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|  | AGENDA ITEM NO. |
| Report Cover Sheet | |
| Name of Meeting: | Executive |
| Date of Meeting: | 11 th February 2008 |
| Report Title: | Rural Initiatives Grant |
| Summary of report: | The Executive considers an application for a Rural Initiatives Grant in the light of the criteria and budgetary implications. |
| For further information please contact (report author); | Roger Wyton, Principal Accountant (01926 456808 roger.wyton@warwickdc.gov.uk) |
| Business Unit: | Finance |
| Would the recommended decision be contrary to the policy framework: | No |
| Would the recommended decision be contrary to the budgetary framework: | No |
| Wards of the District directly affected by this decision: | Budbrooke |
| Key Decision? | No |
| Included within the Forward Plan? | No |
| Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 | No |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 name of meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number: | N/A |
| Background Papers: | Rural Initiatives Scheme details as amended in April 2007 Rural Initiatives Scheme Applications file no. 105 onwards. Correspondence with the Applicant. |

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| Consultation Undertaken | | |
| Below is a table of the Council's regular consultees. However not all have to be consulted on every matter and if there was no obligation to consult with a specific consultee they will be marked as n/a. | | |
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| Consultees | Yes/ No | Who |
| Other Committees | N/A | |
| Ward Councillors | N/A | |
| Portfolio Holders | Yes | Customer and Community Services – Felicity Bunker |
| Other Councillors | N/A | |
| Warwick District Council recognised Trades Unions | N/A | |
| Other Warwick District Council Service Areas | N/A | |
| Project partners | N/A | |
| Parish/Town Council | N/A | |
| Highways Authority | N/A | |
| Residents | N/A | |
| Citizens Panel | N/A | |
| Other consultees | N/A | |
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| Officer Approval | | |
| With regard to officer approval all reports must be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance Services and Legal Services. | | |
| Officer Approval | Date | Name |
| Relevant Director(s) | 15/1/08 | Mary Hawkins |
| Chief Executive | | |
| CMT | 17/1/08 | |
| Section 151 Officer | 15/1/08 | Mary Hawkins |
| Legal | Not received | Simon Best |

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| Finance | | None – report from Finance |
| Final Decision? | | Yes |
| Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below) | | |
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1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1.1 That the Executive considers for approval the request for a grant under the Council's Rural Initiatives Scheme as shown in paragraph 6 and Appendix 1.

2. REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 To provide funding to help the scheme progress.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The Council has only a specific capital budget to provide grants of this nature and therefore there are no alternatives if the Council is to provide funding for Rural Initiatives.
- 3.2 Members may choose not to approve the grant funding, or to vary the amount awarded.

4. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 The Council has a £80,000 budget for Rural Initiatives grants approved for 2007-2008, supplemented by a further £1,887 unallocated at the end of 2006 - 2007. Approval of this application in full would leave £29,273 available for further applications submitted during 2007/2008.

5. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 The assistance provided to applicants under this scheme will contribute to the Council's Objective of targeting resources to the areas of greatest need.
- 5.2 The appendix attached to this report details how the scheme contributes to the Council's Corporate Objectives (2004-2007).

6. APPLICATION RECEIVED

- 6.1 An application has been received from Budbrooke Village Hall Committee which is summarised here and further details including how the application meets the Council's Corporate Objectives can be found in Appendix 1.
- 6.2 The Village Hall is a well used facility and certain fixtures and fittings particularly the curtains and chairs are becoming tired. In addition, there is a need for a disabled access ramp and updated lighting. The current Committee has only taken over in the fairly recent past and the accounts for 2006 show that the Village Hall had cash and reserves amounting to £26,805. This is being used to fund day to day maintenance and the new Committee will be formulating more long term plans for the upkeep and improvements to the building which will be funded from these reserves.
- 6.3 The project is estimated to cost £7,342 of which £3,171 will come from the reserves already mentioned. £500 has been granted by the Parish Council leaving £3,671 which is being requested from this Council which equates to 50% of the project cost including VAT..