

**Stockton District**

**Independent Advisory Group (IAG) Meeting**



**6pm – 8pm Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012**  
30 – 32 Marlborough House, Yarm Road,  
Stockton-on-Tees TS18 3NG

**Agreed Statement – Police & Crime Commissioner**

All voting members of the Stockton IAG present at this meeting accept the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) process as ratified in the Policing Protocol Order 2011. However, the majority of attendee members expressed serious concerns over the indicated make-up of the Policing and Crime Panel ('the panel'), which will be charged with the responsibility of "scrutinising the PCC's exercise of their statutory functions".

The PCC will have the power not only to hold the Chief Constable to account in respect of performance of the force, but to commission community safety and crime reduction services. It is therefore vitally important that 'the panel' consists of experienced individuals who are able to represent their communities in an accountable way, yet are not tied to specific political ideals (the process is already seen by many to be politically motivated and, unless it is suitably constrained, has the potential to seriously impair the quality of service delivered to the community).

Similar concerns are being voiced across the wider voluntary community in Stockton-on-Tees ('Catalyst' members) and within each of the other local policing districts. We fully accept the need for selection of elected councillors from each of the four unitary authorities within Cleveland, which we understand will take up 12 panel places. However, the 'Order' allows up to 20 panel places, and the recommendation of Stockton IAG is that the Chief Constable considers making formal application to the Home Secretary for up to 8 places being available on the panel for individuals who are truly independent of political motivation and are genuinely representative of local community needs.

Mohammed Riaz,  
Chair, Stockton IAG

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Riaz', with a checkmark to the right.