

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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 18 SEPTEMBER 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 11 day of September 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 – 18 September 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 £13,250.00 to applicants, leaving £46,120.27 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 £16,200.92 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 - 18 September 2024 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/21/24-25 Yaxley and Farcet Men's Shed and Hobby Hub Workshop Upgrade	<p>1) Our hobby hub and men's shed projects foster sense of belonging and allow community cohesion and creativity.</p> <p>2) With a strong mental health focus, as well as our hub being a cost-of-living support network base, we offer advice on things such as food aid and where to turn. This often comes up whilst building relationships with members and understanding needs. 3) As well as a pre-emptive measures, we increasingly support members during crisis. Whatever that may be. 4) Utilising refurbished equipment, machines, mostly handled wood and material destined for landfill from a range of commercial sector orgs who we have established strong relationships with. The workshop also hosts environmental groups such as Yaxley Countryside Volunteers (bird and bat box creation) as well as supporting Farcet Parish Council with communal upgrades.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing Keeping people out of crisis Helping people in crisis Lowering carbon emissions 	<p>The group would like to upgrade and or replace equipment and machinery that is currently used within the workshop. The total cost of the project is £4,900 and the funding will be used to purchase the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical portable appliance testing Electrical socket installation Table saw upgrade Refurbished band saw Blades and push sticks Base for band saw Dust extraction tools 	£1,800
CCG/22/24-25 Great Paxton Parochial Church Council The Great Paxton Community Christmas Tree Festival	<p>The event aims to provide a warm and welcoming setting for local residents and visitors from the surrounding area at a time when the weather can be cold and rather depressing for some families as well money and other worries can lower spirits, so a free, vibrant and cheerful event will no doubt help many to feel better about life and their circumstances. It will also engage many local groups and organisations to be creative and make their tree something special which reflects what matters to them. The event is open to everyone and will be free of charge. Bringing people together in the community we always find is exciting and often new friendships are made.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>The festival aims to bring villagers together to celebrate Christmas with a large gathering of decorated trees, music and refreshments over four days. Village groups will use their creative gifts to decorate their tree in any way they like to reflect their cause/theme. Lighting will play a big part in making the 1,000-year-old building a magical treat for the senses.</p>	£219.00

<p>CCG/23/24-25</p> <p>Alconbury Over 60's Club</p> <p>70th Anniversay Celebration</p>	<p>Our members are all over 60 and many much older. We meet most months in the Memorial Hall and organise some coach trips as well. We would like to make our 70th Anniversary celebration that little bit special and give our members a boost.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>In November we plan to celebrate our 70th anniversary with an evening of good food, drink and entertainment. We will hold our celebration in the Alconbury Memorial Hall. Our caterer is Pinnie's of Godmanchester. We plan to purchase drink separately. Our entertainer is The King and I. We currently have 55 members and hope that 40 will be able to attend.</p>	<p>£1,000</p>
<p>CCG/24/24-25</p> <p>Upwood and the Raveleys Allotment Association (URCAA)</p> <p>Rainwater harvesting and Carbon saving</p>	<p>The provision of our own water allotment wide gives our allotment holders the chance to grow their own produce. Studies prove an allotment is very beneficial for people's mental health as well as the obvious physical benefits of outdoor exercise. With only one tap on site, it can be a bit of a trek and hard labour, exercise is one thing but hauling water can be difficult. This idea puts water at all points of the site and reduces carbon through the reduced use of pumps and vehicles needed at times to get water to the top of the site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving quality of life and wellbeing • Lowering carbon emissions 	<p>At present our association has 45 plot holders and one tap. We use around 50,000 litres of water through the tap which is located at the bottom end of a steep hill. Through previous applications we have enabled 4,000 litres of water to be collected from built structures. We reckon through the simple construction of a water rain harvesting "Bank" x 2 one at the top end of the site and one at the bottom we could collect upwards of 2,000 litres. Constructing a collection point using roof sheets and 4 number IBC;s and a storage facility of 15 x 200 litre drums we can save water throughout the rainy season giving us a total 7000 litres per Unit - 14,000 litres in total. if required more 200 litres drums are available for us to save water through the year.</p>	<p>£2,500</p>

<p>CCG/25/24-25</p> <p>Bid Huntingdon</p> <p>Halloween Town Trail</p>	<p>By offering a free event in town, this gives parents security in knowing that their children will be welcomed (rather than knocking on unknown doors) and that their children will gain lots of goodies, all in a monitored and safe environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>ON Halloween night BID wish to put on a trail through town to give children a safe space to go trick or treating. Participating stores will be identified and children will be welcomed. There will also be other games being held (FREE) on the streets and a fancy dress competition.</p>	<p>£1,000</p>
<p>CCG/26/24-25</p> <p>Cornerstone Care in Confidence</p> <p>Wrap around support for mothers and babies - Ante Natal, Baby Bonding and Parenting classes</p>	<p>We always seek to improve the quality of life and wellbeing for our clients, partners and their families by helping them when they come to us frightened and in crisis emotionally because of their unplanned pregnancies. Being in shock and feeling unprepared can have detrimental mental health effects for them and their existing family/new baby. By offering ongoing support in the form of our Antenatal classes, baby bonding and parenting classes we can prepare them for what is to come, help to meet their emotional needs and concerns and guard against social isolation. Keeping people out of crisis Our support before, during and after pregnancy enables us to keep families out of a crisis as we are engaged with our clients regularly and can continue to help them as a crisis occurs. e.g. should they be experiencing post-natal depression, have debt (we make referrals to other, local agencies) or find that they are worried about their baby they know they can come to us to get find help or referrals, we have access to a home for mothers and babies with housing needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing Keeping people out of crisis Helping people in crisis 	<p>For women who choose to continue their pregnancies we offer them the use of our baby boutique, where women can "shop for free" from maternity clothes to 12-month-old baby clothes, baby equipment, and supplies, including formula and nappies. We hold ante natal, baby bonding and early parenting classes.</p>	<p>£2,500 (Only eligible for £450.00 because the remaining amount is to cover core running costs)</p>

<p>CCG/27/24-25</p> <p>St Neots Lawn Tennis Club</p> <p>Clubhouse Improvement and Refurbishment</p>	<p>The Clubhouse is an essential part of the provisioning of Tennis to the local community. The clubhouse, provisions, toilets, showers, changing rooms and simple catering facilities for food and drink. It is an essential refuge when the heavens open! It provides essential shelter for visitors, e.g. parents and guardians for the children being coached, together with a comfortable environment for parents to care for very small children (e.g. feed and change nappies etc). The Club is effectively the only facility in the Town where the public can play Tennis. The club has a user range from tots of 2 to 3 years old to Senior Citizens in their 80's The Club runs a comprehensive coaching programme for adults and for children. The club provides funding for its coach to visit and run regular tennis lessons in any local school that wants our club to provision this service. It is sad fact that if our community Tennis Club did not exist a large proportion of the Town's children would not have the opportunity to experience Tennis. Our children's tennis coaching classes at the Club are very popular and very well attended. Our Tennis Club is the venue of the local school's tennis championship finals each year and the Tennis Club happily hosts this finals day entirely at its own cost. It also should not be forgotten the important contribution the Tennis Club made to the physical and mental wellbeing of the local community during the pandemic. Happily, the pandemic is now over but the Tennis Club continues this important work each day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for residents • Lowering carbon emissions 	<p>The Tennis Club House was built in the 1960s and needs major refurbishment. Last year the Club replaced the roof which was about to fail. The windows, doors and external cladding are in a poor state and require replacement. Currently the Clubhouse can only be accessed via steep steps. This project will include the provision of a disabled access ramp and viewing platform. This will enable the clubhouse to be accessible to wheelchair users, push chair users and anyone with mobility issues.</p>	<p>£2,500</p>
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