

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

Police Authority Meets to Discuss Capping Announcement

A special meeting of Leicestershire Police Authority has been convened to discuss its response to the recent Ministerial capping announcement on the budget. The meeting is taking place at Force HQ, Enderby, Leicester, on Thursday 10 April 2008 starting at 10.00am. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The Authority received a letter from the Communities and Local Government (CLG) on Thursday 27 March informing the Authority that the Minister has commenced the process which could lead to the Authority being 'capped'. The Police Authority is now required to agree a response to the Notice by 16 April 2008 either setting out what it proposes should be the budget requirement, or agreeing with the budget requirement figure set out by the government.

Central Government has failed to fully provide the funding entitlement for the Police service in Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland resulting in a loss of £15.2 million over 5 years; this is despite determined and continued lobbying by the Authority. After months of public consultation and thorough scrutiny of the budget, the Police Authority increased the 2008/09 precept by 15.43% in order to address growing national threats, the lack of resilience in protecting some of the most vulnerable, and an understandable public wish for more visible neighbourhood policing. The precept increase amounts to an additional 41p on the weekly contribution towards policing of an average Band D household.

Byron Rhodes, Chairman of the Police Authority, said:

"We are, as yet, unsure of the outcome of this decision as the wheels have simply been put into motion and we must now present our case to the Secretary of State. We believe we have strong evidence that supports our decision that Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland needs this funding in order to ensure that we are protecting and serving the public to the standards that they demand and deserve."

.....ENDS.....

NOTE TO EDITORS:

1. Mr Rhodes' photograph can be downloaded from the Leicestershire Police Authority website: www.leics-pa.police.uk/about/members/
2. Leicestershire Police Authority monitors the Leicestershire Constabulary, which polices the area of Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland.
3. Police Authorities are independent bodies made up of local people. Police Authorities hold the Police Force to account on behalf of local communities.
4. Local Police Authorities along with the Home Secretary and Chief Officers of Police make up the tripartite relationship which is responsible for the governance of policing in England and Wales.