

TEESDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Report To: FULL COUNCIL
17 December 2008**

**Lead Member: Lead Member for Health and Safer Communities
(Cllr. Keith Stansfield)**

Ward Member: ALL

Subject: Local Policing Priorities – Stakeholder Consultation

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Durham Police Authority has recently initiated a public consultation exercise on local policing priorities.
- 1.2 A copy of a letter dated 25 November with details of a stakeholder event held on 5 December and a response form are attached as Appendix 1. Unfortunately the Council could not be represented at this event due to conflicting commitments. In any event it would not have enabled all Members of the council to have had an input to establishing the priorities. A response has been requested by 19 December 2008.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that: the following priorities are suggested to the Police Authority:
 - 2.1.1 Make our area safe through effective Neighbourhood Policing, tackling Anti Social Behaviour and working in partnership with other agencies.
 - 2.1.2 Protecting vulnerable people from harm such as abuse, injury or assault.
 - 2.1.3 Reduce the harm to communities caused by the effect of alcohol and drug abuse.
 - 2.1.4 That a copy of this report be sent to the Police Authority to more fully reflect the views of this Council

3.0 COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The subject of Rural Policing was the subject of a report by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier this year that was considered by the Executive Committee on 14 July and endorsed by Full Council on 27 August 2009
 - 3.2.1 The main findings from a limited survey of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings were that initial concerns that had given rise to the report

were not as widespread or evidenced as had first been thought. The main positive findings were that people feel:

- There is not a problem with anti social behaviour in their area
- The Police are effective in dealing with anti social behaviour
- They are not worried about leaving their home at night
- They are satisfied with the Police response to reported incidents
- They receive post-incident updates from the Police
- They do not have difficulty convincing the public to report incidents to the Police
- They do not think Police personnel are moved about too much

3.2.2 The main neutral responses related to the following:

- Value for money from Durham Constabulary
- Parish Councillors having direct telephone contact numbers for Beat Police Officers

3.2.3 The main areas where improvements were indicated as being needed were:

- The adequacy of Police presence in their area
- The 0845 6060365 telephone contact centre
- Today's Police service compared to the past
- The visibility of Police on foot patrols
- The use of PCSOs as opposed to Beat officers
- The amount of liaison between the Police and Parish Councils

3.2.4 The Police were very positive and highly responsive to the report and as a result many of the issues have already been tackled particularly through the use of the Parish Forum for communication with the Police and in establishing very local priorities.

3.2.5 The information gained is the most recent the Council can rely upon in responding to this request from the Police Authority for this Council's on what ought to be future priorities and hence the order of priority recommended in Section 2.0.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Risk:

Risk	Category	Implications
That future Police priorities and investment do not match needs.	Service delivery	The Policing services to the community of Teesdale could deteriorate. The high amount of contact and liaison with the local Police ought to prevent this happening locally

		but at a higher strategic level Teesdale's elected representatives need to be alert to the potential for the needs of a rural area to be overtaken by the needs of the more urban and deprived Wards in the County.
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4.2 Equality and Diversity: The needs of rural areas as mentioned above need to continue to receive sufficient attention as do the needs of urban and deprived Wards

4.3 Human Resources: None

4.4 Community Safety: The outcome of the Police Authority consultation will help to inform future decision making in relation to Community Safety.

4.5 Legal Issues: None

4.6 Financial Issues: None

Background papers: **Overview and Scrutiny Rural Policing Report
2007/8**

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