

HOME OFFICE FUNDING FOR THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY - CAPACITY BUILDING**Joint Report of the Chief Constable, Clerk and Treasurer**

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to seek formal approval for a bid which Northumbria Police has submitted to the Home Office in relation to government plans to increase the number and effectiveness of Special Constables.

2 BACKGROUND

In August 2003 the Home Office notified Police Authorities that funding would be available to ensure that Special Constabularies are properly supported within forces, in order to achieve the National Policing Plan aims of increasing the numbers of Special Constables and their effectiveness.

Northumbria Police has submitted a bid for the following elements of this package:

- i) £40,000 in respect of capacity building through funding of the following posts;
 - Special Constabulary Co-ordinator
 - Special Constabulary Recruitment/Admin officer.
- ii) Funding of £30,000 for a trainer's post, which will be dedicated to meeting the training needs of Special Constables.

Should this bid be successful, staff will need to be recruited for a minimum period of three years. The Home Office funding will cover the recruitment, administration, salary and set up costs, up to a maximum of £70,000 for years one and two, with funding for year three to be reviewed against set evaluation criteria.

The deadline for submissions of bids was 15 September 2003, therefore the Chief Constable, in consultation with the appropriate Police Authority Officers, has submitted a bid for £70,000 for a total period of two years.

3 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

4 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Nil

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- i) Approve the bid made to the Home Office;
- ii) Agree to receive a further report, once the outcome of the bid is known.