

**VIDEO FACILITIES FUND****Joint Report of the Chief Constable, Clerk and Treasurer**

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**1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of the report is to advise members of Home Office funding available via the Video Facilities Fund.

**2 BACKGROUND**

On 28 February 2003 the Home Office confirmed that a £2m capital fund was to be established to assist forces in approving facilities for video recording interviews with vulnerable witnesses. This funding would be available on a one-off basis.

Guidance has now been received which sets out how Police Authorities can bid for funding from the Video Facilities Fund, along with details of the assessment criteria to be used in evaluating bids.

Each Authority may submit one bid for a maximum of £100,000 although they will be required to match the grant with, at least, the same sum from their own resources.

The guidance states that given the limited amount of funding available it is not possible to guarantee that all Police Authorities that submit bids will receive funding.

Although the deadline for submission of bids is 4 August 2003, the bidding guidance allows police forces to submit bids on behalf of Police Authorities, following informal consultation with appropriate members. Police Authorities are then required to formally approve the bids at their next meeting.

**3 PROPOSAL**

In consultation with officers of the Authority the Chief Constable is considering whether a bid will be submitted. Should a bid be progressed, a report will be submitted to the next Police Authority meeting seeking formal approval.

**4 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

## **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Treasurer confirms there are no financial implications directly arising from the contents of this report.

## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to:

- i) Note the contents of the report;
- ii) Agree to receive a further report, should a bid to the Video Facilities Fund be progressed.