



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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 22 NOVEMBER 2023
Name of Individual Executive Councillors who will consider the items:	Councillors B Mickelburgh and M Hassall
Subject of item(s) to be considered:	Community Chest Grant Aid Awards to Voluntary Organisations 2023/24.
Summary of item(s) to be considered:	<p>To consider the applications that have been submitted to the Community Chest 2023/24 funding programme and whether the applications meet the criteria which has been set and to decide which applications to award.</p> <p>Supporting report attached.</p>
Contact for further supporting information	<p>Claudia Deeth, Community Resilience Manager ☎ 01480 388233 <a href="mailto:Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>

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

Dated this 14 day of November 2023

### **1. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

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

**2. COMMUNITY CHEST GRANT AID AWARDS 2023/24 (Pages 3 - 12)**

To consider applications received via the Community Chest Awards Scheme for 2023/24 and to indicate preference for the allocation of funds in accordance with agreed eligibility criteria.

**Public**  
**Key Decision - Yes**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2023/24

**Meeting/Date:** Grants Panel – 22 November 2023

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Councillor for Corporate and Shared Services – Councillor M Hassall

Executive Councillor for Finances and Resources – Councillor B Mickelburgh

**Report by:** Community Resilience Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

The Community Chest Grant Scheme aims to help small groups and organisations deliver projects which benefit the local community. Over the last two years, the Community Chest has welcomed applications that focused on helping residents during and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, the Community Chest grant scheme welcomes applications from community groups and organisations who would like to support the District Council in achieving the following priorities that have been set out within the Corporate Plan for 2023-28:

- Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone;
- Keeping people out of crisis;
- Helping people in crisis;
- Lowering carbon emissions.

Community groups and organisations requiring financial aid to deliver projects that address one or more of the challenges are invited to apply from 1 April 2023. Applications must be for projects based in Huntingdonshire and where a significant majority of beneficiaries are Huntingdonshire residents.

Councillors Pitt and Hassall confirmed their wish for any funding left over from 2022/23 to be rolled over into the budget for 2023/24. Similarly, the budget from 2020/21 and 2021/22 has now been carried forward. This brings the total budget for 2023/24 to £44,389.

On 15th September 2022, the Council announced that it would be setting up a Warm Spaces Network. In 2022/23, funding was used to support communities through the cost of living crisis. The Council recognises that Warm Spaces offer both a social shelter, thus where an existing Warm Space can demonstrate to have had a significant positive impact, the Council welcomes applications of up to £500 per year to help keep these facilities and activities open.

**Recommendation(s):**

- a) To consider applications submitted to the Community Chest 2023/24 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 2023/24 Community Chest. Over the last two years, the Community Chest has welcomed applications that focused on helping residents during and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the Community Chest Grant Scheme welcomes applications from community groups and organisations who would like to support the District Council in achieving the following priorities that have been set out within the Corporate Plan for 2023-28:

- Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone
- Keeping people out of crisis
- Helping people in crisis
- Lowering carbon emissions

1.2 Additionally, the Council continues to recognise the importance of its warm hubs and encourages applications from existing warm spaces that can demonstrate a significant positive outcome.

## **2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY?**

2.1 In setting the Council budget for 2023/24, £30,000 was set aside for the Community Chest Award Scheme. Including approved carry forward from previous years, the total budget available for the panel to use in 2023/24 is £44,389.

2.2 From the commencement of the 2023/24 financial year, the panel has committed £9,968.73 to applicants, leaving £34,420.27 available for the remainder of 2023/24.

2.3 The maximum amount that can be applied for remains £1,000; warm space grants are capped at £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 Once all funding has been allocated, the Community Chest will close.

2.5 Although grant have been awarded a total of £19,380 worth of grants awarded remain awaiting payment.

## **3. ANALYSIS**

3.1 Appendix 3 of the report provides a summary of applications been received since the last meeting. In establishing the Community Chest for 2023/24, 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 2023/24 scheme must be used against projects delivered in the 2023/24 financial year.

#### **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 the project can be delivered in the financial year the award is made, before 31 March 2024.

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

- 6.1 The Community Chest Programme links directly to the Council's Corporate Plan 2023-28, specifically the following priorities:
- Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone
  - Keeping people out of crisis
  - Helping people in crisis
  - Lowering carbon emissions

#### **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Community Chest and Warm Spaces Network are 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 2023/24.

#### **8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The funding of £30,000 allocated to the Community Chest 2023/24 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 Community Chest Award Scheme 2023/24.

#### **10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

[Appendix 1 - Huntingdonshire District Council Community Chest 2023 - 24 – Funding Criteria](#)

[Appendix 2 – Warm Spaces](#)

Appendix 3 - List of applications received, with officer comments.

## 11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Chest 2023/24 Eligibility Criteria

### CONTACT OFFICER

Name/Job Title: Harriet Robinson, Community Development Project Support  
Officer

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Project Name	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested	Applicant
Broadway Boogie	To provide a warm space that also encourages exercise in a fun and social group. Our class last year was well attended so we would like to repeat it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone</li> </ul>	A low impact fitness class that gets inactive and older people dancing and signing along to musicals. 3 months of similar classes last year were run, and they found that lots of people who didn't exercise came along to try it. Community Group fitness is a great entry level class for those who are not comfortable in a gym environment. These classes are low impact and can be done seated. We are also encouraged people to come along to sing a long!	£484	Lynne Otto
Maddie's Miracle – Ramsey breastfeeding and perinatal support	Our weekly group is held at Ramsey Pavilion and provides free expert, evidence based, breastfeeding support and guidance for mothers who would like to breastfeed but are experiencing a myriad of difficulties. These difficulties can be extremely distressing for mothers and babies at what is already a very difficult time. This level of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone</li> <li>Keeping people out of crisis</li> <li>Helping people in crisis</li> <li>Lowering carbon emissions</li> </ul>	Maddie's Miracle exists to support women who want to breastfeed but are struggling to do so. There are so many potential difficulties including undiagnosed tongue-tie, poor latch, low milk supply, painful nipples etc, that can be a barrier to women breastfeeding and cause a huge amount of pain and trauma. We are here to provide the expert care and support that is not provided by any other local services. In particular, we target areas of deprivation, rural areas and areas where breastfeeding support services do not exist.	£1,000	Zohar Marer

	<p>support is not provided by the NHS and many local midwives refer families to the group. Mothers attend the group free of charge and can talk through their breastfeeding issues and receive expert support, as well as talk more generally about the challenges they're experiencing. We also welcome siblings and provide refreshments and a warm space.</p>				
<p>Neotists and Huntingdon First – tourism website for Huntingdonshire</p>	<p>The creation, development, and launch of an interactive tourism website for visitors to Huntingdonshire. This digital initiative aims to elevate the tourism experience in our community and promote the unique cultural, historical, and natural attractions of both the urban and rural parts of our district.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone</li> </ul>	<p>Neotists CIC is an arts organisation with over 350 members from across the district. Our membership is a collection of creatives who work in design, website development, photography, copywriting, marketing, filmmaking and much more. Founded in 2015 we work with other non-profit organisations, local government, schools, businesses, creative professionals, and the public to provide opportunities for local creatives to meet, share ideas, collaborate on projects and run</p>	<p>£1,000</p>	<p>Clair Slade</p>

			workshops and events for the community. Huntingdon First is a Business Improvement District (BID) organisation that works with businesses, residents, and authorities to enhance the trading environment and make a real difference, attracting more shoppers and visitors and, in the long term, businesses wanting to invest in the Huntingdon town centre. Founded in 2012 they run events across the town, as well as manage various venues and visitor centre in Huntingdon.		
Fitness Rush Community CIC – over 55s community fitness initiative	To deliver tailored exercise from our mobile fitness facility at the Coneygear Centre in Huntingdon, through a course of 8 group sessions between February 2023 and April 2024. Participants will be over 55 years of age and live in or around the Oxmoor area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone</li> </ul>	Fitness Rush Community CIC provides tailored wellness interventions to those who are typically excluded from exercise due to age related conditions, economic deprivation, or physical challenges, including mental health and isolation difficulties. Our initiatives are provided without charge to participants to ensure everyone gets a chance to use exercise as a tool to improve their mental and physical health, alongside increasing and nurturing social connections.	£960	Liam Rushmer
Social Echo North Hunts Warm Space - Yaxley	Social Echo is a non-profit organisation based in the United Kingdom on a mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone</li> </ul>	Building on the success of previous community programs, we're emphasizing skill sharing in our new project. It addresses the	Brother sewing machine X3 - £720	Ollie Ayres

	<p>to dismantle poverty and lack of opportunity by harnessing the potential of social trading to build stronger communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lowering carbon emissions</li> </ul>	<p>loss of clothing repair and upcycling skills in younger generations, combatting our throwaway culture. Participants can also bring their equipment, benefitting from expert volunteers to boost confidence and utility.</p>	<p>Maintenance Kit (Oil/Spare needles) £40          Threads/bobbins etc. £40          Volunteer expenses £50          Tea/coffee/snacks - £50          (total £900)</p> <p>Venue hire/heating costs (2 hours twice monthly at £16 p/h) £768</p> <p>Requesting £968 from the community chest fund</p>	
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