



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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 19 JUNE 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 2024/25.
Summary of item(s) to be considered:	<p>To consider the applications that have been submitted to the Community Chest 2024/25 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 Services 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 June 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 2024/25 (Pages 3 - 12)

To consider applications received via the Community Chest Awards Scheme for 2024/25 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 2024/25

Meeting/Date: Grants Panel – 19 June 2024

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Communities, Health and Leisure
– Councillor B Pitt

Executive Councillor for Climate, Transformation and Workforce
– 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.

From 2021/22, the Community Chest welcomed applications that focused on helping residents during and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2023/24, the Community Chest Grant Scheme has been extended and now 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 2024. Applications must be for projects based in Huntingdonshire and where a significant majority of beneficiaries are Huntingdonshire residents.

Councillors Pitt and Davenport-Ray confirmed their wish for any funding left over from 2023/2024 to be rolled over into the budget for 2024/25. Similarly, the unspent budgets from 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23 were carried forward. This brings the total budget for 2024/25 to £59,370.27.

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 Community Spaces, (formerly referred to as Warm Spaces) offer a social shelter, thus where an existing Community 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 2024/25 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 2024/25 Community Chest. From 2021/22, the Community Chest welcomed applications that focused on helping residents during and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2023/24, the Community Chest Grant Scheme has been extended and now 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 community hubs and encourages applications from existing and new community spaces that can demonstrate a significant positive outcome.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY?

2.1 In setting the Council budget for 2024/25, £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 2024/25 is £59,370.27.

2.2 From the commencement of the 2024/25 financial year, the panel has committed £9,500.00 to applicants, leaving £49,870.27 available for the remainder of 2024/25.

2.3 The maximum amounts that can be applied for have been increased and now stand at:

- a. £500 for Community Spaces,
- b. £1,000 for community events, and
- c. £2,500 for longer-term projects

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 grants have been awarded a total of £23,450.92 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 2024/25, 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 2024/25 scheme must be used against projects applied for and approved in the 2024/25 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 their project can be delivered within 12 months of the award being made.
- 5.3 If the award remains unpaid 12 months after having been approved, the District Council will contact the applicant to establish if the grant is still required. If the grant is still required, the original application, along with an updated statement from the applicant will be forwarded to the Grants Panel for further consideration.
- 5.4 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 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 Community Spaces 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 2024/25.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The funding of £30,000 allocated to the Community Chest 2024/25 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 2024/25.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

[Appendix 1 - Huntingdonshire District Council Community Chest 2024/25 – Funding Criteria](#)

[Appendix 2 – Community Spaces](#)

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

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Chest 2024/25 Eligibility Criteria

CONTACT OFFICER

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Huntingdonshire District Council - Community Chest Awards - 19 June 2024 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/10/24-25 St Neots Creative Social Club Neotists CIC	<p>Using art as a vector to assist in improving mental health and wellbeing. There are many studies about the relationship between creativity and art making not only helps us make sense of living but also makes living healthier and more comforting. St Neots is in danger of becoming a dormitory town with many new residents having few opportunities to become involved in local activities and make new friends. We have already seen that this sort of activity has a very positive impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for local people • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis • Lowering carbon emissions 	<p>The project aims to promote community engagement through creative drawing and artistic expressions taking place in the town. This aims to foster an atmosphere of inclusivity and collaboration, a chance for people to make new friends and combat isolation. It will provide a fun, safe space to create art that can be shared, bringing a sense of fun and joy to others</p>	<p>£2,500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing materials: £350 • Event registration costs: £50 • Photography and documentation: £350 • Public relations and press coverage: £500 • Supplies and materials: £400
CCG/11/24-25 Hedgehog Hospital Renovation Hartford Hedgehog Rescue	<p>Hartford Hedgehog Rescue began 7 years ago, taking in injured and orphaned hedgehogs. Approximately 150 hedgehogs per year are rehabilitated through the charity and this is run voluntarily.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for local people 	<p>The hedgehog hospital needs some vital repairs including the inside to be cladded with 'wipe clean' hygiene board to make the internal space more hygienic and sterile. The hospital's ceiling also needs to be plastered and painted.</p>	<p>£1,000 to go towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £14 sheets of UPVC cladding, 6 sheets of plasterboard and 12 lengths of UPVC angle trim. The total project cost is £3,700

<p>CCG/12/24-25</p> <p>Shuttle Speed</p> <p>Another Helping Hand</p>	<p>Shuttlespeed is a badminton group, bringing people together to socialise whilst practicing a physically demanding sport that promotes cardiovascular fitness, agility and strength.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for local people • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis 	<p>The primary goal of Shuttlespeed is to establish a long-term social badminton club in St Ives and Huntingdon, retaining and attracting further members, creating a sustainable platform for ongoing play and enjoyment</p>	<p>£1,382 broken down as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £90 – Badminton England membership • £192 – full year website subscription 1 year • 12 shuttlecocks per session – 22x52 (£1,100)
<p>CCG/13/24-25</p> <p>Huntingdon Carnival Weekend</p> <p>Huntingdon Carnival CIC</p>	<p>The carnival is a 2-day free event, which helps to bring all nationalities together helping community inclusion. People will be able to come along to the carnival and not have to spend money due to lots of attractions. The event will take place over the 10th and 11th August.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for local people 	<p>The carnival was reintroduced 6 years ago after a 13-year gap. The carnival has grown in size so further funds are being sought after to try and fund items that are needed for the carnival.</p>	<p>£1,000 to put towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £880 for toilets • £2,750 for security • £4,600 for the stage • £750 for insurance • £250 for rubbish collections • £450 disabled park bays in car park • £400 – traffic management for carnival parade

<p>CCG/14/24-25</p> <p>New Chairs for Gym Room</p> <p>Huntingdon Neurotherapy Centre</p>	<p>30 people use the MS therapy centre each week for classes including Tai Chi and Pilates. There are also meetings to help anyone with neurological issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for local people 	<p>This application is to request funding for new chairs for the HNC gym room. These will benefit clients to use for their physio exercises. The chairs they have currently are uncomfortable and in poor condition so need replacing.</p>	<p>£1,422 for 25 Trexus ISO Stacking Chairs (link to product provided, retailing at £56.88 each)</p>
<p>CCG/15/24-25</p> <p>Replacement White Goods</p> <p>St Ives Day Centre</p>	<p>The Day Centre supports 25 elderly people each day, allowing their families and carers a couple of hours of respite each day. This is the only day service for local elderly people in the area which is open 5 days per week for full days offering a hot, cooked lunch, transport and entertainment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for local people Keeping people out of crisis Lowering carbon emissions 	<p>A 2-course hot lunch is provided every day for 25 people. The freezer used to store food is more than 10 years old – it is no longer functioning well and needs replacing.</p>	<p>£469 broken down as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £399 – cost of freezer £45 – cost of delivery £25 – removal/disposal of old appliance

<p>CCG/16/24-25</p> <p>King's Ripton Community Lunches</p>	<p>The village hall is a warm, welcoming environment allowing people who otherwise would not have an opportunity to meet and socialise whilst enjoying a nutritious hot meal. There is a special focus on those who need extra support and for those who are recently bereaved and live alone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for local people • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis • Lowering carbon emissions 	<p>In response to the 'warm hub' initiative back in 2022, these biweekly lunch meetings were formed in the local village hall to provide lunch for local people. Guests from Broughton, Abbots Ripton and Kings Ripton all come along.</p>	<p>£250 – community space application</p>
<p>CCG/17/24-25</p> <p>Hilton Community Hub</p>	<p>This is a community hub that has been running since Spring 2023 and subsequently again in Spring 2024. It has proved so popular and beneficial to the residents of Hilton and its surrounding villages that it has been extended to run for 12-week periods throughout the year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for local people • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis • Lowering carbon emissions 	<p>These meeting groups are for everyone to come along, socialise, have a cup of coffee, play games and take part in a weekly quiz. Hot drinks and refreshments are provided and games are played. The community is also fundraising by making a crochet throw to raffle off at Christmas as well as other community activities.</p>	<p>£500 – community space application</p>