

 Executive – 1st July 2015		Agenda Item No. 11B
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	Cubbington	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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 Application file no. 203 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	15.6.15	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	15.6.15	Mike Snow
CMT	15.6.15	Chris Elliott, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	15.6.15	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	15.6.15	Andy Jones
Finance	15.6.15	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	15.6.15	Cllr Whiting
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team and Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer); Copy of report forwarded 4 th June 2015.		
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 Cubbington Village Hall to renovate and extend the hall to achieve a more substantial, safe, warm and welcoming building which will enable more usage all-year round and will require less maintenance.

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves a Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the rural cost centre budget for Cubbington Village Hall of 50% of the total project costs to renovate and extend the hall, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.1, up to a maximum of £7,640 inclusive of VAT.

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 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; renovating this facility will enable more usage of the hall in winter months as it will be warmer and better insulated therefore increasing opportunities for the community to participate in physical activities, arts and cultural activities. If the hall isn't maintained and progressively becomes unusable it will potentially increase anti-social behaviour and obesity, both in adults and children, as there will a vast reduction in opportunities within the community to participate in these activities. Additionally, the loss of this facility could also potentially disengage and weaken the community; the hall is managed and run by a wide range of volunteers from across the community and is also well used by the community as a whole.

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 2015/16 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).
- 5.2 The unallocated budget from 2014/15 of £131,040 will be requested to be considered as slippage as part of the June Final Accounts Report. This budget

will sit within a separate cost centre budget so as to be added to either rural or urban schemes once the 2015/16 budget has been used.

- 5.3 There is £75,000 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the rural cost centre budget in 2015/16. If the application within this report from Cubbington Village Hall of 50% of the total project costs, up to a maximum of £7,640 is approved, £67,360 will remain in the rural cost centre budget.
- 5.4 There is £75,000 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget for 2015/16.

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 Cubbington Village Hall has submitted a RUCIS application to renovate and extend the hall to achieve a more substantial, safe, warm and welcoming building.

The committee room and kitchen is currently a wooden framed structure with a flat roof and little insulation:

- The rear and side elevation of the committee room will be replaced with block/brick cavity walls, insulated and built in accordance with current building regulations
- The building will be extended at the rear to incorporate a room for storing chairs and tables
- New UPC double glazed windows and doors will be fitted
- The ceiling will be insulated and new lighting will be installed

In the existing extension to the main hall:

- The wooden framed windows will be replaced with UPC double glazed windows
- The fire exit doors which open onto the car park will be replaced to ensure they remain compliant to Health & Safety requirements
- Carpet tiles will be replaced

- 8.2 The application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £7,640.
- 8.3 Cubbington Village Hall is not vat registered; they will not be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be inclusive of vat.
- 8.4 Cubbington Village Hall has committed £640 to the project from their cash reserves. These funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement.
- 8.5 Cubbington Parish Council have agreed to contribute £7,000 towards the project
- 8.6 Cubbington Village Hall has previously had a successful RUCIS application:
 - £8,000 (20% of the total project costs) for improvements to the hall in 2001/02

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 Cubbington Village Hall of 50% of the total cost of the project including vat subject to a maximum of £7,640.