



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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 19 MARCH 2025
Name of Individual Executive Councillors who will consider the items:	Councillors L Davenport-Ray and S Howell
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 13 day of March 2025

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 - 14)

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 March 2025

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Communities, Health and Leisure
– Councillor S Howell

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 (previous Grants Panel Member) 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 £30,394.00 to applicants, leaving £28,976.27 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 £13,200.92 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 - 19 March 2025 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/39/24-25 St Neots Monday Whist Club Whist for South Huntingdonshire	<p>The game of whist is simple to learn whilst supporting memory, strategy and social functioning, once very popular, its revival will support the on-going sustainability of the St. Neots Club (the only weekly evening Whist Club surviving in Huntingdonshire that we are aware of). The weekly club currently provides social interaction for around 25 people, and we will encourage the playing of Whist to a wider audience through visiting as many groups who show an interest across Huntingdonshire of (all ages and persuasions) to promote the wonderful ancient card game.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>The project will enhance the social, cognitive benefits of the social card game Whist, by promoting our local weekly meeting and endeavouring to promote playing across Huntingdonshire. Led by St Neots Monday Whist group, a weekly social event will take place and, we hope to outreach to other groups.</p>	£1,000.00
CCG/40/24-25 Yaxley Public Hall Replacement Front Door	<p>Yaxley Public Hall has become increasingly popular in the last few years and is in use every day by a number of regular user groups, including Yaxley Amateur Players adult and junior drama groups, Table Tennis, Norman Cross Crusaders, Jazzersize, Keep Fit, Children's Football, a Gospel Church Group, Two Bands for practice, and Jujitsu. It is also used by Cambridgeshire County Council as a Contact Centre for Looked After Children. Monthly Bingo sessions are run by the hall committee as a fundraising venture and regularly attract between 70 and 80 people and sometimes more. In addition, the hall is available to hire by the general public for public and private functions. The door does not easily close and is regularly left open by all groups using the hall, allowing heat to escape and contributing to the heating costs of the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>We would like to replace the front door of Yaxley Public Hall, which was installed approximately 35 years ago and has a faulty closing mechanism. In addition, the door is left open constantly by all user groups which causes heat to escape and wastes energy whenever groups are using the hall. The heating in the hall is gas fuelled so installing a more efficient door would also save on carbon emissions. It will also contribute to the safety and security of the hall.</p>	£2,000.00

	<p>hall, which are approximately £3,500 per year. It is extremely problematic when hosting events for the general public and people are coming in and out. The proposed replacement door would have a self closing mechanism which will ensure that the door is not left open for long periods allowing heat to escape. It will be much more energy efficient and, although it was not possible to tick more than one choice above, will both improve the life and quality of well-being for people and reduce carbon emissions.</p>			
<p>CCG/41/24-25</p> <p>Huntingdon Carnival</p> <p>2025 Town Carnival</p>	<p>Bringing Families together allowing everyone in the community an opportunity to come together and celebrate a common interest supporting local groups activities charities and local businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>The purpose of Huntingdon Carnival is a community Event. Over the past few years the Carnival has grown, we have a Parade on Saturday and will consist of Local groups. Huntingdon Carnival have Live bands stalls including Hot/Cold Food Charity stalls, Funfair. The audience profile is mixed families from Huntingdon and surrounding area</p>	<p>£1,000.00</p>
<p>CCG/42/24-25</p> <p>St Ives Carnival and Music Festival</p> <p>2025 Carnival and Music Festival</p>	<p>Our event 'improves the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone' by bringing the community together to enjoy the arts, culture and nature. Helping people in crisis - This event is free entry meaning no-one is excluded from attending and is suitable for all ages and disabilities. Lowering carbon emissions - there is limited parking on site meaning the public are advised to walk/use public transport. This event raises awareness of local community groups that help bring people together to combat loneliness, to improve their mental and physical health and to make new friends and memories. We also look for volunteers which helps people to give back to the local community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>To provide a free to enter community event over 3 days for all ages bringing together people from across the local area to enjoy live music, community groups, Proms, family movie, fair rides & small business stalls.</p>	<p>£1,000.00</p>

<p>CCG/43/24-25</p> <p>Huntingdon Riverside Gala</p> <p>2025 Riverside Gala</p>	<p>We provide a lot of free entertainment, an opportunity for everyone to be included, HRG brings the community together, from all walks of life, we run the event on a very limited budget, every penny is spent on the running costs to ensure the community has a fun filled Memorial Day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>Huntingdon riverside gala is a one day annual event, A family fun day for the whole community to enjoy, we provide as much free entertainment and activities as we possibly can to ensure everyone has a great time, HRG is one of the biggest events in Huntingdon, we rely on funding/ grants to provide the following free entertainment petting farm, balloon modelling, punch & Judy, live wrestling, bands, stilt walkers, princesses and super hero's, arts & crafts, dinosaurs , and much much more</p>	<p>Arial</p>
<p>CCG/44/24-25</p> <p>Bury Parish Council</p> <p>Our Park</p>	<p>This project directly aligns with the priority of improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone in the community through the following means:</p> <p>Encouraging Outdoor Activity: By enhancing the visual appeal of the park and fostering a sense of pride in its use, the project will encourage more children and families to spend time outdoors. This will promote physical activity, improve mental health, and reduce screen time for children.</p> <p>Fostering Community Ownership: The involvement of local children in designing the signs ensures they feel a strong connection to the park. This sense of ownership encourages respect for the space, reducing vandalism and fostering a positive community spirit.</p> <p>Providing Educational Value: The project supports creativity and artistic expression through the design competition, helping children build confidence and pride in their contributions. The finished signs will also serve as an ongoing reminder of the value of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>The "Our Park Signs Competition" is an inspiring initiative that celebrates creativity, community spirit, and the love for our Jubilee Play Park. The project involves the installation of beautifully designed signs around the park, created by children from Bury Primary School. The students participated in a poster design competition, expressing through art what they cherish most about the park. The winning designs will be turned into permanent signs, enhancing the park's charm and fostering a sense of ownership and pride among local children and their families.</p>	<p>£500.00</p>

	<p>teamwork and community collaboration. Building Stronger Social Connections: The project will bring together diverse groups, including families, schools, and community organisations, creating opportunities for social interaction and mutual support. Enhancing Environmental Awareness: By showcasing children’s interpretations of the park’s importance, the signs will subtly educate park visitors about appreciating and preserving natural and shared spaces, contributing to environmental stewardship.</p>			
<p>CCG/45/24-25</p> <p>All Inclusive Football Coaching</p>	<p>Our sessions provide opportunities for children that don't always have the opportunity to play football in a mainstream environment (with football clubs or in school) because of their needs or disabilities. Physical exercise improves physical and mental wellbeing, being part of a team with coaches that understand and are empathetic of their needs, with no judgement simply improves their enjoyment, and the most basic of skills can be helped too, such as making friends, taking turns and sharing, as well as the football skills they can learn.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>We want to set up an ongoing weekly football session for children with additional needs and disabilities in a venue that is suitable in all weather conditions.</p>	<p>£2,500.00</p>
<p>CCG/46/24-25</p> <p>CARESCO</p> <p>CARESCO Foodbank</p>	<p>Only one box above was able to be ticked, but we cover the first 3 for Foodbank and all 4 for the wider charity as we offer transport. Our Foodbank is for crisis support and a lifeline for many finding it difficult to make ends meet. We work with 30 local agencies such as social services, churches, charities and GPs who refer vulnerable people to us for emergency food parcels. This is usually for a short period until they can find work and/or have the necessary support in place, but we support people on a case by case basis. There are many reasons people need to use our food bank including those on minimum wages or zero hours contracts, those who are disabled or have mental</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping people in crisis 	<p>The Foodbank supports local people weekly who are referred to us by various agencies in food crisis. Need is growing while donations are reducing because of the cost of living crisis and we are struggling to cover food costs. In August 2023 we helped 96 people and in August 2024 we helped 169 people including many more children. Our catchment area is 25 Parishes around Sawtry.</p>	<p>£2,500.00</p>

	<p>health issues and those who have experienced a job loss or bereavement. Need increases further as we head into the winter period as people struggle to cover fuel costs and we want to be able to keep this support in place. Emergency food takes some pressure off the situation in the urgent short term period enabling people to get the support they need. Our Foodbank telephone is always manned, and we will provide food from stocks outside our usual delivery day in certain circumstances. We had one individual recently who was outside our main centre feeling too embarrassed and upset to come in. We noticed this, brought them in and were able to support them and provide some food straight away with a system put in place for further support. North Cambs is mainly rural and social isolation is common, particularly as public transport is limited or non-existent in the smaller villages and hamlets. There is less support for people who are struggling here than in larger towns and cities and CARESCO is the only charity providing emergency food for people in Sawtry and the villages that surround it. Mental and physical health issues often arise from loneliness and lack of connection and is a particular focus of this charity as this can lead to being unable to work and increasing financial difficulties. We are in the unique position of being able to refer our Foodbank users to all our other groups and services for additional support, which isn't usually the case for standalone Foodbanks.</p>			
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