

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Key Decision

Title and Reference:

**MOTOR INSURANCE BUREAU - DONATION FOR SPECIAL CONSTABULARY
RESPONSE VEHICLE**

(PCC/739/2026)

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek a decision to secure the offer of £30,000 funding from the Motor Insurance Bureau (MIB) for the purchase of a dedicated standard response vehicle for use by the Roads Policing Unit (RPU) Special Constabulary (SC).

Recommendation/Findings:

In line with Governance Framework and Northumbria Police Sponsorship Policy the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria accepts the sponsorship of £30,000 from the Motor Insurance Bureau to allow the purchase of a vehicle for use by the Special Constabulary.

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

I hereby approve the recommendation above.



Signature

Date 4/3/2026

OPCC Business Meeting	4 March 2026
Motor Insurance Bureau – Sponsorship for Special Constabulary response vehicle	
Report of: Billy Mulligan – Superintendent Operations Department	
Presenter – Gail Thompson – Chief Finance Officer	

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek a decision to secure the offer of £30,000 funding from the Motor insurance Bureau (MIB) for the purchase of a dedicated standard response vehicle for use by the Roads Policing Unit (RPU) Special Constabulary (SC)

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Roads Policing Unit currently have a dedicated team of 11 Special Constables, supervised by an RPU SC Sergeant. Each SC commit to well over the 200 mandatory working hours per annum, with some officers dedicating over 500 hours of deployment time.
- 2.2 Our RPU SCs are currently standard drivers. To be able to drive the RPU advanced fleet in a policing capacity the driver must have passed an advanced drive course. Due to the time required to commit to the advanced course this is not currently possible for our SCs, as it would require taking a considerable period of absence from their employment to commit to the course.
- 2.3 The RPU SCs manage and deploy on their own policing operations, to support our Road Safety Strategy, in addition to supporting our reactive RPU teams. To allow them to undertake policing activity they currently use the driver training fleet, out-of-hours, when it is available. This is not currently consistent, and feedback from the SCs is that they often come in to work a shift and find that they are unable to deploy in a vehicle single crewed, forcing them to double crew with officers and abandon planned policing activity.
- 2.4 The MIB donated funding to Devon and Cornwall Police in 2025 for the purchase of a dedicated vehicle for the use by their Special Constabulary. They have approached Northumbria Police and have offered to donate £30,000 to do the same. Northumbria Police were selected for the funding offer due to the proactive work we have undertaken to support MIB in tackling the issue of uninsured drivers across the region.
- 2.5 The purchase of a dedicated SC vehicle would enhance the capability of our existing fleet whilst contributing towards achieving our Road Safety Strategy. Securing a dedicated vehicle for our Special Constabulary would represent a significant investment in our volunteers, whilst empowering them to take ownership of policing activity independently. RPU SCs contribute significant time to the department, but an inability to use the current fleet offering frustrates their independent deployment. The MIB contribution would be well received, further strengthening what is already a critical partnership.

- 2.6 The funding would be for the purchase of a standard response vehicle and would cover the cost of livery and modification. MIB have confirmed that Northumbria Police would be able to use the vehicle for its lifetime.
- 2.7 The only stipulation from MIB is that the vehicle must include a reference to MIB in its livery.
- 2.8 The Northumbria Police sponsorship policy ensures that sponsorship arrangements are appropriately managed within Northumbria Police and decisions are made in accordance with delegated responsibilities and financial regulations. The following consultation has taken place:
- Fleet have been consulted with and are supportive of the donation. The necessary work to identify a suitable vehicle is currently underway.
 - Engagement have confirmed that they can add the relevant livery internally, there won't be any requirement to pay for this service externally.
 - Legal department have reviewed the financial agreement on behalf of the CC and the PCC and have confirmed that they are satisfied with the proposal and that we are safe to proceed with the arrangement.
 - Northumbria Police Finance have been consulted with by our Fleet department and are fully aware of all proposed costs in relation to purchase, conversion and upkeep. Senior Account Sylvie Walker-Barrass has reviewed the contract and agree that the proposal is proceedable.
- 2.9 There are no requirements, or conditions attached by the MIB in relation to this sponsorship. MIB will not have any involvement in the deployment of the asset or in any operational decision in relation to its use.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 In line with Governance Framework and Northumbria Police Sponsorship Policy to seek approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria to accept the sponsorship of £30,000 from the Motor Insurance Bureau to allow the purchase of a vehicle for use by our Special Constabulary

CONSIDERATIONS

Government Security Classification	OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE
Freedom of Information	Non-exempt
Consultation	
OPCC Chief of Staff, ACC Crime and Safeguarding, Chief Finance Officer (CFO)	
Resources	
Included within the report	
Code of Ethics	
There are no code of ethics implications	
Equality	
There are no Equality implications	
Legal	
There are no Legal implications	
Risk	
Included within the report	

Communication
N/A
Evaluation
No evaluation required