

 Executive – 29th July 2015		Agenda Item No. 8B
Title	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme (RUCIS) Application	
For further information about this report please contact	Jon Dawson Finance Administration Manager 01926 456204 e mail: 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme details. Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application file no. 206 onwards; 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	13.7.15	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	13.7.15	Mike Snow
CMT	13.7.15	Chris Elliott, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	13.7.15	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	13.7.15	Andy Jones
Finance	13.7.15	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	13.7.15	Cllr Coker (Cllr Whiting has declared an interest)
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team and Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer); Copy of report forwarded 1 st July 2015.		
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 Tennis, Squash and Croquet Club to refurbish five tennis courts that have now come to the end of their life span.

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 Tennis, Squash and Croquet Club of 50% of the total project costs to refurbish five tennis courts that have now come to the end of their life span, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.1, up to a maximum of £28,995 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; the five tennis courts are at the end of their life span, without refurbishment the courts will become unusable upon which opportunity for the community to participate in sporting activity will be vastly reduced, for example; schools who use the facility for PE lessons and organised tennis matches, hosting of a free annual Great British Tennis Weekend open to all and also holiday camps for children. Other detrimental effects may also include:
- Potential increase in anti-social behaviour as many children and young adults currently use the club to socialise as well as participating in sporting activity.
 - Potential increase in obesity, including in children, as there will be less opportunity for the community to be active.
 - Potential disengagement and weakening of the community; the club is managed and run by a wide range of volunteers from across the community, the activities also bring people together, for example; hosting tournaments including the County Ladies Over 60's home matches.

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 of £131,040 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 £67,360 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the rural cost centre budget in 2015/16.
- 5.4 There is £75,000 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget for 2015/16. If the application within this report from Kenilworth Tennis, Squash and Croquet Club of 50% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £28,995 is approved, £46,005 will remain in the urban 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 Kenilworth Tennis, Squash and Croquet Club have submitted a RUCIS application to refurbish five tennis courts that have now come to the end of their life span.

The project work includes:

- Resurfacing two courts
- Colour coating three courts
- New fencing installation
- New gate installation
- Gate replacement
- Raising the height of existing fencing

- 8.2 The application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £28,995.
- 8.3 Kenilworth Tennis, Squash and Croquet Club have committed £28,895 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 the accounts shows cash reserves of £58,743 before deduction of the club's contribution to the project.

- 8.4 Kenilworth Tennis, Squash and Croquet Club is vat registered (number: 272739533); they will be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be excluding vat. The vat will initially be paid by the club from their cash reserve which has been evidenced by the provision of recent bank statements.
- 8.5 Although it appears that the club have quite significant cash reserves, after the deduction of their £28,895 contribution to the project the remaining cash reserve of £29,848 is approx. 17% of the annual operating cost; the club's 2014 operating costs were £173,214. Additionally, the club will also have £11,638 vat to pay and although part of this will eventually be reclaimed from HMRC, in the interim this would further reduce the cash reserve to £18,210 which is approx. 11% of the annual operating cost. The RUCIS scheme allows for remaining cash reserves to be no more than one year's operating costs therefore the club's reserves are well within criteria.
- 8.6 An application has been submitted to Kenilworth Town Council requesting a £100 contribution towards the project; verbal discussions with the Town Clerk have indicated that this application will be agreed, however, should it be declined the club will cover this remaining amount from their cash reserves to ensure that there is no budget shortfall. Again, their ability to do this has been evidenced through the provision of their recent bank statements.
- 8.7 Kenilworth Tennis, Squash and Croquet Club have not previously had a RUCIS grant.

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Kenilworth Tennis, Squash and Croquet Club of 50% of the total cost of the project excluding vat subject to a maximum of £28,995.