

 <b>WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b> <b>5 April 2018</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 10</b>
<b>Title</b>	New Village Hall at Norton Lindsey	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Chris Elliott <a href="mailto:Chris.elliott@warwickdc.gov.uk">Chris.elliott@warwickdc.gov.uk</a> 01926 456003	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	Budbrooke	
<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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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>	Planning Application Ref No W/16/2330	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	No

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive	19/03/18	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	19/03/18	Marianne Rolfe, Mike Snow
CMT	19/03/18	Andrew Jones, Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer	19/03/18	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	19/03/18	Andrew Jones
Finance	19/03/18	Mike Snow, Jon Dawson
Portfolio Holder(s)	19/03/18	Andrew Thompson, Peter Whiting
<b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>		
The proposal for a new village hall has been developed very much by the local community. The planning application was subject to the Council's normal consultation proposals.		
<b>Final Decision?</b>	No	

## 1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This report seeks agreement in principle for the Council to make a financial contribution of £85,000 towards the overall costs of just under £500,000 for a new village hall to replace the existing one which is now unusable. It is proposed that the Council would make its contribution from the Community Project Reserve. This reserve is funded by monies received as part of the New Homes Bonus Scheme. That scheme was intended as a financial reward to Councils for accepting new housing development that could and should be reinvested in the local community. A business plan is in the course of preparation and this will be reported back to Executive for approval. At that point agreement to release any monies can be made.

## 2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Executive agrees in principle to contribute no more than £85,000 toward the cost of constructing a new village hall in Norton Lindsey subject to:

- 2.1.1 Receiving written confirmation that all the matching funds required have been received;
- 2.1.2 Receiving a final and acceptable version of the business plan for the scheme;
- 2.1.3 The conditions that normally apply to the administration of RUCIS scheme grants are met.

- 2.2 That a further report is made to the Executive to seek agreement to the business plan referred to in recommendation 2.1.2 above.

## 3. **Reasons for the Recommendations**

- 3.1 Norton Lindsey Village Hall is no longer able to be used. The local community has however, sought and obtained planning permission for a new facility on the same site.
- 3.2 The local community estimate that the scheme will cost £495,000. Around £175,000 has been raised or pledged, including the pledge from the Parish Council of £35,000 but £20,000 has had to be expended to get the scheme progressed to date. A national charitable grant making body has indicated that if the local community can raise half of the estimated costs then it may be well disposed to providing the remainder. On this basis the local community is £85,000 short of being able to cover 50% of the estimated build costs. A request has been made to the Council to provide this sum of money.
- 3.3 Normally a grant application for village halls would normally be dealt with under the Council's RUCIS scheme. However, the sum sought is well outside of the parameters of that scheme. In similar situations the Council has taken the approach of considering the request in the light of the use of its Community Projects Reserve. Therefore, it is proposed that the Council administer the request as if it were a RUCIS scheme grant application but fund it from the Community Project Reserve subject to:
- the other sources of funding being agreed and confirmation that the funding such as pledges will materialise;
  - the signing off of a finalised Business Plan (a draft has been prepared but requires improvements);
  - that the administration of the application meets all the usual criteria of the administration of a RUCIS grant application.

## 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.

<b>FFF Strands</b>		
<b>People</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Money</b>
<b>External</b>		
<b>Health, Homes, Communities</b>	<b>Green, Clean, Safe</b>	<b>Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment</b>
<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
<b>Impacts of Proposal</b>		
This will enable a rural community to enjoy a range of community, sporting and related activities, all of which will contribute to a cohesive and active local community.	None directly but the new village hall will also help the use of the adjoining open spaces.	None directly but a construction contract will have multiplier effects on the local economy.
<b>Internal</b>		
<b>Effective Staff</b>	<b>Maintain or Improve Services</b>	<b>Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term</b>
<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
<b>Impacts of Proposal</b>		
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

## 4.2 **Supporting Strategies**

Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies. However, there are none which are especially relevant in this case.

## 4.3 **Changes to Existing Policies**

Not applicable

## 4.4 **Impact Assessments**

Not applicable

## 5. **Budgetary Framework**

5.1 The Community Project Reserve currently stands at £1.447m before any other demands on it are considered.

## 6. **Risks**

6.1 The risks in this scheme lie with the local community in so far as risks about budget estimates, construction timetables and realisation of other funds all falling to the local community. However, it may be the situation is that an expectation may be placed on the Council to step in if the other sources of funding do not materialise or do not materialise at the level needed. This is proposed to be mitigated by the Council making it clear that it will not consider any further funding demands for this scheme.

## 7. **Alternative Option(s) considered**

7.1 The Council could decide to refuse the request, but the purpose of the request is unique – an unusable village hall and so it would seem churlish to refuse to help, especially as it would lever in much more investment into the District.

7.2 The Council could offer a larger contribution but given what has been suggested there would be no need to do that if 50% of the remaining estimated costs can be met locally and the other 50% can be provided by a national charitable grant giving body.

7.3 The Council could offer a smaller contribution but if this were the case it would not be of sufficient assistance to meet the shortfall between the cost needed to construct a new village hall and the projected sums that can be raised by the local community.