




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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 20 NOVEMBER 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</p> <p> 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 14 day of November 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 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 – 20 November 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 £23,894.00 to applicants, leaving £35,476.27 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 £22,604.92 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 - 20 November 2024 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
<p>CCG/35/24-25</p> <p>Alconbury Recreation Field Charity</p> <p>Replacement of Function Room Doors</p>	<p>We have lovely facilities at the Alconbury Recreation Field which we are very proud. However, our function room has old wooden doors which are falling to bits and not wheelchair friendly, have become difficult to secure and causes the room to be draughty. We host a range of events and activities in this room, and it is extremely well used. We run a weekly luncheon club for the elderly, lonely and housebound (Thursday Club), host weekly bingo nights, Pilates and Zumba classes as well as indoor carpet bowls each week. We organise children's parties as well as quizzes, bands and discos. This room can also be hired by members of the public for private celebrations such as christenings, birthday parties and wakes. The doors 'let our facilities down,' all other external doors have been replaced, which in turn helps lowering carbon emissions. We are currently in the process of buying a new, more efficient boiler and have solar panels on our roof, but people, especially the elderly and people laying on the floor for Pilates complain that it is draughty and cold, and the heating must be turned up. We feel that our premises and the range of activities provided improve the quality of life and well-being for many residents and we would be grateful of your support with this project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>To replace wooden doors to our function room which are in disrepair and do not meet wheelchair access regulations with Upvc doors with push bar fire escape and wheelchair ramps. the doors cost is £2500.</p>	<p>£2,500.00</p>

<p>CCG/36/24-25</p> <p>Safe Soulmates</p> <p>DJing and presenting skills and training</p>	<p>This project proposal is for the creation of a skillsbased activity, teaching Safe Soulmates beneficiaries how to use DJing equipment and developing presenting skills. This proposal will support beneficiaries in learning new practical skills, such as communication and interpersonal skills, that they can use in their lives. As a social activity, it will support participants in making new connections and building relationships. This activity will improve participants' quality of life by building confidence and improving mental health and well-being. Safe Soulmates deeply believes in making reasonable adjustments so that disabled adults receive the same opportunities as non-disabled individuals. Therefore, supporting this project would help develop social and skills-based learning for neurodivergent and disabled adults in the community. Not only would it be an opportunity to develop meaningful life skills, but it would also be a great way for people to have fun.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>Safe Soulmates is planning to run DJing and presenting skills workshops in Huntingdon to help improve well-being and build confidence for neurodivergent and disabled adults. They will be led and supported by experienced D J's and volunteer social facilitators Rob Bradshaw and Darren Fitzpatrick.</p>	<p>£1,000.00</p>
<p>CCG/37/24-25</p> <p>Friendship Club</p> <p>Christmas Function</p>	<p>The friendship club has been running for 50yrs. It is efficiently run by two women who are over ninety years old. The club meet weekly on Friday afternoon 2pm to 4pm from September through to July, then there is a summer break. (There is a short break for the Christmas period). They meet in the United reform Church, High Street, St. Neots. PE19 on the ground floor level. The club covers a wide area from Eynesbury to Eaton Ford. There are approximately 25 members all in the senior age bracket, with disabilities, loneliness, seeking friendship, recently bereaved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>We would like to try and organise and subsidise a Christmas lunch. Some members will not have a Christmas dinner, or they will be alone at Christmas. £500 towards the club would help us subsidise this, also open up to those who would not come, because they cannot afford to pay the full cost of the meal. The cost per head for a three-course meal is £28.50 per head, (approx) not including drinks. An entertainer has also been booked at approximately £40.</p>	<p>£500.00</p>

<p>CCG/38/24-25</p> <p>Gransden Bowls and Croquet Club</p> <p>Replacement Lawnmower</p>	<p>The club has an inclusive approach to membership as bowls and croquet can be played at most ages and by people with a wide range of abilities. Current membership extends from families to senior citizens. Members welcomed from across the county but the focus is on building an inclusive club which appeals to people from our local communities. We wish to expand both bowls and croquet membership, particularly to improve access by families and young people. Women are well represented and many members come singly, so we are providing an important opportunity for tackling loneliness. We aim to create a social environment to help stave off loneliness and isolation. It connects members of the community from all backgrounds, who would not have normally met and become friends. It is an outdoor activity in the fresh air and promotes wellness and exercise. All members are encouraged to volunteer their time for free, to help upkeep and maintain this vital village asset of the green and clubhouse in the form of gardening projects, green upkeep and arrangement of social events and activities which meet their physical abilities. This creates a sense of belonging and community spirit. Ongoing investigation is being conducted on the feasibility of special equipment and other adaptations to allow disabled players to use the green. We will also provide coaching and training for beginners and for young people to encourage a diverse membership. Mowing is currently a very physical requirement that our older experienced members are struggling with, so a ride on mower will allow them to stay engaged and vital in this part of the club, which many of them enjoy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>The club is currently upkeeping the green with a very old, heavy, push mower, that is requiring more and more expensive maintenance. Upkeep of the green is vital, not just to allow play, but to provide a revenue stream as the club holds competitions and training courses, where a quality green is required. Mowing is currently a very physical requirement that our older, experienced members are struggling with, which the ride-on will eliminate. The mower has a refurbished used frame, seat and rear roller which is a large cost saver and provides a greener footprint. All working parts and the engine are new.</p>	<p>£2,500.00</p>
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