

BASIC COMMAND UNIT FUND**Joint Report of the Chief Constable, Clerk and Treasurer**

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update members with information regarding year two of Basic Command Unit funding

2 BACKGROUND

In January 2003, the Home Office announced a special £50 million Basic Command Unit (BCU) fund for local police commanders to tackle the problems that matter most in their communities. Funding provision was made for 3 years to 2006. This was reported to the Police Authority at its meeting held on 23 April 2003 (minute no 13 - 2003/4 refers).

The BCU fund is to provide funding to promote partnership working and help deliver crime reduction at the frontline, that would not otherwise be provided. The purpose of the BCU fund is not to shore up, or to replace, mainstream local funding. Agreed plans need to be compatible with local policing plans, and meet the following main criteria:

(i) Crime and Disorder intervention

The funding is not restricted to direct police activity and may be used on a wide range of interventions including target hardening activity, youth inclusion work and CCTV.

The interventions funded should be based on a problem solving approach and be part of a coherent plan for delivering the Partnership's strategy whilst being in line with police force area priorities.

(ii) Partnership Capacity

The BCU fund can be spent to improve Partnership capacity which may include project management support staff, analytical support and training.

The total award to Northumbria Police was £1.35m in 2003/04. Of particular note was the conditions that BCUs should use the funding in the year in which it is allocated, however up to 5% of the individual BCU allocations may be carried forward in reserves.

3 BASIC COMMAND UNIT FUNDING

Northumbria Police has been awarded £1.35m in 2004/05 with individual area command allocations between £124,410 and £337,634 as detailed in Appendix 1, to fund initiatives to meet the individual crime reduction needs of their local area and tackle the priorities set out in the National Policing Plan.

In addition to the allocations granted, area commands have, subject to final confirmation from Government Office North East, carried forward from 2003/04 £46,656 as detailed in Appendix 1. Therefore total funding available in 2004/05 will be £1.397m.

Area Commanders have locally agreed with their respective Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships individual activity plans for 2004/05 showing what they intend to deliver with the funding. These plans have now been submitted to Government Office North East, who will authorise the release of funds on being satisfied that the agreed plan meets the requirements of the funding criteria.

Necessary arrangements are in place to support the financial administration of the BCU fund, ensuring compliance with the arrangements and reporting requirements issued by the Home Office.

Government Office North East requires quarterly Progress Reports and Grant Claims. The progress report should be in bullet point format, detailing overall progress of the plan in each BCU, and providing an insight into the extent of delivery of projects funded under this initiative and the achievement of desired outcomes.

4 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Treasurer confirms that the funding of £1.397m will fully provide for the spending plans submitted by each area command.

There are no other financial implications arising from this report.

7 RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to note the contents of this report.