
PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL POLICE RESOURCES TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND

Joint Report of the Chief Constable, Clerk and Treasurer

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update following an agreement with the University of Sunderland to provide two police officers to patrol the University campus.

2 BACKGROUND

At the Police Authority meeting held on 10th December 1996 (minute number 210 - 1996/97) members endorsed a policy giving authority to the Chief Constable to consider requests for additional resources.

The policy states that proposals should only be considered where the following criteria apply:

- The level of crime and disorder in an area is comparable or worse than the local crime rate.
- Where there is a strong concentration of vulnerable people e.g. Hospital, or an educational establishment etc.
- Where there is a particular short term policing problem.

Finally, in the event that one or more of these criteria are met, any agreed arrangement should not disturb the priorities of the Local Policing Plan.

At the Police Authority meeting held on 8 October 1996, members were advised of an agreement between Northumbria Police and the University of Sunderland to facilitate the release of two police officers to patrol the University campus for a twelve month period. (minute 154 - 1996/97). Subsequently, this agreement was extended in September 1997 (minute 126 - 1997/98), September 1998 (minute 158 - 1998/99), September 1999 (minute 117 - 1999/2000) and July 2001 (minute 81 - 2001/02).

As an educational establishment the University has a high concentration of vulnerable people, including a significant concentration of foreign nationals. The officers are continuing to target crime affecting the University, in liaison with security staff, and the incidence of campus crime and its cost to the University is continuing to fall.

The University of Sunderland remains extremely satisfied and wishes the partnership to continue for a further period.

3 PROPOSAL

It is intended to continue to provide two constables to patrol the University of Sunderland campus. The University will continue to provide funding of £37,000 until 30 April 2004, after which the arrangement will be further evaluated. The Chief Constable has used his discretion under the agreed policy to meet 50% of the employee costs.

4 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Although there are no direct human rights implications arising from this report itself, the provision of university police officers does have human rights implications in that the force has a duty to promote human rights. The work of these officers may be said to promote the right to life, the right to respect for private and family life and the peaceful enjoyment of property of students and staff engaged in lawful activities on the campus.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Treasurer confirms the balance of the officers salaries can be met from within existing resources.

An exit strategy will be devised prior to the cessation of funding to ensure there continues to be no cost to the Authority.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

That members:

- i) Note the contents of the report.
- ii) Agree to receive a further report, should the funding be continued for a further period.