



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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 8 MAY 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 30 day of April 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 - 10)

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 – 8 May 2024

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Community and Health
– Councillor B Pitt

Executive Councillor for Climate and Environment
– 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 £0.00 to applicants, leaving £59,370.27 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 £13,950.92 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 - 8 May 2024 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
<p>CCG/01/24-25</p> <p>Once Upon a Time Day</p> <p>BID Huntingdon</p>	<p>The idea of the event is to attract people into the town and to make Huntingdon somewhere where happy memories are made for the younger generation to give a feel-good factor when thinking about their hometown. This improves everyone's attitude towards the town, making it a more attractive place to work, shop and live.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and well-being for local people 	<p>A family entertainment day on Saturday 6th July 2024 with free activities throughout the town centre based on the theme of 'Once Upon a Time'</p>	<p>£1,000 for a community event – this will go towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £7,106 – Big Foot events • £1,650 – props and set • £300 – actors • £250 – balloon man • £138.98 – make a crown • £89.99 – Lego Castle <p>£300 – cheeky moo face painting</p>

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
<p>CCG/02/24-25</p> <p>The Arts Café</p> <p>The Commemoration Hall Charity</p>	<p>The Commemoration Hall offers its foyer space over 7 days a week as an Arts Cafe, run by one paid member of staff and supported by over 42 hours of volunteers time over that week. We currently also now employ two young persons for weekend work to engage with the younger community of the town. The arts cafe has become a focal point in the town for the older age group as we offer best value and a personal approach on the high street.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for local people 	<p>Our Cafe offers a space for people to come and relax and has become a central point for the elderly to meet new friends. We have many notes and feedback quotes from our community about what the space means to them and how it enables them to leave the house and enter a safe environment. Our volunteers are our ambassadors - they welcome our guests and take the time to talk to them. This has greatly benefitted a number of key vulnerable groups who come in alone as they like the atmosphere and it is now part of their daily routine. We offer some weekday groups such as knit and natter, French reading, art classes and poetry days to encourage them to engage with others and share life experiences in our safe space.</p>	<p>£2,500:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2,000 for a new dishwasher £1,000 for a new catering fridge