

ADDITIONAL SECURITY STAFF FOR THE METRO SYSTEM**Joint Report of the Chief Constable, Clerk And Treasurer**

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek members approval to contribute £20,000 per annum for the next three financial years towards a £1.6 million Invest to Save Bid Round 6 (ISB6), made by Nexus to employ additional security staff on the Metro System.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Earlier this year HM Treasury announced the criteria for Round 6 of the Invest to Save Scheme. This scheme is designed to help develop projects that bring together two or more public service bodies to deliver services in an innovative fashion, with improved value for money and customer focus.

2.2 Projects aimed at meeting the following particular themes are to be considered first:

- Social cohesion and race equality
- Serious and gun crime
- Rehabilitation of offenders
- Rebalancing sentences from custodial to non-custodial
- Regeneration of deprived areas and community involvement
- Street crime and burglary reduction
- Tackling disorder and anti-social behaviour
- Police modernisation
- Youth justice and support for families

2.3 Under the theme of tackling disorder and anti-social behaviour Nexus submitted an Expression of Interest in partnership with:

- Northumbria Police
- British Transport Police
- Five Local authorities in Tyne and Wear
- Local bus operators

2.4 The objective of the proposed project was to test whether investment in a new joint approach to tackling crime and disorder in the evening on public transport would reduce costs, increase patronage and revenue, and improve the quality of customers' travelling experiences.

2.5 The problems of disorder and anti-social behaviour on public transport would be tackled through the employment of additional security officers, use of a central database accessible to all parties to manage intelligence on offenders, and joint working across agencies to target areas and individuals.

- 2.6 The Expression of Interest has been shortlisted to the formal bidding stage and, due to the timescales, a full bid has now been submitted, with the support of the Department for Transport.
- 2.7 If the bid is successful a contribution of £20,000 per annum in 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07 is requested from Northumbria Police.

3 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The total funding for the project is as follows:

	2004/05 £	2005/06 £	2006/07 £
ISB Funding			
of which : current	465,000	465,000	465,000
: capital	210,000		
Total ISB	675,000	465,000	465,000
Bidder's own Funding			
- Nexus	205,000	135,000	135,000
- Northumbria Police	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total Bidder Funding	225,000	155,000	155,000
of which : current	155,000	155,000	155,000
: capital	70,000	-	-
Totals	900,000	620,000	620,000

- 3.1 Nexus, the Tyne and Wear PTE - financial contribution of £135,000 per annum (first year contribution £205,000), will manage the initiative and employ the security staff and a co-ordinator. They will also be responsible for disseminating information to other transport authorities and operators on how the approach is working and what can be learned.
- 3.2 Northumbria Police - financial contribution of £20,000, will organise the training of the staff and work alongside all partners to determine the effective deployment of resources.
- 3.3 The five metropolitan districts in Tyne and Wear will contribute through the work of their Community Safety Wardens and Youth Offending Teams specifically targeted at initiatives to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour on public transport.
- 3.4 The commercial bus operators will utilise their information on incidents on buses, and share in the use of the staff.
- 3.5 British Transport Police will support the initiative on the network Rail Infrastructure.

3 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

4 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Although there are no direct human rights implications arising from the report itself, the provision of additional security staff on the Metro System will assist in the force duty to promote human rights. Their work may be said to promote the 'right to life', the 'right to respect for private and family life' and the 'peaceful enjoyment of property'.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Treasurer confirms that the contribution of £20,000 can be accommodated within the 2004/05 revenue budget and that necessary provision will be made in future years' budgets to meet the ongoing contributions.

6 RECOMMENDATION

That members agree to a contribution of £20,000 per annum in 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07 as outlined, should the bid by Nexus to ISB6 be successful.