

 Executive – 7th February 2018		Agenda Item No. <h1>16A</h1>
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	Kenilworth, Lapworth	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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. 230 to 231; correspondence with 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
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	22.1.18	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	22.1.18	Mike Snow
CMT	22.1.18	Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	22.1.18	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	22.1.18	Andy Jones
Finance	22.1.18	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	22.1.18	Cllr Mobbs (Cllr Whiting has an interest in one of the applications within the report)
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Community Partnership Team, Manoj Sonecha (Active Communities Officer), Stuart Winslow (Sports and Leisure Contract Manager) and Mair Evans (Arts Development Officer); Copy of report forwarded 11 th January and 12 th January 2018.		
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:

- Kenilworth Squash Club to improve and redevelop club facilities; redecorating, carpeting, replace broken doors, new boiler, LED lighting and glass-back to court 1.
- Lapworth Cricket Club to purchase a new mower and roller to replace the existing equipment that has reached the end of its life span.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves:

Kenilworth Squash Club

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the urban cost centre budget for Kenilworth Squash Club of 50% of the total project costs to improve and redevelop club facilities, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.1, up to a maximum of £19,028 excluding vat, subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from Kenilworth Town Council to approve a capital grant of £400 (if the application is declined or a reduced amount is offered the budget shortfall will be covered by Kenilworth Squash Club's cash reserves which have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement).

As supported by appendix 1.

Lapworth Cricket Club

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the rural cost centre budget for Lapworth Cricket Club of 50% of the total project costs to purchase a new mower and roller, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.2, up to a maximum of £10,479 including vat.

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 grants recommended are in accordance with the Council's agreed scheme and will provide funding to help the projects progress.

3.2 All projects contribute to the Council's Fit for the Future Strategy:

Kenilworth Squash Club

This project contributes to the Council's Fit for the Future Strategy as without the squash club there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sport activities which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour, an increase in obesity and disengage and weaken the community. The project will deliver a new glass-back to squash court 1 which

will provide new opportunity for members of the community to enjoy watching sporting activity, it will also deliver energy efficiencies through new LED lighting and boiler/heating system which will help to reduce running costs and subsequently ensure that costs to the community either playing or watching sport are kept as low as possible.

Lapworth Cricket Club

This project contributes to the Council's Fit for the Future Strategy as without the cricket club there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sport activities which could potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour, an increase in obesity (particularly in children) and disengage and weaken the community. The club also helps to tackle disadvantage in a rural area as there are no bus services in the village and as a result the club offers the only sporting facilities to those members and families of the local community who do not have access to their own means of transportation. The nearest sporting facilities outside of Lapworth are at Hockley Heath where they play football on the recreation ground or travelling further afield to Claverdon to participate in Rugby. The nearest cricket clubs to Lapworth Cricket Club's Melson Memorial Park ground are Dorridge Cricket Club and Rowington Cricket Club, neither of these two venues have any public transportation links with Lapworth which is approx. 2 miles from each club both served by very busy roads with little or no pedestrian provision.

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	Through the delivery of RUCIS grants the aim is to deliver cohesive and active communities which	N/A

local not-for-profit organisations in developing cohesive and active communities. The details behind this are set out in appendices 1 and 2.	in turn helps to support and maintain lower levels of crime and ASB. The details behind this are set out in appendices 1 and 2.	
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 2017/18 is £126,305 (£63,152.50 for rural projects and £63,152.50 for urban projects).

5.2 The annual budget is normally £150,000; it should be noted that a £60,000 saving was offered in 2016/17 based on best knowledge at that time, however, due to last minute applications at year end it meant that there was a shortfall of £23,700 which has subsequently reduced the 2017/18 budget.

5.3 There is £58,684.50 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget in 2017/18. If the application from Kenilworth Squash Club of 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £19,028 (excluding vat) is approved, £39,656.50 will remain in the urban cost centre budget.

5.4 There is currently a deficit of -£6,169.50 in the rural cost centre budget in 2017/18. If the application from Lapworth Cricket Club of 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £10,479 (including vat) is approved, the deficit in the rural cost centre budget will be -£16,648.

- 5.5 However, the rural cost centre deficit is covered by the urban cost centre budget, if the two applications within this report are approved the overall remaining 2017/18 budget is £23,423 (this includes a £415 underspend from a project completed earlier this year).

As per appendix 3.

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 Kenilworth Squash Club:

Kenilworth Squash Club has submitted a RUCIS application to improve and redevelop the club facilities, this includes the following work:

- Redecoration; replastering, painting, new suspended ceiling and lighting, moving a staircase to a more appropriate location and tidying-up electrics
- Re-carpeting throughout
- Install ambi-rads on two squash courts
- Install a new boiler system
- Install LED lighting on 3 courts
- Fit a glass-back to court 1
- Replace broken doors on 2 courts

The application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £19,028.

Kenilworth Squash Club have committed £18,628 to the project costs from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement.

Kenilworth Squash Club is a section of Kenilworth Tennis, Squash and Croquet Club which is vat registered (vat number; 272739533) and will be able to reclaim some of the vat in connection to this project; the award will therefore be excluding vat. The club are therefore also committing £7,611 from their cash reserves to the project to pay vat costs; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement.

Kenilworth Squash Club have applied to Kenilworth Town Council for a £400 contribution to the project and are now waiting for a decision; if the Town Council decline the application or offer a reduced amount, Kenilworth Squash Club will cover the budget shortfall from their cash reserves, these funds have

been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

With regards to multi-sports organisations, the RUCIS scheme criteria states:

"Multi-sport organisations that are legally one entity but with separate sports activities that are operated and managed independently on a day-to-day basis with separate memberships, committees, volunteers, constitutions and bank accounts;

- Each individual sport organisation can apply for a grant in their own right for a project that is connected to their sport / facilities only. Grants will only be awarded once in a 2 year period.
- If the project is for a shared facility, for example, a clubhouse used by each organisation; providing one of the individual sports organisations has not had a grant within the last 2 years and are prepared to be the applicant, a grant may be awarded. Grants will only be awarded once in a 2 year period."

Kenilworth Squash Club are applying for a grant to improve and redevelop the facilities that are for the sole use of their sport section/organisation and they have never previously had a RUCIS grant award; the application therefore meets the scheme criteria noted above.

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Kenilworth Squash Club of 50% of the total cost of the project excluding vat subject to a maximum of £19,028.

8.2 **Lapworth Cricket Club:**

Lapworth Cricket Club has submitted a RUCIS application to purchase a new mower and a roller to replace the existing equipment that has reached the end of its life span.

The application is for 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £10,479 including vat.

Lapworth Cricket Club have committed £9,979 to the project from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement.

Lapworth Cricket Club 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.

Lapworth Parish Council have agreed to contribute £250 to the project; Lapworth Cricket Club were initially hopeful of a £500 award therefore in the RUCIS application funding plan there is now a £250 shortfall, however, this will be covered from the club's cash reserves, these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of recent bank statements.

Lapworth Cricket Club have previously had a successful RUCIS grant:

- February 2016 - 50% grant awarded which equated to £11,218 to build a new patio area and walkway and provide power to the equipment shed and score box

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 Lapworth Cricket Club of 50% of the total project costs including vat up to a maximum of £10,479.