

 Executive – 13th January 2016		Agenda Item No. 16D
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	Warwick West, Milverton and 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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 Application file no. 209 to 211 and 212 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	4.1.16	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	4.1.16	Mike Snow
CMT	4.1.16	Chris Elliott, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	4.1.16	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	4.1.16	Andy Jones
Finance	4.1.16	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	4.1.16	Cllr Whiting
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team and Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer); Copy of report forwarded 18 th December 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 three Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme grant applications:

- Warwick Sports Club to:
 - Refurbish men's and ladies showers, ladies toilets and the bar / kitchenette area
 - Install a security monitoring system with video cameras and alarm system
 - Replace existing halogen lights and dimmers with more efficient LED lights
 - Repair and extend safety fencing on the veranda
 - Complete an electrical test to ensure compliance with all current regulations
- Leamington Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club to resurface 4 tennis courts that have come to the end of their life span
- Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church) to:
 - Reconfigure the current changing room which is not used into two parts to provide, a) a store room, and b) a 'tea point' that will provide refreshment facilities away from the main kitchen which will enable multi-usage of other rooms within the centre at the same time
 - Refurbish the kitchen and server area
 - Refurbish the main room to include redecoration and new flooring, ceiling tiles and radiators

2. **Recommendation**

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves:

Warwick Sports Club

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the urban cost centre budget of 45% of the total project costs to refurbish several areas of the clubhouse, repair and extend safety fencing and install a security monitoring system as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.1, up to a maximum of £27,610 excluding vat, subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from WREN (or an alternative grant provider) to approve a capital grant of £28,750

As supported by appendix 1.

Leamington Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the remaining urban cost centre budget and the rest of the award from the unallocated 2014/15 budget of 36% of the total project costs to resurface 4 tennis courts as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.2, up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat.

As supported by appendix 2.

Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church)

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the unallocated 2014/15 budget of 30% of the total project costs to reconfigure the current changing room into two separate parts (storage room and a tea room), refurbish the kitchen and server area and refurbish the main room as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.3, up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat, subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from JW Laing Trust (or an alternative grant provider) to approve a capital grant of £20,000

As supported by appendix 3.

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 All three projects contribute to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy:

Warwick Sports Club

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy; without the Sports Club there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sports and physical activities which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour and obesity as well as disengage and weaken the community. There are also health & safety / hygiene concerns with the shower and toilet areas that need refurbishment; if the facilities aren't maintained it will potentially put the club's sustainable future at risk. If the club was to close, detrimental effects may include:

- Potential increase in anti-social behaviour as there would be less opportunity for the community to participate in sports activities; currently the club offers facilities and activities for cricket, tennis and darts. The clubhouse is also used by the hockey team and local boys and girls football teams. There is also ad-hoc usage of the clubhouse by these various teams for social events all year round as well as private hire by the community for ad-hoc events, for example; parties. These activities and events would cease if the club had to close for health & safety reasons or if facilities such as toilets and showers became unusable.
- Potential increase in obesity, including in children, as there will be less opportunity for the community to be active if the club had to close for

health & safety reasons or if facilities such as toilets and showers became unusable.

- Potential disengagement and weakening of the community; the club is managed and run by a wide range of volunteers from across the community and the activities noted above bring people together from across the community. This would cease if the club had to close for health & safety reasons or if facilities such as toilets and showers became unusable.

Leamington Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy; the four 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; local schools who use the facility, junior competitions held each year on behalf of the Lawn Tennis Association, 26 different teams covering both summer and winter leagues and junior holiday camps. Other detrimental effects may also include:

- Potential increase in anti-social behaviour as there will be less sporting activity available within the community.
- 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 and ad-hoc activities such as social events and private hire by the community also bring people together.

Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church)

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy; without the Community Centre there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in physical, social and cultural activities which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour as well as disengage and weaken the community.

Constructing a new tea room will enable more activities to be run at the same time; there are several rooms at the centre that groups could use, however, the kitchen and server area can only be reached by going through the main room which isn't feasible when this room is in use. Currently it is therefore difficult to run more than one group at a time whereas with the new team room up to four activities / groups could be run at the same time therefore increasing opportunity for the community to participate in physical, social and cultural activities.

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 plus underspends from closed projects in 2015/2016 of £174,491 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 £46,005 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget for 2015/16.
- 5.4 If the applications in this report are approved:
 - Warwick Sports Club of 45% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £27,610 excluding vat
 - Leamington Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club of 36% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat
 - Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church) of 30% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat

A total of 87,610 will be awarded against the remaining balance of £46,005 in the urban cost centre budget for 2015/16.

Therefore these awards will need to be funded from both the urban cost centre 2015/16 budget and the unallocated budget from 2014/15 cost centre.

Once these awards are approved the following balances will remain:

- There will be a nil balance in the urban cost centre budget for 2015/16
 - There will be £132,886 remaining in the unallocated budget from 2014/15 cost centre
- 5.5 There is £59,206 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the rural cost centre budget in 2015/16.

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 **Warwick Sports Club:**

Warwick Sports Club has submitted a RUCIS application to;

- Refurbish men's and ladies showers, ladies toilets and the bar / kitchenette area
- Install a security monitoring system with video cameras and alarm system
- Replace existing halogen lights and dimmers with more efficient LED lights
- Repair and extend safety fencing on the veranda
- Complete an electrical test to ensure compliance with all current regulations

The application is for 45% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £27,610 excluding vat.

Warwick Sports Club has committed £3,500 to the project from their cash reserves. These funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

Warwick Sports Club is vat registered (number; 585055327); they will be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be excluding vat.

Warwick Town Council supports the project and has approved a £1,000 contribution towards the total costs.

Warwick Sports Club has applied to WREN for a £28,750 capital grant.

Warwick Sports Club has previously had the following successful RUCIS grants:

- November 2011 – 43% grant awarded which equated to £26,000 for replacing the ceiling and supporting joists in the bar, lounge and dining room area as well as to install more energy efficient lighting.
- August 2012 – 50% grant awarded which equated to £10,000 for foundation work that was needed to carry out the main project as noted above.
- June 2013 - 50% grant awarded which equated to £31,450 for a disabled toilet extension, kitchen refurbishment, disabled adaptations on the veranda / entrance and widen the driveway. There was an underspend on this project of £5,250.

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 Warwick Sports Club of 45% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £27,610 excluding vat.

8.2 Leamington Tennis and Croquet Club

Leamington Tennis and Croquet Club have submitted a RUCIS application to resurface 4 tennis courts that have come to the end of their life span.

The application is for 36% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat.

Leamington Tennis and Croquet Club have committed £50,476 to the project from their cash reserves. These funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

Leamington Tennis and Croquet Club cash reserves; whilst the current reserves look significant there are two other projects underway that the club are contributing towards as well as the significant contribution they are making to this project. Evidence of the other projects has been provided. When the project contributions have been deducted the remaining reserves are below 12 months operating costs and therefore the club are eligible to apply for a RUCIS grant.

Leamington Tennis and Croquet Club is vat registered (number; 272852247), however, they are only registered in relation to bar activities; they won't be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be including vat.

Leamington Town Council supports the project and has approved a £2,000 contribution towards the total costs.

Leamington Tennis and Croquet Club have never previously had a RUCIS grant.

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Leamington Tennis and Croquet Club of 36% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat.

8.3 Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church)

Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church) has submitted a RUCIS application to;

- Reconfigure the current changing room which is not used into two parts to provide, a) a store room, and b) a 'tea point' that will provide refreshment facilities away from the main kitchen which will enable multi-usage of other rooms within the centre at the same time
- Refurbish the kitchen and server area

- Refurbishment of the main room to include redecoration and new flooring, ceiling tiles and radiators

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

Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church) is not vat registered; they won't be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be including vat.

Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church) has committed £613 to the project from their cash reserves. These funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church) has already successfully applied to WREN for a £49,890 capital grant; the third party payment of £5,363 will be paid by Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church). The funds to make this third party payment have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

Leamington Town Council supports the project and has approved a £500 contribution towards the total costs.

Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church) is in the process of submitting a capital grant application for £20,000 to JW Laing Trust.

Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church) has never previously had a RUCIS grant.

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Westbury Community Centre (Myton Church) of 30% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat.