

RURAL AND URBAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – 2011/12

1. Introduction

Warwick District Council is operating a new Rural and Urban Capital Improvement Scheme. Under the scheme, grants are given towards capital projects in rural/urban areas of the District. Projects that we could assist are improving hall facilities, play areas and youth and sports clubs etc.

Under the Rural and Urban Capital Improvement Scheme, capital is described as expenditure on the acquisition of a tangible asset or enhancement of an existing asset, which adds to and not merely maintains, the value of the asset, provided that the asset yields benefit to the user for a period of more than one year - for example the construction of a new pavilion, enhancement of a kitchen or village hall, the purchase of machinery such as a tractor for mowing or the purchase of play equipment or street furniture.

This document explains how the scheme operates and how groups should apply for funding.

2. Criteria

Projects that are appropriate for funding, must contribute to the Sustainable Communities Strategy and the cross cutting themes that form the funding priorities (see Section 6).

The following criteria will apply to applications under the Rural/ Urban Capital Improvement Scheme:

- The scheme should provide or enhance facilities within all area of Warwick District Council.
- The organisation to provide part-funding of the scheme, and show details of all other funding sources.
- Applications should provide evidence that they fulfil a clearly defined need, and they show a degree of community support or clear benefit.
- Proposals must be open to examination by the council's offers and advisors, including the right to monitor works during their progress.
- The Council's contribution to the scheme will not normally be in excess of 50% of the total scheme cost. However, in exceptional circumstances, this may be increased by 75%.
- If funding is being sought from other District Council sources, the total funding from the District Council, whatever source, will not normally exceed 50%.
- In considering the amount to grant award, regard shall be had to the applicant's level of financial reserves and to what extent the organisation is able to provide funding to the scheme.
- The project should not require the District Council to assist with any future running costs.

3. Areas – Parish/ Town Councils

- Schemes do not need to be in the name of the Parish/Town council.
- All schemes will need to be formally supported by the Parish/Town council, with a financial contribution normally expected.

- Parish/Town councils will be required to put a priority order on schemes when more than one is submitted for an individual Parish/Town.
- The local parish/ town council should contribute towards the cost of the project, and may specifically need to allow for this within its budget and precept. If parish/ town has a below average parish/ town council tax, and is using lack of funds as a reason for not offering financial support to the scheme, the parish/ town will be expected to increase its precept so as to enable it to contribute to the project.

It should be noted that Parish / Town Councils will not be able to claim via the District Council's Concurrent Services scheme for any contributions made towards a schemes annual running costs following completion of the works for which a Rural Initiative grant has been awarded.

4. Who may apply?

An organisation may be eligible for grant aid if:

- It is a non-profit making organisation
- It has an organised structure and can provide annual accounts
- It is run for and by local people within the Parish/Town areas of Warwick District.

The following will not be eligible for grant aid:-

- Projects which should normally be funded by statutory agencies
- Individuals
- Projects for the advancement of religion
- Organisations which support or oppose a political party, or party political aims
- Projects which have already started

5. How to apply?

A Rural/ Town Capital Improvement Scheme Application form should be completed. This will need to be supplemented with additional information as appropriate. Submissions should include the following information:

- Description of the scheme and what it is intended to achieve
- Evidence of need
- Plan and/ or drawings where appropriate
- Estimates of scheme costs, including copies of three quotations for the works for schemes in excess of £10,000
- Details of how the project will be funded, including self funding and external contributions or grants, and the status of the external funding
- Estimates of any future running costs of the project and how these will be met
- Three years independently audited accounts of the organisation
- Details of any membership/subscription fees and numbers of members
- Details of usage of the facilities
- Details of the organisation's equalities policies
- Description of how the scheme will contribute towards the Sustainable Community Strategy
- Any other supporting information that may be useful in enabling the council to consider the application.

6. Warwick District Council Sustainable Community Strategy

Applicants should demonstrate how the scheme will contribute towards the Sustainable Community Strategy and the following cross cutting themes that form the funding priorities:

- Engaging and supporting communities including community cohesion and embedding sustainability.
- Targeted geographical areas (Neighbourhood Anchors).
- Narrowing the gaps/ families at risk
- Rurality

Projects must contribute to at least two of the following priorities:-

- Reduce ASB including criminal damage
- Reducing obesity, particularly in children
- Increase opportunities for everyone to enjoy and participate in sports, arts and cultural activities
- Engaging and strengthening communities
- Targeting disadvantage rural/ urban locations

7. Applications Deadline

Applications will be considered throughout the year by the Council's Executive which meets regularly. It is important that applications are received in time to enable them to be included within the papers for the meeting.

Applications should be addressed to:-

Finance Department
P O Box 2180
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
Royal Leamington Spa
CV32 5QW

Any queries please telephone: 01926 456204

Or email: fast@warwickdc.gov.uk

8. Decision making on the grants

In order to be equitable to all the identified targeted geographical areas, the Council will have regard to the number and value of applications. Grant applications that meet the criteria outlined above will be presented to the Council's Executive Committee for approval throughout the year.