

 <b>Executive – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b>  <h1 style="text-align: center;">9A</h1>
<b>Title</b>	Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme (RUCIS) Award Amendment Request	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Jon Dawson Finance Administration Manager 01926 456204 email: jon.dawson@warwickdc.gov.uk	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	Old Milverton and Blackdown	
<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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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 Application file no. 206 to 208; 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 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	13.6.16	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	13.6.16	Mike Snow
CMT	13.6.16	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	13.6.16	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	13.6.16	Andy Jones
Finance	13.6.16	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	13.6.16	Cllr Whiting
<b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>		
Community Partnership Team and Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer); Copy of report forwarded 1st June 2016.		
<b>Final Decision?</b>	Yes/No	
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		

## 1. **Summary**

1.1 This report provides details of a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme grant award amendment request by Leamington Netball Club to;

- Build and equip a purpose built courtside facility to provide disabled / wheelchair access, two toilets (one of which will be a disabled toilet), a social / mentoring / de-brief area and a kitchen / refreshment facility.
- Raise the two perimeter fences that are not currently at full height to reduce anti-social behaviour when not in use, ensure that safety aspects are covered by reducing the number of occasions of netballs going over the fence onto either the car park or Leamington Rugby Club's 3rd team pitch and support the club's safeguarding policy for young female players.

## 2. **Recommendation**

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves an amendment to the RUCIS award agreed in February 2016 from the rural cost centre budget for Leamington Netball Club:

- From 42% of the total project costs to build and equip a purpose built courtside facility and raise the height of two perimeter fences, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.1, up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat
- To 50% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2, 8.1 and 8.2

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; without the netball club there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sporting activities which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour, an increase in obesity (particularly in children) and disengage and weaken the community. The project will provide disabled access to facilities and increase court usage thus providing increased opportunity for the community to participate in sporting activity and it will also improve safeguarding of under 16's players.

3.3 The original RUCIS grant award (number 208) agreed by the Executive on 10th February 2016 was for 42% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £30,000 including vat subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from BiffaAward (or an alternative grant provider) to approve a capital grant of £30,000

- 3.4 In March 2016, BiffaAward unfortunately declined Leamington Netball Club's £30,000 grant application due to their scheme being oversubscribed with applications totalling more than the budget for that tranche of funding; this has therefore left a shortfall in the project budget.
- 3.5 As a result Leamington Netball Club completed further fundraising and reviewed their project plans; some areas have been amended, some items are no longer required and some work is now going to be completed free of charge by a local contractor (ICM Ltd) as a contribution to the local community, for example;
- Drainage has reduced from £13,100 to £6,071 as they no longer need a "treatment plant" as the ground level allows for a standard septic tank which is considerably less expensive.
  - Car park surfacing has reduced from £25,135 to £11,895 as it was decided that the original plans for 200 square metres are well in excess of requirements; this has now been reduced to a smaller area of approximately 35 square meters which still includes the required disabled parking bays.
  - Various works on the interior of the building are being completed free of charge; decorating, installation of kitchenette area, storage racking, installation of sinks and wall mounted items (soap holders, mirrors, grab rails) within the toilets, bench seats.
- 3.6 A revised quote has been received from the main contractors, Warwick Buildings, confirming the new £60,013 project cost, a reduction from the original £72,102 quote.
- 3.7 A schedule of works has been received from ICM Ltd which confirms the free of charge items of work as noted above.
- 3.8 Leamington Netball Club has now committed £28,013 to the project from their cash reserves; an increase of £17,911 from the initial £10,102 contribution. Recent bank statements and a breakdown of fundraising activities have been provided to evidence these funds.
- 3.9 Leamington Netball Club wish to retain the RUCIS grant award of up to a maximum of £30,000 which, if agreed, will increase the percentage contribution to the overall project costs from 42% to 50%; this remains within the scheme criteria.
- 3.10 The £2,000 Leamington Town Council contribution along with the club's increased contribution and a RUCIS award increase to 50% of the total project costs ensures that there is sufficient budget to deliver the project with all the outcomes / benefits noted in the original application that was previously agreed by the Executive on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

#### 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 2016/17 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).
- 5.2 There is £58,903 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget in 2016/17.
- 5.3 There is £45,000 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the rural cost centre budget in 2016/17.
- 5.4 As this request doesn't involve an increase to the grant amount agreed in February 2016 and the £30,000 award has already been allocated from the 2015/16 budget there is no impact on the 2016/17 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 In February 2016 Leamington Netball Club submitted a RUCIS application to:
- Build and equip a purpose built courtside facility to provide disabled / wheelchair access, two toilets (one of which will be a disabled toilet), a social / mentoring / de-brief area and a kitchen / refreshment facility
  - Raise the two perimeter fences that are not currently at full height to reduce anti-social behaviour when not in use, ensure that safety aspects are covered by reducing the number of occasions of netballs going over the fence onto either the car park or Leamington Rugby Club's 3rd team pitch and support the club's safeguarding policy for young female players

The application was for 42% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £30,000.

Leamington Netball Club committed £10,102 to the project from their cash reserves; these funds were evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of bank statements.

Leamington Netball Club is a section of Leamington Rugby Club which is vat registered (number; 272935339) although they will not be reclaiming vat in connection to this project; the award was therefore inclusive of vat.

Leamington Town Council approved a £2,000 contribution to the project.

Leamington Netball Club applied to BiffaAward for a £30,000 capital grant.

Leamington Netball Club was formerly AP Netball Club, they lost their playing facilities when AP sold off their sports facilities around 1990; due to this situation Leamington Rugby Club offered to provide the netball club with space on their ground to build a new netball court which was achieved via grants from the Sports Council, Warwick District Council and local fundraising. Leamington Netball Club thus became an integral part of the rugby club; legally they are one entity although they are operationally separate in relation to the playing of two different sports. Leamington Netball Club has its own organisational structure, committee and membership, totally separate from the rugby club.

Whilst Leamington Netball Club had not previously had a RUCIS grant award, Leamington Rugby Club have had the following successful RUCIS grants:

- £1,914 (50% of the total project costs) for replacing the drainage / sewage system in December 2010
- £3,013 (50% of the total project costs) for energy saving alterations to the cellar coolers in November 2011
- £36,000 (41% of the total project costs) to build an extension to install disabled toilet facilities, refurbish female and male toilet facilities and create disabled access to the main entrance in February 2014.

This application therefore met 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.

On 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016, Executive approved an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Leamington Netball Club of 42% of the total cost of the project, including vat, up to a maximum of £30,000 subject to written confirmation from BiffaAward (or an alternative grant provider) to approve a capital grant of £30,000.

The request made in this report is within the scheme criteria, it is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an amended award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Leamington Netball Club of 50% of the overall total costs of the project, including vat, up to a maximum of £30,000.