

SPECIAL CONSTABULARY - CAPACITY BUILDING: SUCCESSFUL BID FOR FUNDING**Joint Report of the Chief Constable, Clerk and Treasurer**

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to inform members of a successful bid for Home Office funding relating to Special Constabulary capacity building.

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 (NPP) aims of increasing the number of special constables and their effectiveness.

At the Police Authority meeting held on 22 October 2003 members approved a bid for Home Office funding for Special Constabulary capacity building and agreed to receive a further report once the outcome of the bid was known (minute 125 - 2003/04).

3 OUTCOME OF THE BID

Funding of £70,000 per annum for two years has been approved to cover the costs of three police staff posts, including set up and running costs. The posts will be established to provide dedicated resources to support the Special Constabulary to achieve the NPP aims.

A condition of the funding issued by the Home Office is that the three posts should be established for at least three years, therefore the salary and running costs of the Project will need to be met by the Authority in year three. At the end of year three the Project will cease and the requirements of the Special Constabulary will be reassessed.

4 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Nil

6 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Treasurer confirms costs for years one and two of the Project are fully funded by the Home Office, and that budgetary provision will be made in order to fund year three.

7 **RECOMMENDATION**

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.