

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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 30 OCTOBER 2024
Name of Individual Executive Councillors who will consider the items:	Councillors B Pitt and S Taylor
Subject of item(s) to be considered:	Community Chest Grant Aid Awards to Voluntary Organisations 2024/25.
Summary of item(s) to be considered:	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. Supporting report attached.
Contact for further supporting information	Claudia Deeth, Community Services 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 23 day of October 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 – 30 October 2024

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

Executive Councillor for Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene
– Councillor S Taylor

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 £20,719.00 to applicants, leaving £38,651.27 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 £23,669.92 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 - 30 October 2024 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
<p>CCG/28/24-25</p> <p>Cambridge Acorn Project</p> <p>Huntingdon Trauma Hub</p>	<p>Our project aligns with the first three priorities (though it will only let me tick one box). In regard to all three, our project aims to improve the wellbeing of children and families following trauma, often severe trauma, by offering therapeutic, enrichment and casework support in order to reduce the well-known economic, social and health impacts of trauma and help people move on with their lives. However, this is also often about crisis support, both in terms of preventing things from escalating when challenges arise (frequently as the result of Domestic Abuse) but also following a crisis. Much of this work is done at our weekly drop-in which is held at the Coneygear Centre in partnership with HCAP and a wide variety of other local charities and organisations. Cambridge Acorn Project's overarching mission is to promote the wellbeing of children, young people and families who are in distress, to help them move on from trauma and enable them to go on to lead happy and fulfilling lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis 	<p>We deliver a holistic, panoramic, trauma hub in Huntingdonshire which includes the following elements: weekly drop-in; therapeutic support for children and their families; enrichment work; work in schools.</p>	<p>£2,500.00</p>

<p>CCG/29/24-25</p> <p>Fusion Family and Youth Projects</p> <p>Fusion Gateway Club</p>	<p>Our additional needs project significantly improves the quality of life for everyone involved—young people, their families, and the wider community. For the young people attending, the programme provides a safe, inclusive environment where they can be themselves, participate in fun and meaningful activities, and develop important life skills. Through social interaction, creative expression, and structured play, they build confidence, form friendships, and gain a sense of belonging. These experiences help improve their emotional well-being and social development, contributing to a better quality of life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis 	<p>Our weekly youth club offers a fun, supportive environment for young people with additional needs. Through a variety of activities, including games, crafts, and social events, participants can build friendships, boost confidence, and develop new skills. It's a safe space where everyone is included and celebrated for who they are.</p>	<p>£2,435.00</p>
<p>CCG/30/24-25</p> <p>All Inclusive Football Coaching CIC</p> <p>All Inclusive Football Coaching CIC Walking Football for Over 50s</p>	<p>We provide a community group, a walking football session for anyone to attend. this not only brings retired and the older generation along to meet other people, but it also helps them stay active, increasing their activity which is good for their mental as well as their physical wellbeing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>We want to continue to run and grow our funded walking football sessions for people over 50 to encourage activity and the physical and mental wellbeing it brings.</p>	<p>£2,470.00</p>

<p>CCG/31/24-25</p> <p>Huntingdon Community Group</p> <p>Oxmoor Community Fridge</p>	<p>By having the equipment and guidance to cook healthy meals from scratch this will provide a healthier, more cost-effective diet and nutrition for residents. Low-cost recipes along with some of the ingredients provided from our community fridge will save residents money on their weekly grocery shopping bills, preventing future crisis and encouraging people to build their skills on managing finances and making their money go further. Learning to cook simple, cost-effective meals for a family encourages social interaction, eating together, improving mood and more positive mental wellbeing. Volunteers would be encouraged, and hopefully basic food hygiene and cookery skills will provide confidence and encourage employability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving quality of life and wellbeing • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis 	<p>Our community fridge project is expanding its community support to include food hygiene courses and basic cookery classes alongside our food support, hygiene bank and job club.</p>	<p>£2,500.00</p>
<p>CCG/32/24-25</p> <p>Southoe Midloe Community Hub Project Group (under the umbrella of St. Leonard's Southoe PCC</p> <p>Southoe & Midloe Christmas Lights Switch-on</p>	<p>Southoe & Midloe is a very small community. The Southoe & Midloe Community Hub Project group started the Christmas Lights Switch-on event 3 years ago to encourage the residents of the villages to become a community again after Covid. After the first distancing and being just an outside event the subsequent years we have included a community event in the Church after the switchon. This included hotdogs, mulled wine, village crafter's stalls and various games. We have made the event into a great community get together and residents have commented on how good it is to have this event and the Christmas lights in the village. The Christmas lights/tree are situated in the centre of the village in the Churchyard and the majority have to pass by on their way out of the village, so it is a great focal point and the switchon brings everyone together.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>For the past 3 years the Southoe & Midloe Community Hub Project group has organised a community event to festoon the churchyard in the centre of the village with Christmas lights/Christmas tree and have a community event in the Church. We have previously been very fortunate with local businesses (village residents) and the Parish Council sponsoring the event. We have also been lucky enough to make this into a free event for the village residents, thus evoking a good community spirit.</p>	<p>£135.00</p>

<p>CCG/33/24-25</p> <p>Warboys and District Day Centre</p> <p>Promoting physical and mental well-being through music</p>	<p>The primary objective of Warboys & District Day Centre is to support older people who would otherwise be socially isolated and lonely. We provide a safe and relaxed environment where members can meet and enjoy the company and friendship of others and engage in a varied range of activities and entertainments that are socially orientated, stimulating and promote physical and mental well-being. A programme of entertainment is central to our core objective and twice a month we book external musical entertainers as we know that music has real therapeutic benefit. Each of our entertainers are committed to getting our members singing and dancing (within their individual limitations) and are very popular with our members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>We provide a rolling 12-month programme of external musical entertainers who encourage our members to sing and move to music. We are aware that music is associated with enhanced well-being in older people and the associated physical activity also supports the current health and well-being agenda.</p>	<p>£500.00</p>
<p>CCG/34/24-25</p> <p>Ramsey Mereside Village Hall CIO</p> <p>Community Space</p>	<p>1 and 3. Providing hot lunches for all who attend 4. The building has solar panels and the power for the cooker is solar generated - zero carbon.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for residents • Helping people in crisis • Lowering carbon emissions 	<p>The Community Space at the village hall wishes to offer hot lunches to their visitors during the cold winter months. We do not wish to charge for this.</p>	<p>£300.00</p>