

## Summary of Police Authority Statutory Duties/Responsibilities

### Police Authorities' three key functions are:

- To secure an efficient and effective Police Service (Section 6, Police Act 1996).
- To secure best value, i.e. continuous improvement in the way (their functions) are exercised having regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness (Section 3, Local Government Act 1999).
- To make arrangements for obtaining:
  - the views of (local people (about) the policing of their area  
and
  - the co-operation (of local people) in preventing crime.

(Section 96, Police Act 1996)

Authorities have a whole range of statutory duties which underpin these functions. The following is not an exhaustive list – in particular, it does not detail procedural matters under local government legislation or those relating to the appointment or responsibilities of Police Authority Officers/Staff under Police/local government legislation. Instead, it focuses on key responsibilities that Police Authorities are required to fulfil as part of their functions. These are:

- To determine the local priorities for policing – after consulting local people and the Chief Constable (section 7, Police Act 1996).
- To publish an annual policing plan including Ministerial Priorities, local policing objectives and any performance targets set by the Authority and including best value performance plan (Section 8, Police Act 1996 & Section 6, LGA 1999 and associated regulations).
- To report back to the community at the end of the year on the extent to which the policing/best value performance plan has been met (Section 9, Police Act 1996).
- To appoint and dismiss the Chief Constable, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State (Section 11, Police Act 1996).
- To appoint and dismiss Deputy Chief Constables and Assistant Chief Constables (Section 11A, Police Act 1996 and Police Regulations).
- To hold the Police Fund and maintain accounts (Section 14, Police Act 1996).
- To agree the Police Budget and set the precept (Section 19, Police Act 1996 and Section 40, Local Government Finance Act 1992).
- To nominate one or more Members of the Authority to answer questions on the discharge of the Authority's functions at a meeting of a relevant Council when given reasonable notice of this by the Council (Section 20, Police Act 1996).
- To collaborate with other Police Authorities to jointly provide equipment, premises, to other material facilities, where appropriate (Section 23, Police Act 1996).

- To decide the charges for the provision of special Police Services (Section 25, Police Act 1996).
- To provide advice and assistance to an international organisation, institution or a Police body outside the UK (includes secondment of Police Officers), subject to the consent of the Home Secretary (Section 26, Police Act 1996). The Authority can charge for such advice/assistance.
- To comply with any direction given by the Secretary of State on performance targets for Ministerial Priorities (Section 38, Police Act 1996).
- To comply with any Codes of Practice issued by the Secretary of State relating to the discharge of Police Authority functions (Section 39, Police Act 1996).