

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **POLICING PRIORITIES FOR A SAFER COUNTY 2008 – 2011**

“Hertfordshire is a safe county and we want to make it even safer” was the message given by Ian Laidlaw-Dickson, the Chair of Hertfordshire Police Authority today (Monday) as he launched the new Policing Plan for 2008–2011.

The Plan sets out the key priorities and objectives for Hertfordshire police for the next three years.

“Crime continues to go down in the county and our police force performs well and delivers good results,” said Ian. However, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels for a single minute.

“There are many challenges ahead - demands on services will increase further and we expect resources to become even more squeezed. It is important, therefore that we face the sometimes difficult choices and be perfectly clear about what the Authority expects the Constabulary to prioritise. In making our decisions, we listened to what the public and our partners have said is most important to them and took account of those areas where police performance needs improving, such as protecting vulnerable people”.

The Plan was launched at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield, at an event attended by over 200 delegates, including the High Sheriff, MPs and local authority Chairs, Mayors and Chief Executives.

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The top line priorities highlighted included:

- Reducing the most serious violent, organised and acquisitive crimes
- Protecting vulnerable people, including victims of sexual offences
- Bringing more serious offenders to justice
- Improving public confidence and satisfaction in police services
- Increasing people's feelings of safety
- Reducing anti-social behaviour, including alcohol-related disorder

Chief Constable Frank Whiteley said: "I am proud of the achievements made by my staff over the last 12 months in helping to make Hertfordshire an even safer place to live, work and socialise. I believe the Police Authority plan gives a firm basis to further improve our services to the public of Hertfordshire in the coming year"

**- ends -**

**EDITORS NOTES:**

Copies of the Policing Plan 2008/11 will be available in police stations and libraries, on the Authority's web site – [www.herts-police-authority.org.uk](http://www.herts-police-authority.org.uk) – and from the Authority office: Hertfordshire Police Authority, Leahoe House, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8DE, Tel: 01992 556600, e-mail: [Enquiries.hpa@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Enquiries.hpa@herts.pnn.police.uk)

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**Hertfordshire Police Authority** is made up of 17 local people comprising a mixture of councillors, magistrates and independent members. It is responsible for:

- Setting the budget for the police force, including raising local taxes for policing
- Scrutinising and managing local police performance
- Setting the strategic direction for policing locally, deciding local priorities for policing and setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher
- Consulting and engaging with local communities to find out what they want the local police to tackle
- Appointing (and, if necessary, dismissing) the Chief Constable and senior police officers

