



OFFICER DECISION RECORD

This form should be used to record Executive decisions taken by Officers

Decision Ref. No:			
Service Area:	Infrastructure	Date:	24 March 2023
Contact Name:	Graham Farrant	Tel No:	01202 127976
E-mail:	graham.farrant@bcpcouncil.gov.uk		
Subject:	Acceptance of Safer Roads Fund (SRF), round 3 funding		
Decision taken: To accept £1.890,625 of Safer Roads Fund grant from Department of Transport.			
Reasons for the decision: The Council's Financial Regulations state that the acceptance of external funding of greater value than £1.0million requires Council approval in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer. Department of Transport (DTF) contacted the Council on 23 March 2023 advising that it required local authorities to complete acceptance of Safer Roads Fund (SRF) grant by 24 March 2023. It is not possible to obtain Council approval by the 24 March 2023 deadline, hence, Chief Executive delegated powers to accept the funding on the grounds of urgency are being utilised.			
Background: In October 2022 the Council was advised that it had indicatively been allocated £1.890,000 of SRF grant by DFT for road safety improvement works along the A35 between Iford roundabout and St Pauls roundabout. To potentially secure the grant BCP needed to submit a bid application to the DFT by 24 February 2023. The application process required the Council to follow a prescribed process and the tools and data to follow this process were released to the Council in early February. In line with the DFT bid guidance the Council submitted a bid of £1.89m on 24 February 2023. In compliance with the financial regulations this included approval of the Chief Financial Officer and consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transport. On the morning of Thursday 23 March 2023 DFT advised that it would be circulating grant documentation and grant determinations for SRF funding later that day, with an instruction that signed S31 grant acceptance slips must be returned by close of business on Friday 24 March 2023. On the morning of Thursday 23 March 2023 BCP received written confirmation from DFT that the Council had been awarded £1.89 million Capital funding of SRF grant.			

Due to the exceptionally short timescale, it is not possible in line with the Council's Financial Regulations, to obtain Council approval to accept the funding. Hence, this decision is being made by the Chief Executive on the grounds of urgency.

This action shall be reported to Cabinet and Full Council.

The bid itself was fully supported by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Net Zero and Transport.

Delivery of the scheme must commence within 23/24 financial year. Resources have been planned and allocated accordingly within the Capital Programme for 23/24 and beyond.

Consultations undertaken:

None at this stage. The scheme would be consulted upon prior to any physical works commencing. Statutory processes linked to any Traffic Regulation Order changes would be undertaken in line with the relevant statutory process.

Officers consulted:

- Jess Gibbons – Chief Operations Officer
- Julian McLaughlin – Service Director, Infrastructure
- Richard Pincroft – Head of Transportation
- Gary Powell – Head of Engineering
- Richard Pearson - Transport Network Manager

Councillors:

- Mike Greene – Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport

Finance and Resourcing Implications

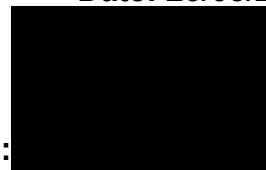
All resources and costs to deliver the schemes in accordance with the grant criteria are included within the funding, or already allocated through the LTP capital programme for 23/24.

Failing to accept the grant funding will mean that the programme aimed at improving road safety would not be delivered.

Name: Matthew Filmer

Date: 23/03/23

Signature (of Assistant Chief Finance Officer):



Legal Implications:

This operational decision is taken by the Chief Executive using the Urgency powers delegated to him in Part 3 of the Constitution and set out below.

“Urgency (delegation 68)

In any case that they consider to be urgent, to undertake all action for the purposes of discharging any function and/or delivering any service (including power to authorise the seeking of an injunction / progressing an action for contempt), provided that:

- (a) there is prior consultation with the Monitoring Officer;
- (b) there is consultation with such Executive Member or Chair of an appropriate Committee as they consider is appropriate in the time available; and,
- (c) to the extent it will incur expenditure from working balances and/or reserves, there is the prior approval of the Section 151 Officer.

For the purposes of exercising this power, all restrictions and/or limitations in the Employment Powers and in the Financial Regulations including the Financial Powers and the Procurement

and Contract Procedure Rules are deemed waived and any decision may be made regardless of whether it is a Key Decision.
Any action taken in this way shall be reported to the next meeting of Cabinet and Full Council”.

The Department for Transport have set timescales for the acceptance of this grant which mean that the decision to do so will need to be taken before the next meeting of Cabinet or Council. An Extraordinary meeting is not appropriate at the present time, as BCP Council is in the pre-election period ahead of the Local Elections in May 2023.

Name: Susan Zeiss

Date: 23/03/23

Signature (of Monitoring Officer):



Risk Assessment:

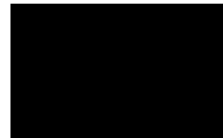
Not being able to accept the Safer Roads funding would result in the delay or non-delivery of safety measures along the A35.

All proposals will be subject to full consultation including statutory traffic regulation processes.

The programme will be undertaken in full compliance with CDM regulations.

Name: Richard Pincroft **Date: 23/03/23**

Signature (of Officer Completing Assessment):



Impact Assessments:

All individual schemes will be subject to EIA and DIA at the relevant stages in their development.

No impact assessment has been undertaken in relation to the decision to accept the funding.

Information for publication

Yes

Background Papers

Appendix A

Safer Roads Fund Bid submission

Any declaration of interest by the Officer responsible for the decision	Nature of Interest
Yes/No*	

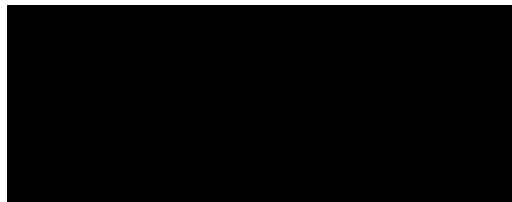
Note: No Officer having a personal financial interest in any matter should take a decision on that matter. Other interests of a non-disqualifying matter should be recorded here.

Any conflict of interest declared by a Cabinet Member who is consulted by the Officer taking the decision	Name of Cabinet Member	Nature of interest	Details of any dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer
Yes	Councillor Mike Greene	Part ownership of No. 21 Christchurch Road (the old BCHA office)	Councillor Greene declared his interest during the development of the SRF application and I am content that he declined to comment or participate in dialogue with officers regarding the extent and nature of proposed measures in the vicinity of 21 Christchurch Road.

Decision taken by: (print name and designation)

Graham Farrant – Chief Executive

Signature:



Date of Decision: 24/03/23

Date Decision Effective:

Date of Publication of record of decision: (to be inserted by Democratic Services)

Note: A record of this decision should be kept by the Service Area within which the decision falls.