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| Title | Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme (RUCIS) Application |
| For further information about this report please contact | Jon Dawson Finance Administration Manager 01926 456204 email: jon.dawson@warwickdc.gov.uk |
| Wards of the District directly affected | Old Milverton & Blackdown |
| Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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 | RUCIS Scheme details. RUCIS Application file no. 246 to 248 correspondence with applicants. |

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| 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 | 28.10.19 | Chris Elliott |
| Head of Service | 28.10.19 | Mike Snow |
| CMT | 28.10.19 | Chris Elliott, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones |
| Section 151 Officer | 28.10.19 | Mike Snow |
| Monitoring Officer | 28.10.19 | Andy Jones |
| Finance | 28.10.19 | Mike Snow |
| Portfolio Holder(s) | 28.10.19 | Cllr Hales |
| Consultation & Community Engagement | | |
| Community Partnership Team, Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer), Stuart Winslow (Sports and Leisure Contract Manager), David Guilding (Arts Manager) and Chloe Johnson (Arts Collections and Engagement Manager); Copy of report forwarded 2 nd October 2019. | | |
| Final Decision? | Yes/No | |
| Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below) | | |
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1. Summary

- 1.1** This report provides details of a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme grant application by Old Milverton Parish Room to provide internal & external LED lighting, install dimmer control, rationalize existing wiring and remove redundant wiring.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the rural cost centre budget for Old Milverton Parish Room of 80% of the total project costs to provide internal & external LED lighting, install dimmer control, rationalize existing wiring and remove redundant wiring, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8, up to a maximum of £5,194 including vat subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from Old Milverton & Blackdown Parish Council to approve a capital grant of £500 (if the application is declined or a reduced amount is offered the budget shortfall will be covered by Old Milverton Parish Room's cash reserves which have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements)

As supported by 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 grants recommended are in accordance with the Council's agreed scheme and will provide funding to help the projects progress.
- 3.2 The project contributes to the Council's Fit for the Future Strategy; without the Parish Room there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in physical, social, arts and cultural activities which could potentially result in disengaging and weakening the community and an increase in anti-social behaviour and obesity. If the project work isn't carried out current health & safety concerns will continue and an opportunity will have been missed to help the environment through installing environmentally friendly LED lighting.

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.

| FFF Strands | | |
|---|--|---|
| People | Services | Money |
| External | | |
| Health, Homes, Communities | Green, Clean, Safe | Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment |
| <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 |
| Impacts of Proposal | | |
| All RUCIS applications are designed to encourage and support local communities and local not-for-profit organisations in developing cohesive and active communities. The details behind this are set out in appendix 1. | Through the delivery of RUCIS grants the aim is to deliver cohesive and active communities which in turn help to support and maintain lower levels of crime and ASB. The details behind this are set out in appendix 1. | N/A |
| Internal | | |
| Effective Staff | Maintain or Improve Services | Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term |
| <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 |
| Impacts of Proposal | | |
| N/A | N/A | N/A |

- 4.2 Supporting Strategies; each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and but none are directly relevant in this case.
- 4.3 Changes to Existing Policies; there are no changes to existing policies.
- 4.4 Impact Assessments; there are no new or significant policy changes proposed in respect of Equalities.

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 The budget for the Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme applications for 2019/20 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).
- 5.2 There is £45,000 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the rural cost centre budget in 2019/20. If the application from Old Milverton Parish Room of 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £5,194 (including vat) is agreed, £39,806 will remain in the rural cost centre budget.
- 5.3 There is £65,600 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget in 2019/20.
- 5.4 There is £4,296 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from project underspends which have occurred within this financial year.

As per appendix 2.

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

Old Milverton Parish Room has submitted a RUCIS application to provide internal & external LED lighting, install dimmer control, rationalize existing wiring and remove redundant wiring.

Projects of less than £10,000 overall costs fall within the Small Grants category of the RUCIS scheme which has a maximum contribution of up to 80% of the overall project costs; the project cost is £6,492 (including vat) and therefore qualifies to apply for a grant of up to 80%.

The application is therefore for 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £5,194 including vat.

Old Milverton Parish Room has committed £798 to the project costs from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

The Old Milverton Parish Room isn't registered for vat and therefore will not be reclaiming vat in connection to this project; the award will therefore be inclusive of vat.

An application has been made to Old Milverton & Blackdown Parish Council for a contribution of £500 towards this project and is now awaiting a decision.

Old Milverton Parish Room has previously had the following successful RUCIS grant:

- March 2017 - 80% grant awarded which equated to £4,603 for a new flat roof to replace the existing roof which was at the end of its life span

The application therefore meets the scheme 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 Old Milverton Parish Room of 80% of the total cost of the project including vat subject to a maximum of £5,194.