

 <b>Executive – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <b>13A</b>
<b>Title</b>	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme (RUCIS) Application	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Jon Dawson Finance Administration Manager 01926 456204 e mail: jon.dawson@warwickdc.gov.uk	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	Radford Semele	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	N/A	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme details. Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application file no. 209 - 211; correspondence with Applicant.	

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

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	22.2.16	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	22.2.16	Mike Snow
CMT	22.2.16	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	22.2.16	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	22.2.16	Andy Jones
Finance	22.2.16	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	22.2.16	Cllr Whiting
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team and Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer); Copy of report forwarded 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2016.		
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 Radford Semele Parish Council for the Third Party Funder payment for a grant application made to WREN to refurbish the village playground.

## 2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the rural cost centre budget for Radford Semele Parish Council of 6% of the total project costs for the Third Party Funder payment for a grant application made to WREN to refurbish the village playground, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.1, up to a maximum of £3,800 excluding VAT.

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 grant recommended is in accordance with the Council's agreed scheme and will provide funding to help the project progress.
- 3.2 This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as without a modern well used village playground there are fewer opportunities for children to enjoy and participate in physical activity which potentially results in an increase in anti-social behaviour and obesity within children; playgrounds are also an area for parents, grandparents and friends to socialise whilst children are playing. In addition to this, working on this project has already brought families together through researching needs and types of equipment as well as working on funding applications; this will hopefully continue after the project to keep the playground maintained. This all helps to engage and strengthen the community. The current village playground equipment is somewhat tired, old-fashioned and does not challenge the children either physically or mentally and is only of use for children up to the age of 7 years, the new equipment that will be provided by the project will be of use to children up to 12 years old therefore increasing opportunity for children in the community to participate in physical activity and for their families to socialise together.

## 4. **Policy Framework**

- 4.1 The Rural and Urban Capital Improvement Scheme supports the Sustainable Community Strategy and the cross cutting themes which form the priorities for funding areas as follows:-
- Community Engagement & Cohesion (including Families at Risk)
  - Targeting disadvantaged rural locations
  - Reducing inequalities

## **5. Budgetary Framework**

- 5.1 The budget for the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme applications for 2015/16 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).
- 5.2 In addition there is the unallocated budget from 2014/2015 plus underspends from closed projects in 2015/2016 of £132,886 which sits within a separate cost centre budget; this could then be used for either rural or urban schemes once the 2015/16 budget has been used.
- 5.3 There is no budget remaining for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget in 2015/16.
- 5.4 There is £17,488 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the rural cost centre budget in 2015/16. If the application within this report from Radford Semele Parish Council of 6% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £3,800 excluding VAT is approved there will be £13,688 remaining in the rural cost centre budget.

## **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**

- 8.1 Radford Semele Parish Council has submitted a RUCIS application for the Third Party Funder payment for a grant application made to WREN to refurbish the village playground. The application is for 6% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £3,800.
- 8.2 Radford Semele Parish Council has committed £10,000 to the project from their cash reserves. These funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements; a current snapshot of their accounts shows cash reserves of £40,541 before deduction of the club's contribution to the project.
- 8.3 Radford Semele Parish Council will be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be excluding vat.
- 8.4 Radford Semele Parish Council has not previously had a RUCIS grant.

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Radford Semele Parish Council of 6% of the total project costs, for the Third Party Funder payment for a grant application made to WREN to refurbish the village playground, up to a maximum of £3,800 excluding VAT.