit both the Force and Authority; the Force in terms of receiving assurance that it is progressing appropriately against the Plan and Vision and the Authority in terms that it is contributing to its governance and scrutiny responsibilities. Areas of policing that are the subject of scrutiny for Task and Finish Groups at present include Protective Services (including firearms). ICT / Science and Technology and Scientific Services (including forensics).

The Authority also agreed a range of new working groups that would focus on professional standards and complaints, budget, equality and diversity, domestic abuse / rape / children's issues, performance data analysis and regional collaboration.

Other news includes:

Volunteer opportunity with the Police Authority

Gain an insight into the criminal justice system by volunteering for the Police Authority as an Independent Custody Visitor. The purpose of independent custody visiting is to enable members of the community to observe, comment and report on the conditions under which persons are detained at police stations and the operation in practice of the statutory rules governing their welfare with a view to securing greater public understanding and confidence in these matters. These arrangements also provide an independent check on the way police officers carry out their duties with regard to detained persons. As well as being independent, Independent Custody Visitors must be impartial. They may champion the cause of neither the police nor a detainee. Their function is to look, listen and report. If you are interested in applying, or know of someone else who may be interested, please contact the Police Authority office.

Money Seized From Criminals To Boost Policing

Tens of thousands of pounds confiscated from criminals is to be ploughed back into fighting crime. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary has been allocated over £91,000 from the total amount seized from offenders between April and June 2008 to spend on fighting crime. An incentive scheme introduced in 2006 as part of the Proceeds of Crime Act, allows the police, the courts, Crown Prosecution Service and others to retain a share of all cash seized. Devon and Cornwall Police will use this money to investigate further financial crime and bring more criminals to justice.

Cop Card

The Constabulary has won the Gold Award (first place) in the Public Sector category of a scheme run by the Chartered Institute of Public Relations for the 'Cop Card' initiative. The Top Trumps style sticker albums were designed to encourage young people to get to know their neighbourhood policing team and improve their confidence in the police. Cards were produced showing individual officers in the Brixham neighbourhood team as well as the helicopter, police car, police dog and other police equipment. The scheme was totally funded by local sponsorship.

Children between 7 and 11 were encouraged to collect all the cards by approaching officers and asking them for their card to aid their collection. Once the sticker books were completed the children took them to Brixham police station to have their fingerprints taken. Their details were entered into a draw and the lucky winner was given a VIP tour of police headquarters.

When children were consulted after the event it was found that many of them had spoken to police officers and knew their neighbourhood beat manger.

Neighbourhood Policing Website launched

The Constabulary has launched their new Neighbourhood Policing website which can be found at <http://neighbourhoodpolicing.devon-cornwall.police.uk/Pages/Default.aspx>.

This site enables you to get to know the Officers in your local policing team and to discover more about the policing priorities where you live. Each neighbourhood beat in Devon and Cornwall is represented on the web site, with details of local officers and staff, news and events and the key policing issues individual to each area. This information can easily be found by putting your postcode into the search engine. The neighbourhood policing teams will be updating the site regularly with local news. In time, this will also show local policing priorities and forthcoming neighbourhood meetings.

Crime Mapper Website

The Force Crime Mapping website has gone live. This facility allows you to find out about crime levels in your area by searching by village, town or postcode. You can pan out and zoom in the interactive map to find detailed statistics about where you live or work. Statistics are updated once a month. There are three simple ways to find statistics for a specific area, search, browse or explore. Details are provided for burglary, robbery, vehicle crime, violence and anti-social behaviour and compares performance for the last 3 months with the same period of the year before. It also compares crime levels with other areas of the Force. CrimeMapper can be viewed at www.devonandcornwall.crimemapper.co.uk
You can also find links to the maps in the local policing sections of the Constabulary's website.

Policing Pledge

The Constabulary has recently launched the Policing Pledge to the public. The Pledge sets out minimum standards in 10 areas of policing. Its aim is to give communities a stronger voice and the means to challenge the Police if the standard of service expected is not delivered. The Police Force wants to meet the needs of their local communities, improving the customer's experience and ensuring that witnesses and victims get the best possible treatment and respect. The Police are committed to the Policing Pledge and believe that, in partnership with the workforce modernisation programme, it will help them to achieve the vision of becoming a top-10 performing Force by 2012. The full pledge can be accessed at <http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/v3/about/cmmteam/pledge.html> and copies of it may be available at this meeting.

You matter, we care

Being a victim of crime can be a very distressing experience and therefore the Police are determined to provide the best possible service to affected individuals. As part of this commitment, a booklet has been produced that will be given to victims of crime and that includes useful advice and information.

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

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