

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  <b>Executive – 9 January 2019</b>   |  | <b>Agenda Item No.</b><br><br><h1 style="text-align: center;">14</h1> |
| <b>Title</b>  | Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme (RUCIS) Application   |   |
| <b>For further information about this report please contact</b>   | Jon Dawson<br>Finance Administration Manager<br>01926 456204<br>email: jon.dawson@warwickdc.gov.uk |   |
| <b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>  | Whitnash, Clarendon  |   |
| <b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b> | No   |   |
| <b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>   | N/A  |   |
| <b>Background Papers</b>  | RUCIS Scheme details.<br>RUCIS Application file no. 239 to 242;<br>correspondence with applicants. |   |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>                                   | No  |
| <b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>                                | No  |
| <b>Key Decision?</b>   | No  |
| <b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b> | No  |
| <b>Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>                               | Yes |
|  |     |

|  |             |  |
|--|-------------|--|
| <b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>   |             |  |
| <b>Officer Approval</b>  | <b>Date</b> | <b>Name</b>                            |
| Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive   | 17.12.18    | Chris Elliott                          |
| Head of Service  | 17.12.18    | Mike Snow                              |
| CMT  | 17.12.18    | Chris Elliot, Bill Hunt and Andy Jones |
| Section 151 Officer  | 17.12.18    | Mike Snow                              |
| Monitoring Officer   | 17.12.18    | Andy Jones                             |
| Finance  | 17.12.18    | Mike Snow                              |
| Portfolio Holder(s)  | 17.12.18    | Cllr Whiting                           |
| <b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>   |             |  |
| 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 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2018. |             |  |
| <b>Final Decision?</b>   | Yes/No      |  |
| <b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>   |             |  |
|  |             |  |

## **1. Summary**

1.1 This report provides details of two Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme grant applications:

- Whitnash Town Council to install a height restrictor barrier at Washbourne Playing Fields to prevent traveller encampments
- Avenue Bowls Club to install LED lighting and rewire the clubhouse to resolve current health & safety issues

## **2. Recommendation**

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves:

### **Whitnash Town Council**

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the urban cost centre budget for Whitnash Town Council of 80% of the total project costs to install a height restrictor barrier at Washbourne Playing Fields, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.1, up to a maximum of £1,473 excluding vat.

As supported by appendix 1.

### **Avenue Bowls Club**

A Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Grant from the urban cost centre budget for Avenue Bowls Club of 80% of the total project costs to install LED lighting and rewire the clubhouse, as detailed within paragraphs 1.1, 3.2 and 8.2, up to a maximum of £6,854 including vat, subject to receipt of the following:

- Written confirmation from Leamington Town Council to approve a capital grant of £200 (if the application is declined or a lower amount agreed, Avenue Bowls Club will cover the budget shortfall with funds from their cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement)
- Proof of ownership of the land

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 Both projects contribute to the Council's Fit for the Future Strategy;

### **Whitnash Town Council**

This project will provide a security measure which will help to prevent traveller encampments which, when they have previously occurred, have caused costly and labour intensive works to clear the mess and destruction that has been left

behind which disengages and weakens the community. The project will ensure that the playing fields remain available all year round and will therefore maintain opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in physical activity, particularly children using the play area, which helps to reduce anti-social behaviour and obesity. A well used playing field and play area also enables social interaction with children, their parents, grandparents, carers and friends which helps to engage and strengthen the community.

### **Avenue Bowls Club**

Without the club there would be fewer opportunities for the community to enjoy and participate in sport/physical and social 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 resolve current health & safety issues with the electrical wiring and ensure that the clubhouse remains open for use by home and away bowls teams, darts/crib players and social members. The project will also install LED lighting which will reduce running costs and help the club retain membership fees at the lowest level possible which is vital to those on low incomes and pensions.

## **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.

| <b>FFF Strands</b>  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>People</b>   | <b>Services</b>  | <b>Money</b>   |
| <b>External</b>   |  |  |
| <b>Health, Homes, Communities</b>   | <b>Green, Clean, Safe</b>  | <b>Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment</b>  |
| <u>Intended outcomes:</u><br>Improved health for all<br>Housing needs for all met<br>Impressive cultural and sports activities<br>Cohesive and active communities | <u>Intended outcomes:</u><br>Area has well looked after public spaces<br>All communities have access to decent open space<br>Improved air quality<br>Low levels of crime and ASB | <u>Intended outcomes:</u><br>Dynamic and diverse local economy<br>Vibrant town centres<br>Improved performance/productivity of local economy<br>Increased employment and income levels |
| <b>Impacts of Proposal</b>  |  |  |
| 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 in turn   | N/A  |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| local not-for-profit organisations in developing cohesive and active communities.<br><br>The details behind this are set out in appendices 1 and 2.   | help to support and maintain lower levels of crime and ASB.<br><br>The details behind this are set out in appendices 1 and 2.                     |   |
| <b>Internal</b>   |   |   |
| <b>Effective Staff</b>  | <b>Maintain or Improve Services</b>   | <b>Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term</b>  |
| <u>Intended outcomes:</u><br>All staff are properly trained<br>All staff have the appropriate tools<br>All staff are engaged, empowered and supported<br>The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours | <u>Intended outcomes:</u><br>Focusing on our customers' needs<br>Continuously improve our processes<br>Increase the digital provision of services | <u>Intended outcomes:</u><br>Better return/use of our assets<br>Full Cost accounting<br>Continued cost management<br>Maximise income earning opportunities<br>Seek best value for money |
| <b>Impacts of Proposal</b>  |   |   |
| 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 2018/19 is £150,000 (£75,000 for rural projects and £75,000 for urban projects).
- 5.2 Anticipated future applications within the 2018/19 financial year will exceed the remaining budget, considering this, at the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Executive, an additional £50,000 budget was agreed; this is from the 2017/18 surplus and has thus reduced the allocation to the Community Projects Reserve.
- 5.3 This now means there is £69,338 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the urban cost centre budget in 2018/19. If the applications from:
- Whitnash Town Council of 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £1,473 (excluding vat)

- Avenue Bowls Club of 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £6,854 (including vat)

Are approved, £61,011 will remain in the rural cost centre budget.

- 5.4 There is £6,904 available to be allocated for Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme Grants from the rural cost centre budget in 2018/19.
- 5.5 There is £828 available to be allocated from project underspends in 2018/19.

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 Whitnash Town Council:

Whitnash Town Council has submitted a RUCIS application to install a height restrictor barrier at Washbourne Playing Fields to prevent traveller encampments which, when they have previously occurred, have caused costly and labour intensive works to clear the mess and destruction that has been left behind .

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 £1,841 (excluding vat) and therefore qualifies to apply for a grant of up to 80%.

The application is for 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £1,473 excluding vat.

Whitnash Town Council has committed £368 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.

Whitnash Town Council will be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be excluding vat. The vat will initially be paid from the Council's cash reserves; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement.

Whitnash Town Council have previously successfully applied for RUCIS grant awards:

- July 2014 - additional award to grant agreed December 2013 which increased the overall award to 37% and equated to an additional £5,364 for third party payment charge for WREN grant application due to unsuccessful Sport England grant application
- December 2013 - 32% grant awarded which equated to £24,500 for installation of a "measured mile" at Acre Close Park
- December 2011 – 44% grant awarded which equated to £26,500 for the replacement and installation of new play equipment at Acre Close Park
- December 2008 – 50% grant awarded which equated to £4,704 for modernisation of play equipment; please note that there was a £359 under spend on this project
- July 2005 – 34% grant awarded which equated to £15,506 for external and internal improvements to the Community Hall and improved security; please note that there was a £2,991 under spend on this project
- December 2004 – 50% grant awarded which equated to £7,743 for replacement play equipment at Acre Close Park and Washbourne Playing Fields play areas
- December 2004 – 50% grant awarded which equated to £5,800 for Community Centre road works and levelling and paving of entrance

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 Whitnash Town Council of 80% of the total costs of the project excluding vat up to a maximum of £1,473.

## 8.2 Avenue Bowls Club:

Avenue Bowls Club has submitted a RUCIS application to install LED lighting and rewire the clubhouse to resolve current health & safety issues.

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 £8,568 (including vat) and therefore qualifies to apply for a grant of up to 80%.

The application is for 80% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £6,854 including vat.

Avenue Bowls Club has committed £1,514 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.

Avenue Bowls Club have made a formal request to Leamington Town Council for a £200 financial contribution to the project; they are now waiting for a decision. If the application is declined or a lower amount agreed, Avenue Bowls

Club will cover the budget shortfall with funds from their cash reserve; these funds have been evidenced through their annual accounts and the provision of a recent bank statement.

Avenue Bowls Club will not be reclaiming vat in connection to this project therefore the award will be including vat.

Avenue Bowls Club have never previously had a RUCIS grant award.

It is therefore recommended that the Executive approves an award of a Rural / Urban Capital Improvement grant to Avenue Bowls Club of 80% of the total costs of the project including vat up to a maximum of £6,854.