

Report to: Council – 19th October, 2011

Reporting Officer: Chief Executive

Wards: All

Mersey Gateway Funding Offer from Government
Addendum to item 11(f)

Purpose of the Report

On the 12th October, 2011, the Council received from the DfT/Treasury a Conditional Funding Offer for the Mersey Gateway Project.

The offer sets out the Government's contribution to the whole-life costs of the Mersey Gateway Project.

This report and the attachments to this report provide Members with the details of the offer from Government.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Council accepts the Conditional Funding Offer from Government in the form received.**
- 2. That the Council supports the further development of the Mersey Gateway Project on the basis of**
 - (a) the Conditional Funding Offer; and**
 - (b) the information set out in this report and the attachments to this report,**
- 3. That the Council and its Officers take all reasonable steps to maximise toll discounts for residents of Halton.**
- 4. That the Council delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Resources and the Portfolio Holder for Transportation the power to take all reasonable steps necessary to achieve the delivery of the Mersey Gateway Project.**

Supporting Information

The general progress on the Mersey Gateway Project is described in the papers to the Mersey Gateway Executive Board Sub Committee on 22nd September, 2011 (contained within the Council Summons). In addition a revised version of the PART 2 Item – Progress Towards Obtaining Conditional Funding Approval From Government is attached to this report

The proposed project timetable is contained within the PowerPoint presentation attached to this report.

Over the last 18 months Officers have been negotiating with the DfT and Treasury to secure a fair funding package from Government. The Conditional Funding Offer attached to this report is the result of this negotiation and represents the Government's final offer to the Council. Members will note it presents an increase on the preliminary funding approval offered by Government in March 2006.

The funding offer enables the Mersey Gateway Project to progress to the next stage of its development.

The funding offer also provides the opportunity to deliver discounts on tolls for local residents who use the river crossing frequently. Officers are developing a business case that seeks to achieve a viable business case for Mersey Gateway and at the same time maximises toll discounts for this group of users. Further work will be undertaken over the coming months should Members accept the Conditional Funding Offer submitted by Government.

Attachments:

The Conditional Funding Offer letter from the DfT

A revised version of the PART 2 Item – Progress Towards Obtaining Conditional Funding Approval from Government (redacted to protect commercially sensitive information)

Copy of a PowerPoint presentation from the Mersey Gateway Team