



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

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| Date when item(s) to be considered: | Wednesday, 29 MAY 2024 |
| Name of Individual Executive Councillors who will consider the items: | Councillors T Sanderson 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 22 day of May 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 – 29 May 2024

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

Deputy Executive Leader, Vice-Chair of the
Cabinet and Executive Member for Planning
– Councillor T Sanderson

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 £1,000.00 to applicants, leaving £58,370.27 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 - 29 May 2024 Grant Panel Applications

| Project Name/Applicant | Priority Focus | Criteria Met | Project Description | Amount Requested |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| CCG/03/24-25 Providing furniture and IT equipment (Love's Farm House) Love's Farm Community Centre CIO | LFH is looking to expand their office staff in order to keep the building open more often through the holidays if one member of staff is on leave. They wish to provide a more suitable working space for their staff which is what this application is asking for. Having the requested equipment will allow the charity to be better at tackling the themes requested in the criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for local people Keeping people out of crisis Helping people in crisis | Love's Farm House provides a safe, comfortable, welcoming and well-maintained environment for the local community. The building is used for a wide variety of activities ranging from exercise classes, baby and toddler groups, uniformed organisations and youth and teenage open sessions. Furthermore, the building is registered as a Community with Huntingdonshire District Council. The social value of this initiative cannot be overestimated. It provides places where people can go at set times to keep warm while saving money on their home heating bills. Having office staff consistently on site is a requirement to providing this service. | £1,860 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £150 – office desk £500 – 2 office chairs £600 – IT equipment £205 – filing cabinets £405 – lockable storage cupboard |
| CCG/04/24-25 Tandem Triple Purchase G-Whizz Inclusive Tandem Bike Rides | G Whizz offers physical activity and improves quality of life by allowing tandem bike rides for individuals who are unable to ride on their own | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for local people | A triple tandem bike has been commissioned to allow one pilot to take two stokers on a bike. The aim is to allow more people to experience cycling, increase their exercise and enjoy the social interactions this will also bring. | Project total cost of the bike is £12,500 |
| CCG/05/24-25 | Many people who come along to the Church are from all walks of life within | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the | The Church offers a space for a wide array of activities for the local community. This | £500 – community space application |

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| <p>Little Paxton Church Community Space Project</p> <p>Little Paxton Parochial Church Council</p> | <p>the community of Little Paxton. They say their quality of life is much improved through attending a group, meeting new people and very much enjoy the company. Carers bring along elderly people or young children which has helped them all make friends and connections.</p> | <p>quality of life and wellbeing for local people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis • | <p>ranges from baby groups through to social lunches on Fridays providing hot soup and a chance to meet people and have a chat.</p> | |
| <p>CCG/06/24-25</p> <p>Grow Your Own</p> <p>Diamond Hampers CIC</p> | <p>Overall, Diamond Hampers provides a source of food at a much lower income than supermarket cost. It provides food hampers to those who are unable to afford meals and help those who are really struggling. It also delivers emergency food parcels and supplies referrals to external organisations for residents should they need additional assistance.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for local people • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis • Lowering carbon emissions | <p>Project aiming to propose a holistic approach to address several pressing issues: allotment demand, public health concerns, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability. The aim is to encourage local people to create a more self-reliant and environmentally conscious community.</p> | <p>£2,500 although the total project cost is £5,500 which is broken down into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2,000 – seeds • £1,000 materials for building planters • £1,000 soil and compost • £1,000 supplies for maintaining e.g. tools • £500 – promotional materials |

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| <p>CCG/07/24-25</p> <p>Godmanchester Community Plant Nursery (Green Weekend)</p> <p>Godmanchester Town Council</p> | <p>The Green Weekend will raise awareness about climate change and the importance of reducing carbon emissions, encouraging residents to adopt sustainable practices in to their daily lives</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowering carbon emissions | <p>Godmanchester Community Nursery is holding a 'Green Weekend' within 'Green Week.' This event aims to engage its local community by providing fun yet impactful activities to show the benefits of positive changes towards combatting climate change. This 2-day event will aim to raise awareness about environmental conservation and sustainable living practices within our community</p> | <p>£1,000, which will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £300 for materials £400 for marketing £400 for materials for educational workshops |
| <p>CCG/08/24-25</p> <p>Upgrade covers and practice cages</p> <p>Eaton Socon Cricket Club</p> | <p>Eaton Socon Cricket Club serves over 300 members covering senior teams, a wide variety of junior teams and a girls' team. They are the only cricket club in St Neots with a grass wicket and cages to allow practice.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for local people | <p>ESCC would like to replace their covers and cages for batting practice. They are used by all club members.</p> | <p>£2,500 to replace covers and cages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2,000 to replace the covers £1,500 to replace the cages |
| <p>CCG/09/24-25</p> <p>Time to View</p> <p>Disability Huntingdonshire</p> | <p>Disability Huntingdonshire supports residents with benefit support to allow them to achieve independence at home. The majority of their staff have a disability so truly understand the barriers people face on a daily basis. They offer support over the phone but are also the only local organisation to offer home visits. It recently came to light that there has been a higher uptake in people needing disability benefit support but are afraid to actually speak to an individual, which is where the information videos would help.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for local people Helping people in crisis | <p>A project aiming to film information videos and provide online webinars to professionals and referrers how to make a referral to DISH and what to include in the referral.</p> | <p>£2,000 to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1,500 video production (local company to be used) £500 – information webinars |

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