



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, 18 JUNE 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 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</p> <p>☎ 01480 388233</p> <p>Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</p> |

This Notice has been copied to the Chairman of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Dated this 12 day of June 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 - 14)

To consider applications received via the Community Chest Grants Award 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 – 18 June 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 £6,500.00 to applicants, leaving £46,556.27 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 £21,280.00 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

CONTACT OFFICER

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Huntingdonshire District Council - Community Chest Awards - 18 June 2025 Grant Panel Applications

| Project Name/Applicant | Priority Focus | Criteria Met | Project Description | Amount Requested |
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| CCG/07/25-26 Alconbury Colts Football Club Football Ball Stop Netting | A junior football team which encourages children in the community to come together and learn to work as part of a team giving them skills for life as well as getting them outside exercising. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing | Our football pitch is surrounded by hawthorn hedging, this is causing problems behind one goal where we are popping footballs every week we play and the cost of replacing them is becoming unsustainable. We would like to purchase netting to prevent balls hitting the hedges behind this goal. | £399.00 |
| CCG/08/25-26 The Elton Society Highgate Village Hall Sound System | 1) Elton has an ageing population. Many of the villagers are over the age of 65 and many suffer hearing loss. We have received comments that they no longer feel they can attend events at the village hall as they cannot hear what is happening and they find the noise of several voices coming from all directions too difficult to cope with. We really want our older members to feel they are still a valuable part of the community and wish to enable this by making them feel they are welcome and can participate in village life and events. Our 80th VE Day celebrations demonstrated the dire need for a sound system. We had live singing in the hall but those with hearing aids could not hear (indeed most people struggled) and they left the event early. We have already put acoustic panels on our village hall ceiling in an attempt to alleviate this problem but this really needs to be supplemented with an audio system. 2) The village hall is used for CPR and first aid courses. A sound system would make it easier for the instructors to run the course. 3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing | We aim to install a sound system in our village hall so that ALL residents will be able to attend events and feel included. | £1,000.00 |

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| | The Elton mother and toddlers group (Cheeky Monkeys) is held at the village hall; a sound system would enable them to have music for their sessions. 4) Following the closure of Elton Methodist Chapel this year, Highgate Hall is now the "warm hub/social coffee morning once a month for those residents who are lonely or wish to connect with others. A sound system would enable us to play films/music for them | | | |
| CCG/09/25-26 Ramsey Mereside Village Hall CIO Ramsey Mereside Merefest | As a community fun day we aim to bring together all members of our village. Local crafters and organisations can show do and have the opportunity to sell their products should they wish to do so. This will also give local aspiring musicians the opportunity to showcase their talents. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing | A family open day with local bands of various musical genres playing on the village field and in the hall. | £1,500.00 |
| CCG/10/25-26 Ramsey Mereside Village Hall CIO Community Hub | The community hub provides a safe space for individuals to meet and share their concerns and experiences. The new weekly mobile gym has attracted more visitors to the hub improving both physical and mental health of those who attend | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing | Light Meals and refreshments for the weekly community hub including energy costs for the year ending March 26 | £1,000.00 |
| CCG/11/25-26 Alconbury Weald Community Association Family Fun Day 2025 | Our project aims to deliver on all of your chosen criteria for the Community Chest fund 25/26 from the corporate plan but I am unable to choose more than one, so I will attempt to outline here. Our main priority as Alconbury Weald Community Association is to build on our community foundations to provide opportunity, experience and engagement to our ever growing development. Across the year we hold a variety of different events, promoting the importance of heritage, health, wellbeing and fitness, the arts and culture as well as a sense of belonging and pride of place. The annual family fun day in September is an opportunity to bring our community together, to promote | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All | Alconbury Weald Family Fun Day is a fun filled engaging and accessible event for those within our closest and farthest away of communities. We encourage diversity, inclusion and activities for all. We love Alconbury Weald and want to share that passion and sense of | £1,500.00 |

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| | <p>unity, understanding and better community resilience. Through our community association stand, manned by volunteers, we provide access to information through leaflets, knowledge and referrals as well as a free craft activity to promote engagement and activities for all. This is an opportunity to get to know our community, the wants and needs and to promote their individualities and celebrate with them. We hold competitions; horticultural, quizzes and theme related, either free or low cost entry which resulted in a fantastic turnout of 1940s themed wear at our recent VE Day and will see the giant sunflower competition being judged at the next event. The Community Association now oversees the Alconbury Weald Hardship Fund and so this is a great opportunity to challenge financial hardship and reach the diverse community in a safe and secure space. All are welcome and we celebrate the uniqueness of each and every member of our community by openly and actively encouraging participation in all elements of the event, before, during and after. There will be a volunteer led litter pick to close the event, the planning is open for all of the community to comment on and discuss and there are always a variety of activities for all ages and abilities on the day. We have lawn games for all to use as well as coordinated games of rounders for those old and young wishing to take part in a team sport. We encourage communication with our open plan layout including seating and music throughout. Our volunteers are on hand to make connections within our communities, for example, to share the development of the chess club, gardening club, local school activities and more by sharing knowledge with one another at the event. The event is a great opportunity to develop connections and support opportunities, we invite all residents to join our monthly meetings and provide them with the tools to organise an activity or event to promote confidence, independence and sense of belonging in Alconbury Weald. We are able to identify families who may be in need of connections to the local families hub, groups run by Alconbury Weald Church and support the information exchange of local employments opportunities both paid and unpaid. Referrals can</p> | | <p>community with all who wish to attend whilst providing opportunities, information and support to those who may need it.</p> | |
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| | <p>be made on the day to the Hardship Fund by one of our volunteer members on the trust and we can signpost to other agencies for both financial and emotional support should there be a need. We provide the entertainment and activities to build community spirit and encourage engagement as we feel it is the best way to reach out communities. From each event comes forward another volunteer, idea, concept or plenty of learning about how we will encourage the young people to not take home all of the skipping ropes we put out for the event! Our dedication and passion to Alconbury Weald aims to prevent loneliness and isolation as well as bring so many members of our community together. We promote this within Huntingdonshire on social media as well as local printed media and provide information about sustainable transport to and from the event. Alconbury Weald is fortunate to have regular bus routes that travel throughout Huntingdonshire and we encourage residents from further afield to join the event, take part, enjoy the community and feel a sense of worth, wellbeing and entertainment. We have Smart Journeys onsite to discuss sustainable and low emission travel options, car sharing, and the travel throughout the area by safe cycle paths. This is also an opportunity to raise awareness of the fundraising that is ongoing which will be provided to the onsite specialist school, Prestley Wood, for purchase of their accessible and adapted bicycles to enable all to have the opportunity to learn that skill regardless of ability.</p> | | | |
| <p>CCG/12/25-26</p> <p>Pidley cum Fenton Social Club</p> <p>Pidley Social Club Refurb</p> | <p>The club offers surrounding villagers varied activities for children and adults, it is the only social club in the village. We have a full event annual calendar which includes a summer party, children's spring, Halloween and Christmas parties, adult painting evenings VE Day celebrations- to name a few. We also promote local food vans to bring varied options to a small village</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing | <p>we need to replace the furniture in the social club due to wear and tear. We have many mature/elderly customers who require sturdy and safe seating etc</p> | <p>£1,000.00</p> |

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| CCG/13/25-26 The Cambridgeshire Police Shrievally Trust - The Bobby Scheme Vulnerable Adults Under 60's | <p>Improving the Quality of Life and Well-being for Everyone This project enhances personal safety and peace of mind for vulnerable individuals under 60 by installing video Ring doorbells. The visible security presence deters criminal activity and fosters a greater sense of security, which directly contributes to improved well-being and quality of life. Keeping People Out of Crisis By proactively installing doorbell cameras, we reduce the risk of targeted crimes such as burglary, harassment, or antisocial behaviour. This early intervention helps prevent vulnerable individuals from becoming victims of crime, which in turn keeps them out of emotional, physical, or financial crisis. Helping People in Crisis For those already affected by crime, this project provides immediate reassurance and a practical tool for safety. It enables individuals to monitor their property, supports police investigations with recorded footage, and gives people a greater sense of control and confidence as they recover.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving quality of life and wellbeing • Helping people in crisis | <p>We aim to provide and install video Ring doorbells for vulnerable individuals under 60 affected by crime. Funds will cover the device and a one-year subscription; installation is scheme-funded. This crime prevention project supports the Government's Safer Streets initiative, extending protection beyond traditionally high-crime areas.</p> | £3,000.00 |
| CCG/14/25-26 G-Whizz Inclusive Tandem Bike Rides Upgrade to Tandem Bike | <p>G-Whizz offers tandem cycle rides to those who cannot ride a bike themselves because of visual impairment, physical impairment or balance issue. The activity offers physical activity and a social setting contributing to a feeling of well-being.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving quality of life and wellbeing | <p>One of our cycles is off the road, awaiting an upgrade to the gears as the existing is old, worn and beyond repair. Parts for old gear systems become difficult to obtain and modern replacement becomes necessary.</p> | £884.00 |

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