

SPONSORSHIP - ANNUAL REPORT 2002/03**Joint Report of the Chief Constable, Clerk and Treasurer**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to update members on the annual value of all sponsorship received during the 2002/03 financial year.

2. BACKGROUND

Section 25 of the Police and Magistrates' Courts Act 1994 provided the Police Authority with a legislative framework regulating the acceptance of gifts, loans and sponsorship. This has since been complemented by the issue of a Financial Management Code of Practice by the Secretary of State.

The Code of Practice stipulates conditions that any gifts, loans and sponsorship arrangements must not contravene, for example:

- associations with inappropriate sponsors
- the risk of becoming unduly dependent on a sponsor or facility
- offers of gifts with conditions attached
- projects distracting from the tackling of agreed priorities

The guidance also states that the total value of sponsorship accepted should not exceed 1% of the budget. The maximum target for 2002/03 was £2.28m. Any sponsorship over and above this amount may impinge on the level of Government grants to the Police Authority.

The guidance further recommends that an annual report summarising the market value of all sponsorship is submitted to the Police Authority for information purposes.

In response to the Act and subsequent guidance, the Police Authority agreed at its meeting of 24 March 1995 (Minute 45 - 1994/95) to develop policy guidance for the acceptance of sponsorship, and to approve financial limits for this for incorporation in the financial regulations. It was also agreed a register setting out full details of all sponsorship received would be maintained by the Chief Constable and the Clerk to the Police Authority.

3. CURRENT POSITION

During the 2002/03 financial year several sponsorships, loans and gifts were accepted. Many of these arrangements related to the loan or sponsorship of vehicles and an analysis of sponsorship organisations is given at Appendix A.

In addition to vehicle sponsorship, certain other arrangements have been agreed. Details of these, along with their respective cash values, are attached at Appendix B.

4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In total £94,253 worth of sponsorship was obtained during 2002/03 in comparison to a total of £78,730 for the 2001/02 financial year. The increase in 2002/03 is due mainly to an increase in the amount of miscellaneous sponsorship.

7. RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

APPENDIX

In 'U' Drive - Police Authority folder