

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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 21 MAY 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 2025/26.
Summary of item(s) to be considered:	<p>To consider the applications that have been submitted to the Community Chest 2025/26 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 15 day of May 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 2025/26 (Pages 3 - 12)

To consider applications received via the Community Chest Awards Scheme for 2025/26 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 2025/26

Meeting/Date: Grants Panel – 21 May 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 2025. Applications must be for projects based in Huntingdonshire and where a significant majority of beneficiaries are Huntingdonshire residents.

Councillors Davenport-Ray and Howell confirmed their wish for any funding left over from 2024/2025 to be rolled over into the budget for 2025/26. Similarly, the unspent budgets from 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23. 2023/24 were carried forward. This brings the total budget for 2025/26 to £53,056.27.

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 2025/26 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 2025/26 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 2025/26, £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 2025/26 is £53,056.27.

2.2 From the commencement of the 2025/26 financial year, the panel has committed £0.00 to applicants, leaving £53,056.27 available for the remainder of 2025/26.

2.3 The maximum amounts that can be applied for have been increased and now stand at:

- a. £1,000 for Community Spaces,
- b. £1,500 for community events, and
- c. £3,000 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 £14,780.00 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 2025/26, 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 2025/26 scheme must be used against projects applied for and approved in the 2025/26 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 2025/26.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The funding of £30,000 allocated to the Community Chest 2025/26 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 2025/26.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

[Appendix 1 - Huntingdonshire District Council Community Chest 2025/26 – Funding Criteria](#)

[Appendix 2 – Community Spaces](#)

Appendix 3 - List of applications received, with officer comments.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Chest 2025/26 Eligibility Criteria

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Huntingdonshire District Council - Community Chest Awards - 21 May 2025 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/01/25-26 Huntingdon Riverside Gala Riverside Gala 2025	Bringing the community together, socialising, not feeling isolated, help is on hand as we have men's mental health tent available,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	Huntingdon riverside Gala is an annual family fun day, bringing the community together, we try to provide as much free entertainment as possible, which includes, live music, dinosaurs, princesses, Spider-Man, live wrestling shows, fun dog show, Punch and Judy, balloon modelling, we also have a performance arena where local businesses and groups can perform, we have local charity and business stalls, pony rides, a fun fair, arts & crafts, inflatables, & much more	£1,500.00
CCG/02/25-26 Youth Step to Success Guided Couch-to-5k runs/walks for inactive BAME women who are over 40	(73) identified inactive women aged 40+, and specifically, women from BAME community will be engaged into 15-week guided couch-to-5k runs/walks aiming reduce inactivity, improve mental well-being and encourage community walks followed by group art therapy sessions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	Our 15-week project will provide guided couch-to-5k runs/walks for inactive BAME women who are over 40, followed by group art therapy sessions. Our project will reduce inactivity, improve mental well-being and encourage community walks. We will run 15- weeks (4x/week) @ 5-6.30PM and 6- 7.30 AM between July-November 2025 guided couch-to-5k runs to engage (73) identified women aged 40+, and specifically, women from BAME community in physical activity to overcome sociocultural barriers and gender roles. Participants will receive a full one to one induction with a personalized fitness instructor; developed to meet their individual goals and needs.	£3,000.00

CCG/03/25-26 The Toy Chest by DH Social groups for vulnerable and disadvantaged people	<p>It wouldn't let me tick more than one. But it will also keep people out of crisis and those already in crisis. Our organisation's social and craft groups play a vital role in enhancing mental health and wellbeing by providing a supportive and engaging environment where individuals can connect, express themselves, and develop new skills. Participating in social activities helps reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation, fostering a sense of community and belonging. Craft groups stimulate creativity, improve concentration, and offer a therapeutic outlet for emotional expression, which can alleviate stress and anxiety. These groups also promote social interaction and teamwork, strengthening social networks and boosting confidence. Regular engagement in such activities encourages a positive routine, improves self-esteem, and cultivates resilience. By creating a safe and inclusive space, our organisation helps individuals build coping strategies, reduce mental health stigma, and experience joy and fulfillment. Overall, our social and craft groups serve as a crucial support system, nurturing mental wellness and empowering individuals to lead healthier, more connected lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>With the opening of our new store next month, we will be beginning new social groups for all abilities and ages. These groups will include homework clubs, craft and hobby clubs, general social groups. Those for men, those for women and children.</p>	<p>£5,000.00</p>
CCG/04/25-26 Folksworth & Washingley Parish Council Interpretation Boards for F&W Walks	<p>Its a well known fact that getting out & about in nature is beneficial for everyone's mental wellbeing. In addition, if people can walk, either by themselves or with their dogs rather than drive to other areas, carbon emissions will be lowered. (I would have ticked 2 boxes but it would only allow me to tick one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>We wish to provide information boards at the village pond and at the entrance to the church of the wonderful local walks and flora and fauna that can be see to encourage residents to walk more and enjoy the beauty of the area.</p>	<p>£2,000.00</p>

CCG/05/25-26 BROW4 Huntingdon Armed Forces Day	<p>We are committed to improving the places and spaces that matter to our community by keeping people connected through community events. We are providing opportunities for people to come together for a shared purpose, strengthening relationships in our community. Our event, while focused on the armed forces, will have activities, music, craft stalls, etc, that will allow families to connect, generations to come together, provide selling opportunities for local businesses, and offer a free day out which limits the impact on personal budgets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>We will deliver the first Armed Forces Day in the town, commemorating the service and sacrifice of past and present service personnel</p>	<p>£1,500.00</p>
CCG/06/25-26 Fenstanton Parish Council FPC Welcome Space	<p>Our chair and standing exercise group caters for mostly elderly it offers companionship, purpose and combats loneliness. The toddler group allows children to socialise and carers a chance to meet our community cafes, similarly, tackles isolation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>We open 3 sessions a week on Monday morning we hold a free chair and exercise session with up to 30 mostly senior citizens, this is followed by tea and toast. Tuesday morning we hold a baby toddler group average attendance 16 children, we offer free tea, toast and snacks. Tuesday pm we have coffee and cake average 20 people. We also have pop up events such as pancake day which attract around 70 people of all ages. The facility is free, voluntary donations are accepted.</p>	<p>£1,000.00</p>

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