



LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

PRESS INFORMATION

23 January 2012

Opportunity for Students to join Public Meeting on Policing at Loughborough University.

Loughborough residents, including undergraduates at Loughborough University, are being invited to a high profile meeting to learn more about the future of policing in the county as the force enters a year of major change.

The meeting, which will be attended by Chief Constable Simon Cole and Police Authority Chairman Barrie Roper, will take place in the James France Building at Loughborough University on Monday February 6 2012. The aim is to inform residents of the options facing both organisations as they prepare to set the budget for 2012-13 and explain the huge changes taking place in terms of policing governance.

The next 12 months will bring historic change to local policing with the arrival of an entirely new governance structure led by directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners later in the year. PCCs have been introduced to improve the democratic accountability of the police service and strengthen the relationship between the police and the public and both the Force and Police Authority are keen to promote public awareness of the changes. During this public meeting the Police Authority will introduce further details about the election process to ensure every resident is armed with knowledge on PCCs and is encouraged to turn out to vote.

Leicestershire Police Authority continues to face severe funding challenges in the current financial climate which will impact on resource allocation and investment over the coming years. As the organisation prepares to set the 2012-13 budget, which will be finalised next month, it is inviting residents to give their own views on its spending plans and outline their personal policing priorities during the meetings to help steer some of the tough funding decisions.

Barrie Roper, Chairman of Leicestershire Police Authority, said: "This meeting has been arranged due to public demand, so we are hoping for a good turnout. It is hoped that the choice of venue will also encourage younger people to come along and get involved in the process.

“Next year’s budget presents the Authority with a further set of challenges as we attempt to maintain service levels from an ever declining pot of cash. Against this backdrop it becomes even more important for our communities to have their say on how the police budget is spent in order to protect those areas which will help people feel safer and more confident in local policing.

“During this meeting, we will outline the options for dealing with the financial challenge while still providing the best possible service and the likely impact of this on Council Tax and we are keen to gather the views of residents to help us understand public expectation and ensure our priorities continue to match their needs.

“Policing is facing unprecedented change this year and we understand that such transition, including the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners, is likely to be met with some anxiety by the public but we would like to reiterate that as ever we are committed and focused on improving policing in the county for residents and businesses and that they are our number one priority.”

The event will be hosted by the BBC’s Ben Jackson and will involve short presentations followed by question and answer sessions.

The event will begin at 6pm (light refreshments from 5.30pm) and will finish by 8pm.

Anyone wishing to attend should simply call us on 0116 229 8986 or e-mail police.authority@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk stating “Count my view” in the subject field and providing your name, a contact number and the venue. For your convenience, please let us know if you have any accessibility requirements.

There is no need to advise if you are unable to attend. However if you do accept the invitation and then find you are not able to come, please do notify the Authority.

This event is one of a series of similar events being held throughout Leicestershire and Rutland at dates and venues as follows:

Weds 25 January 2012	Harborough District Council Offices, Market Harborough
Mon 30 January, 2012	Rutland County Council Chamber Oakham
Tues 31 January, 2012	Police HQ, St Johns, Enderby, Leicester, LE19 2BX

Ends

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