

DEVOLVED FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**Joint Report of the Chief Constable and Treasurer**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to recommend the inclusion of additional budget heads within the scheme of devolved financial management with effect from 1 April 2004.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Authority received a report on 12 March 1996 (minute 246 - 1996/1997 refers) outlining the proposals to implement a scheme of devolved financial management, with Phase I commencing on 1 April 1996.
- 2.2 Over the last eight years Northumbria Police has incrementally devolved budget heads to Area Commands and Departments.
- 2.3 Devolvement has given local managers greater flexibility in the management of resources and significant benefits in accountability. Area Commanders have been able to reduce expenditure in areas of the budget without affecting service levels and the savings have been available to them for investment in front line policing.

3. PROPOSED DEVOLVEMENT FOR 2004/2005

- 3.1 It is proposed that the following budget areas are included within the scheme of devolved financial management from the 1 April 2004 increasing the total devolved to £18.553m.

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Printing | £280,000 |
| External Training | £310,000 |
| Uniform and Clothing | <u>£300,000</u> |
| | £890,000 |

- 3.2 The addition of the three new budget heads will continue and further support the benefits arising from the principles of the scheme of devolved financial management as identified in paragraph 2.3.
- 3.3 All necessary systems and procedures are in place for the commencement of the devolvement of the three new budget heads ensuring robust financial control and accountability.

4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Treasurer confirms there will be no additional costs to the Authority arising from these proposals.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members are recommended to approve for inclusion within the scheme of devolved financial management the following budget heads:

- i) Printing.
- ii) External Training.
- iii) Uniform and Clothing budget.