

Agenda Item:

# Cabinet

13

**Dorset County Council**



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| Date of Meeting   | 2 June 2010   |
| Officer           | Chief Financial Officer   |
| Subject of Report | <b>Section 31 Grants – Weymouth Transport Package for the 2012 Games</b>  |
| Executive Summary | <p>In March 2010, it was confirmed that the County Council has been awarded grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 (s31) for the Weymouth Transport Package for the 2012 Games.</p> <p>The £10.626m scheme is to reduce congestion and improve links between bus and rail services in Weymouth ahead of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Department for Transport (DfT) is contributing £9.068m towards the cost of the scheme which will be paid between 2009/10 and 2011/12. The scheme is in addition to the Weymouth Showcase Scheme for which £4.75m of funding has already been allocated.</p> <p>Two letters have been received from the DfT dated 29 April 2010 confirming £679,000 for 2009/10 and 21 April 2010 confirming £3,690,000 for 2010/11. The letters detail the terms and conditions under which the s31 grant is awarded.</p> <p>Within the grant conditions, paragraphs 20-24 describe the circumstances which may jeopardise future grant payments in relation to the Scheme, and may give rise to an obligation upon the Authority to repay all or part of any grant already paid to the Authority, plus interest.</p> <p>Paragraphs 16-19 of the terms and conditions (Annex B) highlight the way in which the grant will be paid.</p> <p>To accept the grant offer, documentary evidence must be provided to DfT;-</p> |

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|   | <p>Either, of the Chief Financial Officer's lawfully delegated authority to agree to the grant terms and conditions for and on behalf of the authority: OR</p> <p>If the Chief Financial Officer does not hold such delegated authority, you must provide evidence that your local authority has accepted the grant subject to all of the terms and conditions set out in the letter.</p> <p>A similar issue was considered at the Cabinet meeting of 5 May 2010 in respect of the Emergency Fund Winter Damage grant for 2010/11. At this meeting it was resolved that, subject to the comments of the Standards Committee, the Scheme of Delegation to Officers in the County Council's Constitution be amended to include a delegation to the Chief Financial Officer to agree to grant terms and conditions under Section 31 of the Local Authority Act 2003 for and on behalf of the County Council.</p> <p>However, the next meeting of the Standards Committee is not until 12 July 2010 and hence acceptance of these grants will need to be approved by Cabinet until the minutes of Standards Committee have been approved by County Council on 22 July 2010.</p> |
| Impact Assessment:<br><i>How have the following contributed to the development of this report?*</i> | Equalities Impact Assessment: An EIA has been completed for the Highways Maintenance Policies under which this additional work will be undertaken.  |
|   | Use of Evidence: Not relevant to this report.   |
|   | Budget/ Risk Assessment: Acceptance of the offer of £0.679m for 2009/10 and £3.690m for 2010/11 in Section 31 Grant from DfT will contribute towards the cost of the Weymouth Transport Package for the 2012 Games. Non-acceptance of these grants would increase the County Council's contribution to the scheme.  |
| Recommendation  | That the Cabinet accept the grant offer subject to the terms and conditions set out in Annex B of the letters   |
| Reason for Recommendation   | To receive the grant funding, Dorset County Council needs to formally accept the terms and conditions of the grant.   |
| Appendices  | Annex B – Grant conditions  |
| Background Papers   | <p>Letter from DfT dated 29 April 2010 – Award of Section 31 Grant – Weymouth Transport Package for the 2012 Games for 2009/10</p> <p>Letter from DfT dated 21 April 2010 – Award of Section 31 Grant – Weymouth Transport Package for the 2012 Games for 2010/11</p>   |
| Report Originator and Contact   | <p>Name: Richard Bates, Head of Accountancy Support</p> <p>Tel: 01305 228548</p> <p>Email: r.m.bates@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>  |