

 Executive – 12th March 2014		Agenda Item No. 9A
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: fsteam@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	Budbrooke	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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 Applications file No. 194 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 & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	18.2.14	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	18.2.14	Mike Snow
CMT	18.2.14	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	18.2.14	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	18.2.14	Andy Jones
Finance	18.2.14	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	18.2.14	Cllr Mobbs
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team and Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer) –Copy of report forwarded 5 th February 2014		
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 Sherbourne Village Hall to refurbish existing toilet facilities and install a new disabled toilet and baby changing unit.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the Rural cost centre budget for Sherbourne Village Hall of 49% of the total project costs to refurbish existing toilet facilities and install a disabled toilet and baby changing unit, up to a maximum of £2,675
- (see 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 as without the village hall there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in arts and cultural activities which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour. The installation of disabled toilet facilities and a baby changing unit will also increase opportunities for members of the community to enjoy and participate in these activities in turn further engaging and strengthening the community.

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
Narrowing The Gaps

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 The budget for the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Applications for 2013/14 is £150,000 (£75,000 for Rural Projects and £75,000 for Urban Projects). The unallocated budget from 2012/13 has been added to this and sits within a separate cost centre budget; this can be added to either Rural or Urban schemes once the 2013/14 budget has been used.
- 5.2 There is £18,600 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Rural cost centre budget in 2013/14. If the application within this report from Sherbourne Village Hall for 49% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £2,675 is approved, £16,159 will remain in the Rural Cost Centre budget.

- 5.3 There are no funds remaining for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Urban cost centre budget for 2013/14.
- 5.4 There is £17,049 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the unallocated 2012/13 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 Sherbourne Village Hall has submitted a RUCIS application to refurbish existing toilet facilities and to install a disabled toilet and baby changing unit.
- 8.2 The RUCIS application is for 49% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £2,675.
- 8.3 Sherbourne Village Hall is not registered for VAT; they won't be reclaiming VAT in connection to this project therefore the award will be inclusive of VAT.
- 8.4 Sherbourne Village Hall has committed £200 to the project from their limited cash reserves.
- 8.5 Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton JPC support the project and have agreed to contribute £2600.
- 8.6 Sherbourne Village Hall has previously had a successful Rural Initiatives Grant application in 1998/99 of £2,721 (96% of the total project costs) for improvements to the hall.

This application meets the 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 Sherbourne Village Hall of 49% of the total cost of the project inclusive of VAT subject to a maximum of £2,675.