

 Executive – 3 April 2019		Agenda Item No. <h1 style="text-align: center;">11</h1>
Title	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme (RUCIS) Application	
For further information about this report please contact	Jon Dawson Finance Administration Manager 01926 456204 email: jon.dawson@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	Kenilworth	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers	RUCIS Scheme details. RUCIS Application file no. 243 to 245; correspondence with applicants.	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	12.3.19	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	12.3.19	Mike Snow
CMT	12.3.19	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	12.3.19	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	12.3.19	Andy Jones
Finance	12.3.19	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	12.3.19	Cllr Whiting
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team, Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer), Stuart Winslow (Sports and Leisure Contract Manager), David Guilding (Arts Manager) and Chloe Johnson (Arts Collections and Engagement Manager); Copy of report forwarded 28 th February 2019.		
Final Decision?	Yes/No	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme grant application by Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club to replace netting on their three lane outdoor practice nets that has reached the end of its life span and purchase two Bowdry water remover machines.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the urban cost centre budget for Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club of 80% of the total project costs to replace netting on their three lane outdoor practice nets and purchase two Bowdry water remover machines, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8, up to a maximum of £3,080 excluding vat subject to receipt of the following:
- Written confirmation from Kenilworth Town Council to approve a capital grant of £500 (if the application is declined or a reduced amount is offered the budget shortfall will be covered by Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club's cash reserves which have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement)

As supported by appendix 1.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1 The Council operates a scheme to award Capital Improvement Grants to organisations in rural and urban areas. The grants recommended are in accordance with the Council's agreed scheme and will provide funding to help the projects progress.
- 3.2 The project contributes to the Council's Fit for the Future Strategy; without the cricket club there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sporting activity which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour, an increase in obesity (particularly in children) and disengage and weaken the community. If the project work isn't carried out in the near future the outdoor cricket net facilities will become unusable as the netting is nearing the end of its life span; if it is not replaced health & safety issues will increase and make them unusable. The project will also provide two Bowdry Water Removing machines which, following rain, will help to ensure that the cricket pitch remains available for use allowing various matches across adult (men and ladies) and youth teams to continue.

4. Policy Framework

- 4.1 Fit for the Future (FFF):

The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands; People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal, if any, in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels
Impacts of Proposal		
All RUCIS applications are designed to encourage and support local communities and local not-for-profit organisations in developing cohesive and active communities. The details behind this are set out in appendix 1.	Through the delivery of RUCIS grants the aim is to deliver cohesive and active communities which in turn help to support and maintain lower levels of crime and ASB. The details behind this are set out in appendix 1.	N/A
Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
Impacts of Proposal		
N/A	N/A	N/A

- 4.2 Supporting Strategies; each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and but none are directly relevant in this case.
- 4.3 Changes to Existing Policies; there are no changes to existing policies.
- 4.4 Impact Assessments; there are no new or significant policy changes proposed in respect of Equalities.

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 The budget for the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme applications for 2019/20 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).
- 5.2 There is £75,000 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget in 2019/20. If the application from Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club of 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £3,080 (excluding vat) is agreed, £71,920 will remain in the urban cost centre budget.
- 5.3 There is £75,000 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the rural cost centre budget in 2019/20.

As per appendix 2.

6. Risks

- 6.1 There are no main risks for this proposal.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1 The Council has only a specific capital budget to provide grants of this nature and therefore there are no alternative sources of funding if the Council is to provide funding for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Schemes.
- 7.2 Members may choose not to approve the grant funding, or to vary the amount awarded.

8. Background

Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club has submitted a RUCIS application to replace netting on their three lane outdoor practice nets that has reached the end of its life span and purchase two Bowdry water remover machines.

Projects of less than £10,000 overall costs fall within the Small Grants category of the RUCIS scheme which has a maximum contribution of up to 80% of the overall project costs; the project cost is £3,850 (excluding vat) and therefore qualifies to apply for a grant of up to 80%.

The application is therefore for 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £3,080 excluding vat.

Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club has committed £270 to the project costs from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club is vat registered (number; 273589517); they will be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be excluding vat.

An application has been made to Kenilworth Town Council for a contribution of £500 towards this project and is now awaiting a decision.

Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club will have to move to a new location at some stage in the future as their current site is allocated as housing land in the Local Plan, however, the club will optimistically be in situ for another 3 to 4 years. The outdoor nets facility and the water removal machines will also both be able to move to the new location and be available for continued use, it is therefore considered that the limited investment will give sufficient value for money return.

Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club has previously had a RUCIS grant award:

- March 2017 - 80% grant awarded which equated to £4,982 to repair and refurbish the surface of their 3 lane outdoor practice nets.

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club of 80% of the total cost of the project excluding vat subject to a maximum of £3,080.