

 Executive – 14th January 2015		Agenda Item No. 12D
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	Brunswick	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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 Applications file no. 200 -202 and file no.203 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	29.12.14	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	29.12.14	Mike Snow
CMT	29.12.14	Chris Elliott, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	29.12.14	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	29.12.14	Andy Jones
Finance	29.12.14	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	29.12.14	Cllr Cross
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team and Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer) –Copy of report forwarded 17 th December 2014.		
Final Decision?		Yes/No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **Summary**

1.1 This report provides details of two Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme grant applications:

- Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (wayc) to refurbish the dilapidated Westbury community sports court; replacing the vandalised and broken kickboards and fencing with sports rebound fencing, replacing the tarmac with a polymeric sports surface and upgrade the electrics to the existing floodlights to allow a timer or token control system
- Achieving Results in Communities (arc) to build a composting toilet facility at Foundry Wood to replace the previous one which was destroyed by fire in August 2014

2. **Recommendation**

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves:

Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (wayc):

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the Urban cost centre budget for Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs of 31% of the total project costs to refurbish the dilapidated Westbury community sports court, up to a maximum of £22,702 subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from Leamington Town Council (or an alternative grant provider) to approve a capital grant of £500

As supported by appendix 1.

Achieving Results in Communities (arc):

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the Urban cost centre budget for Achieving Results in Communities of 50% of the total project costs to build a composting toilet facility at Foundry Wood, up to a maximum of £1,225 subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from Leamington Town Council (or an alternative grant provider) to approve a capital grant of £500
- Written confirmation from Crimebeat (or an alternative grant provider) to approve a capital grant of £500

As supported by appendix 2.

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 Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (wayc):

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy; refurbishing this facility will increase opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sport which can potentially reduce anti-social behaviour and obesity, particularly in children. This will also alleviate current health & safety risks.

Achieving Results in Communities (arc):

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy; providing this facility will increase opportunities for the community to participate in physical activity, arts and cultural activities and naturally it meets an important Health & Safety need. The building of the facility will also provide an activity that will involve youth and homeless groups as well as volunteers from across the community which will potentially help to reduce anti-social behaviour and will help to further engage and strengthen the community.

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
- Narrowing the Gaps

5. **Budgetary Framework**

5.1 The budget for the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme applications for 2014/15 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).

5.2 In addition there is the unallocated budget from 2013/2014 of £88,884 which sits within a separate cost centre budget; this could then be used for either Rural or Urban schemes once the 2014/15 budget has been used.

5.3 There is £20,694 still available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Rural Cost Centre budget in 2014/15.

5.4 There is £52,758 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Urban Cost Centre budget for 2014/15. If the applications within this report from:

- a) Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (wayc) of 31% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £22,702
- b) Achieving Results in Communities (arc) of 50% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £1,225

are approved, £28,831 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 Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (wayc):

Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (wayc) has submitted a RUCIS application to refurbish the dilapidated Westbury community sports court; replacing the vandalised and broken kickboards and fencing with sports rebound fencing, replacing the tarmac with a polymeric sports surface and upgrade the electrics to the existing floodlights to allow a timer or token control system. The application is for 31% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £22,702.

Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (wayc) are not registered for vat; they won't be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be inclusive of vat.

Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (wayc) have stated that they are unable to financially contribute towards the project from their own cash reserves; their reserve policy, and their trustees view, is that they have free reserves to cover 6 months average monthly salary. 31st March 2014 year end accounts show free reserves of £205,433 (broken down this is £92,742 cash flow reserves at year end and £112,691 is an investment) against a target of £154,948 6 months staff costs.

Clearly the £92,742 of liquid cash reserves is not sufficient to meet the 6 month salary buffer therefore reliance would be on liquidation of one-off investments in order to provide sufficient funds to meet salary requirements. Please also note that staff costs have reduced as staff are working reduced hours; the previous financial year's 6 month salary costs were £212,707. In the accounts, the Chief Executive has noted "we look forward to the day when we can increase staff hours of work again and offer more long time security for staff".

Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (wayc) have 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 Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (wayc) of 31% of the total cost of the project including vat subject to a maximum of £22,702.

8.2 Achieving Results in Communities (arc):

Achieving Results in Communities (arc) has submitted a rucis application to build a composting toilet facility at Foundry Wood to replace the previous one which was destroyed by fire. The application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £1,225.

Achieving Results in Communities (arc) are not registered for vat; they won't be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be inclusive of vat.

Achieving Results in Communities (arc) have stated that they are unable to financially contribute towards the project from their own cash reserves; 31st March 2014 year end accounts show net current assets as £18,704 of which £16,964 is noted as "restricted funds" which only leaves £1,740 as "unrestricted funds". The restricted funds have been ring fenced for the following projects:

- Foundry project (long term management and marketing of the woodland) - £9,849
- Heritage lottery education project - £6,515
- WDC - £600

Achieving Results in Communities (arc) have 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 Achieving Results in Communities (arc) of 50% of the total cost of the project including vat subject to a maximum of £1,225.