

**STATUS:** ACPO's fundamental principles on Neighbourhood Wardens was endorsed by Chief Constables Council on 21 July 1999 for use by forces.

**ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS OF ENGLAND,  
WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS: ACPO'S FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**

<b>Establishment of Schemes</b>	Schemes should be established on a locally expressed need to allow to be tailored to that need.
<b>Powers</b>	There should be no diminution of the powers of police officers. In respect of Neighbourhood Warden and similar schemes there should be no enhancement of the powers of others beyond that of the ordinary citizen.
<b>Intervention</b>	The police must remain the only body with powers to intervene in situations without consent. Other persons may only intervene with consent or under whatever arrangement lies between the employer of the warden/patrol and the citizen.
<b>Government</b>	Local authority patrols must be accountable to local authorities but, since their employment should arise from the community safety proposals of the Crime and Disorder Act, joint work with the police should give rise to joint accountability for outcomes.
<b>Regulation</b>	Regulation of the security industry must be vigorously pursued; in the interim the police should seek an active role in such matters as vetting and quality control to ensure that schemes are operating to an agreed acceptable standard.
<b>Appearance</b>	The appearance of non-police warden and patrol personnel must be distinct from that of the police in terms of uniform, livery and corporate image.
<b>Standard Operating Procedure</b>	Specimen standard operating procedures should be developed for a range of different locations (residential, town centre), circumstances (interventions, patrol), relationship (local authority, private security) and purposes (information exchange, call response). This must include references to such matters as recruitment, training, managing processes and facilities management.
<b>Funding</b>	Complementary patrols and neighbourhood warden schemes be funded from identifiable sources which do not involve any diminution of police budgets.

**N.B.** The ACPO Fundamental Principles were incorporated into the final report of the Home Office, Police Action Team 6 Report, published March 2000 (pages 17-18)