



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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 20 DECEMBER 2023
Name of Individual Executive Councillors who will consider the items:	Councillors B Pitt 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 Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</p>

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

Dated this 12 day of December 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.

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Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Meeting/Date: Grants Panel – 20 December 2023

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

Executive Councillor for Community and Health
– Councillor B Pitt

Report by: Community Resilience Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

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 £12,252.73 to applicants, leaving £32,136.27 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 £18,880 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

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Project Name	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested	Applicant (Group/organisation)
NHS Retirement Fellowship Huntingdon Branch	To hold monthly meetings for Huntingdon's NHS retirees with speakers, a lunch club, outings, activities and an annual holiday.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone Keeping people out of crisis Helping people in crisis 	To maintain contact with retired NHS staff from all professions and arrange friendship and support. To reduce the separation and loneliness of those living on their own. Our project is to ensure affordability for everyone to enjoy what we have to offer and to offer places to new retirees.	£1,000 – subsidised coach travel, theatre tickets and entrance fees	NHS Retirement Fellowship Huntingdon Branch
Coneygear Centre Warm Space	Council run community centre. Primarily a hire facility but also a hub for the community to access if they need help/support with various matters. This is achieved by working in partnership with various organisations, which then shape some of the offerings from the centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone Keeping people out of crisis Helping people in crisis 	Coneygear Centre offers a warm space setting every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9am to midday. Residents are welcome to utilise the warm space by keeping warm, purchasing items from the café, taking part in craft activities which are free and accessing the IT suite library	£1,000 - £850 towards training and DBS costs, £150 for arts and crafts materials	Huntingdon Town Council
Hilton Warm Hub	To provide warmth and security, friendship and break down isolation for those living alone. To provide free warm drinks, snacks and soup.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone Keeping people out of crisis Helping people in crisis Lowering carbon emissions 	To give residents free of charge, warmth, hot drinks, snacks and soup. To break down isolation for those living alone. To provide a social time with quizzes, chess, Scrabble, Dominoes etc. To provide a swap shop so that unwanted items can be found a new home	£500 - £300 for the hire of the hall and £200 for the cost of food and drinks	Hilton Warm Hub

Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust	Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust offers community led activities and services to people from Ramsey and surrounding villages. These include clubs and holiday activities for children, a programme for adults to combat unemployment, lack of skills, low income, rural isolation and social activities for adults with additional needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis 	A weekly group in Ramsey library on Fridays from December-March for local people to drop in for up to 2 hours to connect with friends. Our staff will be on hand to provide information on other groups and light refreshments such as hot drinks, soup and a roll	£1,000 - £437 staffing, £288 venue and £275 refreshments	Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust
Food for Nought	Food for Nought is a dedicated non-profit organisation committed to alleviating food insecurity in our most vulnerable communities throughout Huntingdonshire and Peterborough, whilst simultaneously working to reduce food waste. Since our establishment in 2017, we have diligently collected surplus and unwanted food from local shops, farms, and supermarkets, distributing it to individuals and families in need through a network of independent local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis • Lowering carbon emissions 	Over the last year we have witnessed a significant surge in demand due to ever-increasing housing and utility costs, leaving many struggling to put food on the table. Based on data collected by Huntingdonshire District Council in this area alone 150% more food was distributed last year than the year before. Consequently, our organisation has seen a considerable increase in the number of individuals relying on our services to make ends meet. This has placed immense pressure on our resources as we strive to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. To meet this increased demand, we have had to significantly scale up our operations, which has strained our	£1,000 which will contribute towards: Fuel for 3 vans @ £150 per week 5x per year Fleet vehicle insurance per year - £4,000 at time of printing (2022) Fleet breakdown cover per year £670.50 at the time of printing	Food for Nought

	community fridges and social supermarkets. Our day-to-day efforts ensure the continuity of community fridges and social supermarkets across Huntingdonshire, serving as the linchpin of a comprehensive network combating food poverty.		financial resources to the point where we are struggling to pay for the organisations core running costs. We currently serve 3 outlets in Huntingdonshire and with the ever-increasing price of fuel, insurance, breakdown cover, MOTs and maintenance we ask for some support to continue our offer.	MOTs and maintenance for 3 vans approx. £1,000	
Games for People living with Dementia – St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group	The St Ives DFCG is a voluntary community organisation dedicated to raise awareness of dementia and support people in our community who are affected by dementia. We coordinate and run a wide range of activities in the town, including reminiscing and seated exercise sessions, dementia cafe, singing cafe, friendship lunches, and a dementia friendly community choir. The Games session is our latest project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis 	Monthly games session for people living with dementia and their carers to stimulate the mind, exercise the body and increase general wellbeing in a friendly group setting.	<p>£1,000 to contribute towards:</p> <p>£73 – bean bags and hoops</p> <p>£228 – parachute games and activities treasure chest</p> <p>£514 – additional gaming accessories</p> <p>£200 – misc. expenses including producing flyers and buying containers</p>	St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group

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