

 <b>Executive – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013</b>		<b>Agenda Item No. 13(B)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application</b>	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Jon Dawson Finance Administration Manager 01926 456204 e mail: fsteam@warwickdc.gov.uk	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	Whitnash	
<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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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 Applications file No. 190 onwards 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 &amp; Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	Yes

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	19.11.13	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	19.11.13	Mike Snow
CMT	19.11.13	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	19.11.13	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	19.11.13	Andy Jones
Finance	19.11.13	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	19.11.13	Cllr Mobbs
<b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>		
<b>Final Decision?</b>		

## 1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides details of a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement application by Whitnash Town Council to create a "measured mile" track around Acre Close playing field / park.

## 2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the urban cost centre for Whitnash Town Council of 32% of the total project cost to create a "measured mile" track around Acre Close playing field / park, up to a maximum of £24,500 subject to receipt of the following:
- Written confirmation of Sport England approval (or if the application is declined, another capital grant provider) to fund £49,897 of the project cost to ensure that the RUCIS grant remains as 32% of the total project cost

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 the creation of the "measured mile" will provide an increased opportunity for the community to enjoy and participate in a sporting / health & wellbeing activity which could potentially help to reduce obesity, particularly in children, and also help to reduce anti-social behaviour. The park, including the planned measured mile, helps to target disadvantage as it provides a free leisure facility for the whole community to use; this helps residents who cannot afford to travel to other areas for sports facilities / exercise, it is also on a main bus route and close to shops creating opportunity for local businesses / shops. The Community came together to support the first phase of improvements to the park and are again supporting this next phase, for example; The "Friends of Acre Close" voluntary group gathered feedback and views from the community on behalf of the Town Council by completing questionnaire's with residents at a fun day; this shows the level of engagement the project has created within the community. The Measured Mile also gives additional opportunity for the park to be used and enjoyed by a wide range of residents of all ages from across the community; this also helps to engage and strengthen the community.

## 4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 The Rural and Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Review supports the Sustainable Community Strategy and the cross cutting themes which form the priorities for funding areas as follows:-

Engaging and supporting communities including community cohesion and Embedding sustainability.

Targeted geographical areas (Neighbourhood Anchors).

Narrowing the gaps/ families at risk

Rurality

## 5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 The budget for the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Applications for 2013/14 is £150,000 (£75,000 for Rural Projects and £75,000 for Urban Projects). The unallocated budget from 2012/2013 of £29,685.49, will be added to this and sits within a separate cost centre budget, this could then be added to either Rural or Urban schemes once the 2013/2014 budget has been used.
- 5.2 There is £36,313 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Urban Cost Centre budget for 2013/14. If the application within this report from Whitnash Town Council for 32% of the total project cost up to a maximum of £24,500 is approved, £11,813 will remain in the Urban Cost Centre budget.
- 5.3 There is £59,000 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Rural Cost Centre budget in 2013/14.

## 6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 Members may choose not to approve the grant funding, or to vary the amount awarded.

## 7. **BACKGROUND**

### **Whitnash Town Council**

- 7.1 Whitnash Town Council has submitted an application to create a "measured mile" track around Acre Close playing field / park.
- 7.2 The application is for 32% of the total project cost up to a maximum of £24,500.
- 7.3 Whitnash Town Council are registered for VAT; they will be reclaiming the VAT in connection to this project therefore the award is excluding VAT.
- 7.4 Whitnash Town Council has stated that they will provide £2,000 (3% of the total project costs) towards the project from their own cash reserves. The Town Council will also put in £500 per annum in their precept to cover any running costs; they also have a vandalism amount in their precept each year.
- 7.5 Whitnash Town Council has previously had successful RUCIS applications:
- £26,500 (44% of the total project costs) for the replacement and installation of new play equipment at Acre Close in December 2011
  - £4,704 (50% of the total project costs) for modernisation of play equipment in December 2008 – please note that there was a £359 under spend on this project
  - £15,506 (34% of the total project costs) for external and internal improvements to the Community Hall and improved security in July 2005 – please note that there was a £2,991 under spend on this project

- £7,743 (50% of the total project costs) for replacement play equipment at Acre Close and Washbourne play areas in December 2004
- £5,800 (50% of the total project costs) for Community Centre road works and levelling and paving of entrance in December 2004

This application meets the criteria whereby after a successful grant award an organisation must wait for a minimum of 2 years before re-applying for a new grant.