

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

Police Authority Meets Ministers to Discuss Capping

[7 May 2008] Leicestershire Police Authority today met Government Ministers John Healey and Tony McNulty regarding the Government's proposal to cap the Authority's budget for 2008/09.

This follows the letter the Authority received from the Communities and Local Government (CLG) on Thursday 27 March 2008 informing the Authority that the Minister had commenced the process which could lead to the Authority being 'capped'; an action taken against 8 Authorities across the country that exceeded a 5% increase.

Byron Rhodes, Chairman of the Police Authority, Barrie Roper, Vice Chairman of the Police Authority and the Chief Constable Matt Baggott attended the Communities and Local Government offices in London to state their case direct to the Ministers who make the decision. Five of the area's MPs also managed to attend the meeting: Stephen Dorrell, Edward Garnier, Sir Peter Soulsby, David Taylor and Keith Vaz.

Byron Rhodes, Chairman of the Police Authority, said:

"I am satisfied that we were given the opportunity to put our argument for the increase across to the Ministers this morning and can confirm we held a constructive meeting. I believe we have strong evidence that supports our decision that the Force needs this funding in order to meet the standards that the public deserve. I am particularly grateful to the local MPs, who were able to attend the meeting with us, for their invaluable support at this time."

.....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. 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 in order to safeguard visible neighbourhood policing.
3. The precept increase amounts to an additional 41p on the weekly contribution towards policing of an average Band D household.
4. Leicestershire Police Authority monitors the Leicestershire Constabulary, which polices the area of Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland.
5. Police Authorities are independent bodies made up of local people. Police Authorities hold the Police Force to account on behalf of local communities.
6. 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.