



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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 21 FEBRUARY 2024
Name of Individual Executive Councillors who will consider the items:	Councillors L Davenport-Ray and B Pitt
Subject of item(s) to be considered:	Community Chest Grant Aid Awards to Voluntary Organisations 2023/24.
Summary of item(s) to be considered:	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. Supporting report attached.
Contact for further supporting information	Claudia Deeth, Community Resilience Manager ☎ 01480 388233 Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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

Dated this 13 day of February 2024

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 – 21 February 2024

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Community and Health
– Councillor B Pitt

Executive Councillor for Climate and Environment
– Councillor L Davenport-Ray

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 £16,252.73 to applicants, leaving £28,136.27 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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Huntingdonshire District Council - Community Chest Awards - 21 February 2024 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/38/23-24 Monday Morning Coffee Club (Warm Space) Yaxley Parish Council	The Monday Morning Coffee club has been running for nearly two years now and has been a great success in bringing residents together, giving them a reason to meet up every Monday. Providing a warm place to meet up, chat and have a hot drink and refreshments. It fills a void for a lot of elderly people in the village who look forward to the Monday morning meet up. Families are welcome too and those who have attended have made use of the games and crafts on offer. The club has been used as drop-in sessions for other groups such as the local social prescriber to give assistance to those that might need it and we are in talks with the police to run their "Coffee with a Copper" sessions as well.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone Keeping people out of crisis Helping people in crisis 	Social coffee morning for all every Monday morning at Queens Park Hall runs from 10am to 1pm and is a warm friendly space where residents can socialise, have a warm drink and refreshments. Every week cakes, biscuits, toast, crumpets, tea cakes are on offer and once a month a light lunch is also offered of baked potatoes with a warm filling, soup, toasties etc. Yaxley Parish Council provide the room and kitchen, the club is run by a group of volunteers.	£500 – warm spaces initiative
CCG/39/23-24 Serious About St Neots Community APP Serious About St Neots	The app will be used as a reference point from local community groups to events going on in the town to important updates for maintenance including the Market Square revival.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone 	A user-friendly app for St Neots residents and visitors, consolidating all local information, businesses, organisations, and a regularly updated What's On guide (including updates on HDC's High Street Improvement works). The goal is to provide easy accessibility within one or two taps, ensuring the app serves as a comprehensive resource, including wellbeing support.	£1,000 Eazi Apps - £960 (£80 p/m) Apple Platform - £99 Google Play - £29 (Total of £1,088)

<p>CCG/40/23-24</p> <p>St Ives Carnival and Music Festival</p> <p>St Ives Carnival and Music Festival</p>	<p>The focus is to bring joy to the local community, led by a key group of volunteers. They have grown up attending the event and wish to ensure it continues for many years to come. It is loved by thousands and has a long history of bringing people together.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone 	<p>The festival is an annual event, held over 3 days in July. The event itself is free but has stalls to entice members of the community to engage. It is for everyone from children to pensioners as they try to involve all their local groups and businesses in the town during this weekend.</p>	<p>£1,000 – this will go specifically towards running the parade, which they have not been able to do previously owing to financial restrictions</p>
<p>CCG/41/23-24</p> <p>Huntingdon Riverside Gala</p> <p>Huntingdon Riverside Gala</p>	<p>The Gala's aim is to bring the residents of Huntingdon together for a fun, packed day. Local charities and business purchase stalls to sell their products, local clubs and dance schools are involved and is an incredibly enjoyable day for all ages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone 	<p>The gala is Huntingdon's biggest one day event with the aim of bringing the whole community together. It is a free entry event with many free attractions as the Gala is a non-profit organisation</p>	<p>£1,000</p>
<p>CCG/42/23-24</p> <p>St Nicolas Church Restoration Project</p> <p>St Nicolas Church Restoration Group</p>	<p>The Restoration Group was formed to manager the Church Hall's restoration to raise funds to develop and modernish the Church so that it can be used as a community meeting space which is fit for purpose for everyone in the local area to use on a regular basis, accessible to all and is available throughout the week. The Church is a vital resource for the village, used as a community hub and for a wide range of events and activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone Lowering carbon emissions for everyone 	<p>The heating and lighting upgrade is urgently required for St Nicolas Church so it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fit for purpose Uses clean energy Is adaptable to meet the needs of everyone in the local community as a much-needed community space It replaces elderly, inefficient, fossil fuel boiler whose spare parts are obsolete 	<p>£1,000</p>

<p>CCG/43/23-24</p> <p>Helping the Young People in St Neots</p> <p>Cambridge & District Youth for Christ</p>	<p>Cambridge and District Youth for Christ's primary objectives can be summarised basically as education, training and religious activities. Our charity helps children, young people, other charities and voluntary bodies and the general public. It helps by providing human resources, services, advocacy/advice/information and acting as an umbrella or resource body for other projects like this one, 'Helping the Young People in Our Town'. Serving Jesus by serving young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone • Keeping people out of crisis 	<p>The Youth for Christ Open Access Youth Cafes offer young people targeted, intensive mentoring and wellbeing work in schools with those pupils identified as especially in need, including those who because of their emotional/social/mental needs are struggling to thrive in mainstream school and those vulnerable to NEET (not in education, employment or training)</p>	<p>£1,000</p>
<p>CCG/44/23-24</p> <p>Messy Church (Warm Space)</p> <p>Huntingdon Parish</p>	<p>A church congregation of families largely drawn from the Oxmoor. Crafts and challenges are followed by a short celebration, and then we share a hot meal together.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone 	<p>We are a faith organisation - comprising All Saints Church, Market Square, Huntingdon; St Mary's Church, Huntingdon, and St Barnabas Church, Huntingdon, and Messy Church Oxmoor.</p>	<p>£500 – warm spaces initiative</p>
<p>CCG/45/23-24</p> <p>Fenstanton Community Hub</p> <p>Fenstanton Parish Council</p>	<p>We open 3 sessions a week on Monday morning we hold a free chair and exercise session with up to 30 mostly senior citizens, this is followed by tea and toast. Tuesday morning we hold a baby toddler group average attendance 10 children, we offer free tea, toast and snacks. Tuesday pm we have coffee and cake average 20 people. We also have pop up events such as pancake day which attract around 50 people of all ages. The facility is free, voluntary donations are accepted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone 	<p>Parish administration</p>	<p>£1,000 – last had money in June 2023 but asking for something different hence putting this forward again</p>

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