

This e-newsletter is circulated every eight to ten weeks bringing you up to date with the activities of Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, letting you know how you can get involved and what to expect in the coming months.

[We welcome your ideas and feedback.](#) We want this newsletter to be useful for anyone that reads it: members of the policing family at all levels; community members; and partner agencies – we can only make it relevant with your help. Please pass it on and spread the word.

The future of Police Authorities awaiting Commons discussions

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill proposes the abolition of Police Authorities to be replaced by a directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioner in May 2012.

The Bill has been receiving considerable scrutiny in the House of Lords over the last few months. In May, Peers voted through a surprise amendment that deleted the 'directly-elected' element of the proposals and replaced them with a structure more in-line with the current police authority model. The Government has consistently made it clear that it will seek to re-insert the 'directly-elected' aspect of the Bill when it returns to the House of Commons in September.



Once the Bill returns to the Commons, MPs will give consideration to the amendments that the Lords have agreed. The process then enters the so-called ping-pong phase, when both Houses consider each other's amendments until final agreement is reached.

Could you spare a few hours a year to help inform strategic decision making?

In order to engage with the public more effectively regarding policing matters we have set up a Police Authority Panel consisting solely of members of the public. The purpose of the panel is to inform the Police Authority on issues/topics that will help to secure and maintain an effective police service to the people of Devon and Cornwall. The panel will act as a body of consultants that will steer future consultation/engagement work. Finally, the panel will establish a closer link with local communities in order to develop a fuller understanding of the communities the police authority serves.



Every year we seek new members for our Panels across the area to refresh the ideas being provided to the Authority and we are currently seeking new members. If you join the Panel, you will be requested to attend three meetings (two hours in length) over a one year period.

If you would be interested in joining the Police Authority's Panel please [contact us](#) stating whether you are a resident of the geographic county of Devon or Cornwall.

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority is prepared for the future

The Police watchdog Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has published its findings into a nationwide study of how well prepared police authorities and forces are for the forthcoming financial challenges.

Earlier this year, HMIC examined the spending plans and financial strategies of all police authorities and Forces in an attempt to understand how the service will make the savings required as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review and resultant 20% real terms cut to police funding.

About Devon and Cornwall, HMIC said "The force and authority showed a clear understanding of the financial challenge facing them, and have considered a range of options in developing an ambitious change programme to address it."

The report goes on to say "The authority has introduced innovative ways to engage with the public, and the focus..... is on providing information to the public about the decisions on where savings would be made".

It also assessed what impact national budget cuts may have upon frontline resources. HMIC recognised that Devon and Cornwall Police Authority and Force face a "*particularly difficult challenge*" given that it has already scaled-back on the number of police officers in 'back office' roles. You can read the full report online by [clicking here](#).

Out and about with the Authority

Every summer staff and Members of Devon and Cornwall Police Authority go out and about to community events to ask people key questions. This year, in the face of a decreasing budget, we are asking what you think should be the priority areas for spending.



So far we have attended Exeter Pride, Exeter Respect, Stithians Show, Launceston Show, Mid Devon Show and North Devon Show, speaking to over 1,000 people. The priority spend area appears to be Serious Crime which may not be surprising despite Devon and Cornwall having a relatively low level of these offences being committed within the area.

This Saturday (27 August 2011) we will be at Cornwall Pride in Victoria Gardens, Truro from 1100 – 1700. If you are in the area please come along and share your thoughts about policing with us. In October we hope to attend Plymouth Respect.

Full results of the consultation we do during the summer period will be presented to the Local Policing and Confidence Committee at their meeting on 15 September. The Committee will consider how to ensure the outcomes are used to influence decision making in relation to next year's budget setting.

As reported in a previous newsletter Members are also attending existing community groups to provide a short talk about the work of the Police Authority and hear attendees views about policing priorities for budget spending. If you are a member of a community group and would like a talk from a Member please [contact us](#).

Issue in focus

Separate organisations, working together

There is often some confusion about the differences between the Police Authority and the Police. Both are separate organisations but work together to improve the policing services for the communities of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The Police Authority is responsible for overseeing the Police and holding them to account. The table below shows a comparison of some of the key functions of the two organisations.

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

Responsible for an efficient and effective police force

Consult local people to ensure your views are reflected in local policing

Sets the policing budget and the policing element of the council tax

Regulates police performance against plans and budgets

Holds the Chief Constable to account on behalf of the public

Appoints the Chief Constable and senior constabulary officers

Devon and Cornwall Police

Responsible for operational policing

Delivers the policing plan based on local priorities and national requirements

Day-to-day responsibility for the management of the police budget

Delivers efficiency savings as set out in the policing plan

Maintains direction and control of all police officers and staff

Works in partnership to build safer communities

Website update (www.dcpa.police.uk)

Statistics at a glance

Month	Total visits	Unique visits	Highest single day hits	New visits
June 2011	1,720	1,295 (72%)	134 on June 7th	63.3%
July	1,268	938 (74%)	83 on July 15th	63%

The Police Authority has 439 Facebook 'friends'. This is since we started on 14 January 2010.

Supporting the Authority

Sue Howl – Chief Executive sue.howl@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	Becki Brodest – PA to Chief Executive becki.brodest@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk
Joy Norris – Assistant Chief Executive joy.norris@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	Duncan Walton – Treasurer Duncan.walton@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk
Richard Martin – Strategic Lead richard.martin@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	Eleanor Tanner – Office Manager and Member Services eleanor.tanner@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk
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Community Engagement Workers

Cath Horton, Janet Hyndman, Clare Mason and Karen Olver can all be contacted via the main office.

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