

## SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY

Surrey Police Authority is an independent body made up of county councillors, independent members of the public and a serving magistrate. Its job is to make sure there is an efficient and effective local police force that meets the needs of the community, by consulting with the public, setting the budget and strategic direction for the force and holding the Chief Constable to account.

The Authority consults widely when setting priorities for the Force - in the last 12 months more than 3,000 residents and organisations have responded to our consultations. The Authority also plays a leading role in consultation more widely across the county, chairing a group of consultation professionals from all local public bodies. This is helping to save money and provide innovative new ways to consult, such as the new 'Mipod' portable diary room which is proving a successful way to reach out to younger residents.

The Authority is taking steps to protect the front line policing that residents want from public spending cuts. The Authority has approved plans that will see a reduction in the number of senior officers, replacement of expensive and poorly used police buildings and simplifications to the structure of the force. As well as saving public money, these changes are allowing Surrey Police to recruit more PCs to strengthen policing operations.

The Authority and the Force will be moving forward with proposals for replacing some police stations with new places for residents to meet with neighbourhood police teams over the next year. In consultations to date, council offices, shopping centres, local halls and libraries have been popular suggestions for where police teams could be based. No police building being considered in these plans will close before the community has been consulted and alternative arrangements put in place.

The Authority will also be responding to Government plans to replace Police Authorities with directly elected Commissioners and working to put the new arrangements in place if the plans go ahead.

Key priorities set by the Authority for the force for 2010/ 2011 - following consultation with local people - include:

- Ensure people are confident that Police and local councils can deal with anti-social behaviour in their area
- Stop organised crime groups from operating in Surrey and across the region
- Arrest people who sell harmful drugs
- Save money by being more efficient – target £6.3m