

		Insert name and date of meeting in this box. Executive 4 th June 2008	Agenda Item No.
Title		Rural Initiatives Grants	
For further information about this report please contact		Jenny Clayton, Strategic Finance Manager jenny.clayton@warwickdc.gov.uk 01926 496013	
Service Area		Finance	
Wards of the District directly affected		Barford, Sherbourne, Wasperton, Bubbenhall, Shrewley and Norton Lindsey	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006		No	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			
Background Papers		Rural Initiatives Scheme details as amended in April 2007 Rural Initiatives Scheme Applications file no. 105 onwards. Correspondence with the Applicants.	

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

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	15 th May 2008	Mary Hawkins
Chief Executive		
CMT	15 th May 2008	
Section 151 Officer	14 th May 2008	Mary Hawkins
Legal	14 th May 2008	Simon Best
Finance		Report from Finance
Portfolio Holder(s)	18 th May 2008	Customer and Community Services – Felicity Bunker
Consultation Undertaken		
2 of the reports are from local Parish Councils		

Final Decision?	Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report gives details of 4 applications for Rural Initiative Grant monies. The Executive is asked to consider the level of funding it wishes to grant in light of the merits of the individual schemes and the implications on the budget remaining for this financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Executive considers for approval the requests for grants under the Council's Rural Initiatives Scheme and recommendations as detailed in paragraph 7.1 to 7.4 supported by Appendices 1 to 4.
- 2.2 The Executive note the remaining monies available to support further applications during 2008-09 dependant upon the levels of grant awarded to these applications as detailed in Appendix 5.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To provide funding to help the schemes progress.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 Members may choose not to approve the grant funding, or to vary the amount awarded

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 The total budget for the Rural Initiatives Scheme Applications for 2008-09 was £100,000. At its meeting in March 2008, the Executive approved the bringing forward of £11,000 in order to provide funding for the applications considered in March. Thus £89,000 remains for this financial year.
- 5.2 Appendix 5 shows the implications for this financial year of either accepting the recommendations as detailed in 7.1 to 7.4 or granting the 4 applications within this report in full. If the Executive approve these recommendations thereby reducing the Norton Lindsey application to £2,500 (which is 50% of the project shortfall), then £67,500 would remain available. Should members decide however to approve the Norton Lindsey Playgroup application in full, this would only leave £65,000 for further applications during 2008-09.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The assistance provided to applicants under this scheme will contribute to the Council's Objective of targeting resources to the areas of greatest need.
- 6.2 Applications within this report will contribute towards the new Corporate Strategy Objectives (2008-11) in terms of "Development", by retaining pleasant villages and making the district an attractive place to live, work and visit. These will also

contribute towards the promotion of safe, vibrant and sustainable local communities.

7. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

7.1 Norton Lindsey Playgroup (Appendix 1)

At its meeting on June 11th 2007, the Executive approved a grant of £15,000 maximum to the Norton Lindsey Playgroup Committee. Since then the group have continued to fund raise and plan for the installation of the play equipment. They now have confirmed funding of £55,000.

The site for the play ground has been finalised and agreed with the cricket and football clubs. However, the football club have asked that the boundary fencing be made more substantial with rounded tops to prevent any injuries. This is estimated to cost between £5,000 and £10,000. The Play Group Committee has applied for a grant of up to £5,000 (50% of this cost). However, they have yet to approach the Parish Council and Stratford District Council for additional funding.

It should be noted that the total project cost is now projected to be £60,000, and since £55,000 has already been secured, this leaves a shortfall of £5,000. In light of this, plus the fact that the other 2 Councils have yet to be approached, it is therefore recommended that the Executive approve a further £2,500 to be awarded to the Norton Lindsey Scheme in addition to the £15,000 already approved last year.

7.2 Shrewley Village Hall (Appendix 2)

The Village Hall Committee has broken the application into 2 distinct parts. This gives the Executive the opportunity to consider each aspect of the Village Hall refurbishment separately and the option to support both or just one of the scheme applications.

The first part of the application is for a grant towards an extension to the rear of the hall. This will provide a back stage area for changing rooms and for the storage of props. The hall has recently started to be used for "Live and Local" events and changing facilities are needed for this. Quotations have been sought and the committee have selected the lowest quote of £24,000. They have applied for a 50% contribution from this Council (£12,000).

The second part of the application is for a grant towards the replacement of the village hall ceiling. The existing ceiling is dangerous and losing a lot of heat. Again quotations have been sought and the lowest has been selected. A grant of £2,500 towards the total cost of £5,000 is sought.

It is recommended that the Executive approve a total grant of £14,500.

7.3 Drainage works to Bubbenhall Recreation Ground.(Appendix 3)

Bubbenhall Parish Council has submitted an application for funding towards the costs of alleviating flooding problems on the Parish Recreational Ground. There had been problems over the last few years with water lying on the surface particularly in front of the village hall and the tennis courts. It was especially problematic last summer, the field becoming a mud quire and virtually impossible for pushchairs and wheelchairs to get on the field. If the work is not carried out and there is another wet summer, the Council fear it may not be possible to hold the fun day and other events on the field.

The Council obtained 3 estimates for the work. They have selected the highest quotation as this included one more longitudinal drain and would offer better value.

The quotation is £6,837 and the Council is asked to fund 50% of this cost. It is therefore recommended that a £3,419 grant be awarded.

7.4 Refurbishment of 3 Bus Shelters in Barford Village

An application has been received from the Joint Parish Council for a grant towards the refurbishment of 3 brick bus shelters in the village.

This will include repointing, replacing rotten timber parts, weatherproofing and redecoration.

The total cost of the scheme is £2,270, a grant of 50% of this cost is requested. It is therefore recommended that a grant of £1,135 is awarded.