

 Executive – 21st August 2019		Agenda Item No. 9b
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	Kenilworth Abbey and Arden	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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	RUCIS Scheme details. RUCIS Application file no. 246; correspondence with applicants.	

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	5.8.19	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	5.8.19	Mike Snow
CMT	5.8.19	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	5.8.19	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	5.8.19	Andy Jones
Finance	5.8.19	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	5.8.19	Cllr Hales
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team, Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer), Stuart Winslow (Sports and Leisure Contract Manager), David Guilding (Arts Manager) and Chloe Johnson (Arts Collections and Engagement Manager); Copy of report forwarded 12 th July 2019.		
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 Lawsonford Village Hall to replace the toilets, install a new kitchen, sand and seal the floor and install a sound/projector system.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the rural cost centre budget for Lawsonford Village Hall of 49% of the total project costs to replace the toilets, install a new kitchen, sand and seal the floor and install a sound/projector system, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8, up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from the Garfield Weston Foundation (or an alternative grant provider) to approve a capital grant of £10,000

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 grants recommended are in accordance with the Council's agreed scheme and will provide funding to help the projects progress.
- 3.2 The project contributes to the Council's Fit for the Future Strategy; without the village hall there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in fitness, arts, cultural and social activities which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour, an increase in obesity and disengage and weaken the community. If the project work isn't carried out in the near future the hall may eventually become unusable which would then decrease opportunity for the community to enjoy and participate in fitness, arts, cultural and social activities. The project will also provide disabled toilet and baby changing facilities which will increase the access to the hall and the activities held there.

4. Policy Framework

- 4.1 Fit for the Future (FFF):

The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands; People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal, if any, in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels
Impacts of Proposal		
All RUCIS applications are designed to encourage and support local communities and local not-for-profit organisations in developing cohesive and active communities. The details behind this are set out in appendix 1.	Through the delivery of RUCIS grants the aim is to deliver cohesive and active communities which in turn help to support and maintain lower levels of crime and ASB. The details behind this are set out in appendix 1.	N/A
Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
Impacts of Proposal		
N/A	N/A	N/A

- 4.2 Supporting Strategies; each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and but none are directly relevant in this case.
- 4.3 Changes to Existing Policies; there are no changes to existing policies.
- 4.4 Impact Assessments; there are no new or significant policy changes proposed in respect of Equalities.

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 The budget for the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme applications for 2019/20 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).
- 5.2 There is £75,000 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the rural cost centre budget in 2019/20. If the application from Lawsonford Village Hall of 49% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £30,000 (including vat) is agreed, £45,000 will remain in the rural cost centre budget.
- 5.3 There is £71,920 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget in 2019/20.
- 5.4 There is £1,658 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from project underspends which have occurred within this financial year.

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

Lawsonford Village Hall has submitted a RUCIS application to replace the toilets, install a new kitchen, sand and seal the floor and install a sound/projector system.

The application is for 49% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat.

Lawsonford Village Hall have previously spent approx. £15,000 from their cash reserves on drainage works in the first phase of the hall refurbishment programme, they have committed a further £1,904 from their cash reserves towards this next phase; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

Lawsonford Village Hall is not vat registered; they will not be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be including vat.

Rowington Parish Council have agreed to contribute £3,000 towards the refurbishment project.

Lawsonford Village Hall have already successfully applied to several other grant providers for a contribution to the project; National Lottery Awards for All

(£10,000), Jane Ryland Trust (£2,800), William A Cadbury Trust (£500), Edward Cadbury Trust (£2,000) and Lawsonford Womens Club (£1,500).

Lowsonford Village Hall have also applied to the Garfield Weston Foundation for a £10,000 contribution and are now waiting for a decision.

Lowsonford Village Hall has previously had the following RUCIS grant awards:

- December 2004 - 50% grant awarded which equated to £4,250 to refurbish the hall (no further details with this being over 14 years ago)
- February 2006 – 50% grant awarded which equated to £598 for 2 doors
- June 2006 - 50% grant awarded which equated to £1,333 to improve ventilation and for stage lighting
- March 2009 - 50% grant awarded which equated to £842 for replacement windows

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

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Lowsonford Village Hall of 49% of the total cost of the project including vat subject to a maximum of £30,000.