

**NOTICE OF ITEM(S) OF BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED BY
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 7 MAY 2025
Name of Individual Executive Councillors who will consider the items:	Councillors , S Conboy L Davenport-Ray and S Howell
Subject of item(s) to be	Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme Awards 2025 .
Summary of item(s) to be considered:	To consider the applications that have been submitted to the Huntingdonshire Futures Grants Scheme funding programme and whether the applications meet the criteria which has been set and to decide which applications to award. Supporting report attached.
Contact	Neil Sloper, Assistant Director (Strategic Insights and Delivery) Neil.Sloper@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

This Notice has been copied to the Chairman of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Dated this 30 day of April 2025

1. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary, other registerable and non-registerable interests in relation to any Agenda item.

2. HUNTINGDONSHIRE FUTURES GRANTS SCHEME 2025 (Pages 3 - 14)

To consider applications received via the Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme for 2025 and to indicate preference for the allocation of funds in accordance with agreed eligibility criteria.

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Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter:	Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 2025
Meeting/Date:	Grants Panel – 7 May 2025
Executive Portfolio:	Executive Councillor for Place - Councillor S Conboy Executive Councillor for Communities, Health and Leisure - Councillor S Howell Executive Councillor for Climate and Environment - Councillor L Davenport-Ray
Report by: Planning	Head of Policy, Performance and Emergency
Ward(s) affected:	All

Executive Summary:

Huntingdonshire Futures sets out a vision to make Huntingdonshire a better place to live, work, and visit over the next 30 years. The Huntingdonshire Futures grants support this vision by enabling communities to deliver events and activities.

The 2025 version of the grant scheme focuses on just the Pride in Place journey. Grants of £500 - £2,500 are available for activities, and events that showcase and celebrate Huntingdonshire's communities, heritage, and cultural identity.

Community groups and organisations requiring financial aid to deliver projects that support Pride in Place are invited to apply from 24 March 2025. Applications must be for projects based in Huntingdonshire and where a significant majority of beneficiaries are Huntingdonshire residents.

This activity supports our commitment from the Corporate Plan to “explore how place strategy priorities are transformed into practical delivery.”

The total budget for 2025/26 is £40,000.

Recommendation(s):

- a. To consider applications submitted to the Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 2025 funding programme to date and determine whether they meet award criteria.
- b. To decide which applications will be allocated funding.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline details of the applications received from groups or organisations representing Huntingdonshire communities for project funding from the Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 2025. Applications from community groups and organisations who would like to support the District Council in achieving priorities that have been set out within the Corporate Plan for 2023-28:

- Improving the quality of life and for local people
- Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY?

- 2.1 In setting the Council budget for 2025/26, £40,000 was set aside for the Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 2025.

- 2.2 From the commencement of the 2025/26 financial year, the panel has committed £22,086.00 to applicants, leaving £17,914.00 available for the remainder of 2025/26.

- 2.3 The maximum amount that can be applied for is £2,500.

Successful applicants will be required to complete an evaluation of their project later in the year which demonstrates the impact of the funding.

- 2.4 The Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 2025 will close on 30 June 2025 or once all funding has been allocated, whichever is the sooner.

3. ANALYSIS

- 3.1 Appendix 2 of the report provides a summary of applications that have been received since the last meeting. In establishing the Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 2025, funding criteria will be used, and it is against these criteria that the applications have been assessed.

4. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 4.1 The funding awarded for the 2025 scheme must be used against projects applied for and approved in 2025.

5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 At ongoing meetings of the Grants Panel, Members will determine which projects should be allocated funding. Officers will then advise all applicant organisations of the outcome.

5.2 Groups or organisations awarded funding must be able to confirm that their project can be delivered within the 2025 calendar year.

5.3 If the applicant no longer requires the grant or the Grants Panel decide that the criteria can no longer be met, the District Council will cancel the award.

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

6.1 The Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 2025 links directly to the Council's Corporate Plan 2023-28, specifically the following priorities and outcomes:

- Improving the quality of life and for local people
- Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 The Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 2025 is advertised by the Council through a wide range of media including the District Council website, press releases and social media. Further communications will be made to advertise the funding available in 2025/26.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The funding of £40,000 allocated to the Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 2025 is within the Council's approved budget.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

9.1 Applications recommended for consideration demonstrate that they satisfy the eligibility criteria set by the Council for the Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 2025.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 - [Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme - Funding Criteria - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

Appendix 2 - List of applications received, with officer comments.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 2025 Funding Criteria

CONTACT OFFICER

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Huntingdonshire District Council - Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 2025 - 7 May 2025 Grant Panel Applications

Project Serial Number and Applicant Name	Project Name and Description	Context	Amount Requested
HFG/04/2025 Huntingdonshire Nostalgia Trust CIC [deferred from 16/4/25 meeting]	Huntingdonshire nostalgia walks and talks, Huntingdon 3 walk and talk events in Huntingdon High Street, and a space at Huntingdon Carnival to showcase items. To encourage people to learn about Huntingdonshire's culture and heritage. To improve wellbeing and health via walking tours for groups and organisations. Using media outlets to share experiences with heritage. Regenerative learning and education experiences to improve isolation issues.	They aim to enhance wellbeing, social connections, and community pride for all ages, via educating the public on heritage and history, and reducing loneliness, especially for the elderly.	£1,000.00
HFG/19/2025 Stilton Heritage CIO	Establishment of Stilton Heritage Centre The Heritage Centre building is currently used as a small meeting room by the Parish Council. After leasing the building, they would like to provide a viable Centre for residents to access for free and use with the necessary display facilities and shelf storage to showcase donated historical items. Internet access will provide facilities for archiving and heritage research (including the training of residents by their own historians).	Stilton Heritage is for the public benefit to advance the education of the public in the history and heritage of the village of Stilton and the surrounding area by the establishment and maintenance of a "heritage centre" for the collection and display of items, especially those which are relevant to the history of the district. The centre will be a local hub providing space for residents to meet and learn about the heritage of Stilton and Huntingdonshire. The aim is to engender pride in the local area and encourage wellbeing and happiness.	£2,210.00

HFG/20/2025 Friends of St Margaret's Church	Hemingford Abbots Flower Festival: 28-29 June 2025 The Festival is a biannual event to raise money for the conservation and repair of St Margaret's Church, Hemingford Abbots. The event includes selling tickets to enter certain gardens in the village, with other events including church entrance, flower demonstration, displays of old farm equipment, stalls selling books and plants, arts and crafts, concert bands, morris dancing, and various refreshment counters. Tickets are only required to visit certain gardens. All other attractions are free. It is a quintessentially village event which relies on significant help from many residents, local organisations, young groups (ie the Scouts), and donations.	The Friends of St Margaret's Church is an independent charity committed to the maintenance, repair, restoration and improvement of St Margaret's Church, Hemingford Abbots. The Hemingford Abbots Flower Festival is held every 2nd year to raise funds for the Friends.	£1,560.00
HFG/21/2025 St Ives Carnival & Music Festival	St Ives Carnival & Music Festival: 12-13 July 2025 A 2-day, free entry event for the community and surrounding villages providing performances from local groups, live bands, fair rides, stall holders and food trucks suitable for all ages using local businesses.	They are a volunteer committee who organise the St Ives Carnival & Music Festival.	£2,500.00

HFG/22/2025 St Ives Youth Theatre	Footloose production, St Ives: July 2025, They are performing Footloose and need support with production costs. Funds will help build the set, purchase costumes, secure essential sound and tech equipment, and pay for the location. They do reuse materials from storage and rely on dedicated unpaid volunteers, but additional funding is crucial to bring the show to life.	Founded in 2001 in St. Ives, Cambs, SIYT supports up to 60 students aged 11-18 in the Huntingdon/St Ives area, offering opportunities to develop performance skills and experience all aspects of stagecraft. Young people build confidence and essential life skills through acting, stage management, technical support, marketing, costumes, and make-up. They aim to help students grow creatively and personally through diverse communication methods and hands-on theatre experience.	£2,500.00
HFG/23/2025 The Commemoration Hall	Eurovision Song Contest Screening, Huntingdon: 17 May 2025 Each year they host a live screening of the Eurovision Song Contest with free tickets, interactive props and photo booths. The event is open to everyone and often many of the worlds nationalities that reside in Huntingdonshire come to join together for an inclusive event. Offering a night of unity in Huntingdon since 2023 (our first event of this nature) has proven hugely popular with an average attendance of 150-200. We offer a photo booth with country flags and decorations, give aways and prizes for the best dressed and other awards.	The Commemoration Hall is a charity-run arts and entertainment venue right at the heart of Huntingdon. Providing volunteer opportunities for likeminded people in our community, they currently have over 40 active volunteers who support the running of the hall. Providing free or low-cost entertainment (art classes, pantomimes, poetry classes etc) alongside more commercial events (such as tribute nights and touring shows, their aim is to provide a welcoming space to enrich and support the local community, bringing people together through arts, events and entertainment.	£2,000.00

HFG/24/2025	Information Boards		£2,500.00
Great & Little Gidding Parish Council	To provide and install an information board, accessible for all abilities, in the centre of the village. The board will be regularly updated with information from Parish/District and County Councils, activities and events taking place at our Village Hall and other village areas, with details and links to organisations that may be of benefit to residents.	The Parish Council covers the village of Great Gidding and the hamlet of Little Gidding, situated on the edge of Huntingdonshire. They endeavour to deliver services, where they are able, to meet the resident's needs and requirements, represent the local community with other authorities and organisations and maintain and improve the parish for the future.	
HFG/25/2025	Feast Week, Abbotsley: 6-20 July 2025		£520.00
Abbotsley Village Hall	Each year, Abbotsley holds a 'Feast Week', originating in the 1950's, and developing since then. In 2000, a 'Scarecrow Festival' was introduced and it was apparent that this event really brought the community together. This festival has been retained in various forms since then. To mark the 25th anniversary of the first scarecrow festival, we plan to have a village photo of residents and also banners, spread around the village, of the original scarecrows.	The Trustees of Abbotsley Village Hall work to maintain the hall for the use and benefit of all residents. In particular, the associated Entertainments Team, work to provide activities and events that support the community of Abbotsley.	

HFG/26/2025 Young Technicians Academy	Live Events in the Community, Across Yaxley, Huntingdon, and surrounding rural areas: 1 July-15 December 2025 Young Technicians Academy will deliver a mobile, live events training project in Huntingdonshire for young people aged 11–18, many of whom face barriers to mainstream education. The project will offer hands-on workshops in sound, lighting, stage management, and technical production, culminating in a community-led event. Participants will gain practical skills, build confidence, and earn digital badges. The project promotes creativity, community pride, and future pathways into employment.	Young Technicians Academy (YTA) is an award-winning alternative education provider based in Cambridgeshire. They deliver hands-on, industry relevant training in live events, media, performing arts, and technical production for young people aged 11 to 18. The tailored programmes combine practical experience with personal development, helping students build confidence, skills, and qualifications. Through innovative learning, partnerships with professionals, and real-world projects, YTA empowers students to succeed in education and future employment.	£2,500.00
HFG/27/2025 Friends of Houghton Primary School	Family Fun Day, Houghton & Wyton: 21 June 2025 This event will take place on the school playing field. It will be open to families of pupils attending the school and local residents. They are inviting local groups and organisations to attend, including Scouts, the local pre-school, St Johns Ambulance and Cambs Fire and Rescue. All money raised will go directly to the primary school to enhance the learning & well-being of the pupils. They want to provide music and entertainment at the event which is accessible to young people of all ages. This includes a DJ who interacts with the young people and provides a range of sensory experiences including singing, dancing, bubbles and other child-friendly props, with a festival feel. They would also like to provide a bouncy castle which will be suitable for a range of ages.	They are a Parent Teacher Association run by a group of parents of Houghton Primary School. They work to raise funds to enhance the learning and experiences of the children at the school.	£465.00

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