

 Executive – 30th November 2016		Agenda Item No. 10
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	Milverton	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme details. Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application file no. 216; correspondence with applicant.	

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	8.11.16	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	8.11.16	Mike Snow
CMT	8.11.16	Chris Elliott, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	8.11.16	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	8.11.16	Andy Jones
Finance	8.11.16	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	8.11.16	Cllr Whiting
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team and Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer); Copy of report forwarded 3 rd November 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 Leamington Cricket Club to level the outfield on the junior / 3rd team pitch as this is not up to the required standard. The current uneven outfield is creating health & safety issues for the junior teams and the Warwickshire blind and visually impaired team.

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the urban cost centre budget for Leamington Cricket Club of 80% of the total project costs to level the outfield on the junior / 3rd team pitch, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.1, up to a maximum of £7,977 including vat subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from Leamington Town Council to approve a capital grant of £1,500 (if the application is declined or a reduced amount is offered the budget shortfall will be covered by the Club's cash reserves which have been evidenced through recent bank statements)

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 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. The project will ensure that disabled access to this sporting activity is able to continue and in a safe manner.

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 2016/17 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).

- 5.2 As part of the February 2016 Budget report it was agreed that in future the unallocated RUCIS budget would no longer be carried forward, but returned to the Council's overall finances.
- 5.3 There is £58,903 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget in 2016/17. If the application within this report from Leamington Cricket Club of 80% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £7,977 (including vat) is approved, £50,926 will remain in the urban cost centre budget.
- 5.4 There is £45,000 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the rural cost centre budget in 2016/17.

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

- 8.1 Leamington Cricket Club has submitted a RUCIS application to level the outfield on the junior / 3rd team pitch as this is not up to the required standard. The current uneven outfield is creating health & safety issues for the junior teams and the Warwickshire blind and visually impaired team.

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; this project cost is £9,972 including 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 £7,977.

Leamington Cricket Club has committed £495 to the project from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

Leamington Cricket Club is not registered for vat, they will not be reclaiming vat in connection to this project; the award will therefore be inclusive of vat.

An application has been made to Leamington Town Council for a contribution of £1,500 towards this project and is now awaiting a decision; if the Town Council decline the application or offer a reduced amount, Leamington Cricket Club will cover the budget shortfall from their cash reserves, these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements. .

Leamington Cricket Club has not previously had a RUCIS grant award.

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Leamington Cricket Club of 80% of the total cost of the project including vat subject to a maximum of £7,977.