

 Executive – 3rd December 2014		Agenda Item No. <h1>12A</h1>
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: jon.dawson@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	Offchurch and Barford	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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.200 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 Impact Assessment Undertaken	Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	17.11.14	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	17.11.14	Mike Snow
CMT	17.11.14	Chris Elliott, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	17.11.14	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	17.11.14	Andy Jones
Finance	17.11.14	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	17.11.14	Cllr Cross
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team and Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer) –Copy of report forwarded 5 th November 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 two Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme grant applications:

- Offchurch Sports Club to resurface the all-weather netball court to resolve current health & safety issues created by damp and wet weather conditions
- Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council to replace, upgrade and extend the current limited play area located at the King George's playing fields

2. **Recommendation**

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves:

Offchurch Sports Club:

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the Rural cost centre budget for Offchurch Sports Club of 49% of the total project costs to resurface the all-weather netball court, up to a maximum of £5,225 subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation of the financial contribution request decision from Eathorpe, Hunningham, Offchurch & Wappenbury Joint Parish Council; if approved, the contribution from Offchurch Sports Club cash reserves will be reduced accordingly

As supported by appendix 1.

Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council:

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the Rural cost centre budget for Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council of 30% of the total project costs to replace, upgrade and extend the current limited play area located at the King George's playing fields, up to a maximum of £30,000 subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation of SITA approval (or if the application is declined, another capital grant provider) to fund £60,000 of the project cost to ensure that the RUCIS grant remains as 30% of the total project cost

As supported by appendix 2.

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 Offchurch Sports Club:

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as without the sports club there would be fewer opportunities for the community

to enjoy and participate in sport which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour and obesity, particularly in children. The resurfacing of the all-weather netball court will alleviate current health & safety risks and re-enable all-year round usage therefore increasing opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sporting activities.

Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council:

This project contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy as without the playground there would be less opportunity for young people in the community to enjoy and participate in physical and creative activities which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour and obesity in children. A well-used playground will also help to further engage and strengthen the community as it will bring together a wide range of people; young people, parents, grand-parents and play groups.

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 2014/15 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).

5.2 In addition there is the unallocated budget from 2013/2014 of £88,884 which sits within a separate cost centre budget; this could then be used for either Rural or Urban schemes once the 2014/15 budget has been used.

5.3 There is £55,919 still available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Rural Cost Centre budget in 2014/15. If the applications within this report from:

- a) Offchurch Sports Club for 49% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £5,225, and
- b) Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council for 30% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £30,000

are approved, £20,694 will remain in the Rural Cost Centre budget.

5.4 There is £52,758 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the Urban Cost Centre budget for 2014/15.

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 Offchurch Sports Club:

Offchurch Sports Club has submitted a rucis application to resurface the all-weather netball court to resolve current health & safety issues created by damp and wet weather conditions. The application is for 49% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £5,225

Offchurch Sports Club is not registered for vat; they won't be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be inclusive of vat

Offchurch Sports Club have stated that they will provide £5,545 (51% of the total project costs) towards the project from their own cash reserves

Offchurch Sports Club has previously had a successful rucis application:

- £55,000 (37% of the total project costs) to rebuild their pavilion in December 2009

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 Offchurch Sports Club of 49% of the total cost of the project inclusive of VAT subject to a maximum of £5,225.

8.2 Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council:

This project is the first phase of a three phase overall project, the other two projects are as follows:

- Phase 2 – Create a perimeter exercise track, upgrade lane access and bike racks; estimated costs of £100,000
- Phase 3 – Build a multi-sports court , tennis courts and toilets; estimated costs of £250,000

Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council's business plan assumes a total funding requirement of approximately £475,000 for the three capital elements detailed above and they have also considered a provision for repairs after ten years of £5,000 per annum to ensure sustainability (i.e. £50,000) and have plans for maintenance and removal of rubbish from the site using volunteers in the parish.

This application is specifically for phase 1 of the development of The King George's Playing Field Scheme; it's important to note that although this is part of a big development scheme, it is in itself a stand-alone project which will deliver a facility to the community and contributes to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy. Details as follows:

Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council has submitted a rucis application to replace, upgrade and extend the current limited play area located at the King George's playing fields. The application is for 30% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £30,000.

Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council are registered for vat; they will be reclaiming the vat in connection to this project therefore the award is excluding vat. Initially, the Joint Parish Council will pay for the vat from their cash reserves.

Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council have stated that they will provide £10,000 (10% of the total project costs) towards the project from their own cash reserves.

The rucis scheme criteria states that "grants cannot be awarded if the organisation has reserves to fund the project themselves, i.e. cash reserves / savings that total more than 12 months of the organisations operating costs".

The June 2014 bank statements provided show a combined cash reserve of £71,863; the annual expenditure / operating costs are approximately £32,526 per annum (this is an average of the last three years accounts) which leaves cash reserves of approximately £39,337 whilst applying for a £30,000 rucis grant. However, the Joint Parish Council are contributing £10,000 to the phase 1 project and a further £5,000 towards the phase 2 and 3 projects which further reduces cash reserves to approximately £24,337. The Joint Parish Council may also need to increase their contribution to phases 2 and 3 as funding has yet to be finalised and a contingency fund will be required to meet costs from any unforeseen issues. The Joint Parish Council have provided explanations of further commitments to be met from these reserves (contributions to village hall, scout hut, allotment path projects) as well as initially needing to pay approximately £20,000 in vat for the phase 1 project before the vat can later be reclaimed. We are therefore satisfied that the application meets the scheme criteria.

Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council have previously had successful RUCIS applications:

- £1,135 (50% of the total project costs) for refurbishment of bus shelters in June 2008
- £2,439(50% of the total project costs) for roof insulation for the Memorial Hall in June 2012

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 Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council of 30% of the total cost of the project excluding vat subject to a maximum of £30,000.