



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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 16 JULY 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</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 10 day of July 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 - 10)

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 – 16 July 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 £13,783.00 to applicants, leaving £39,273.27 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 £28,563.00 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

Name/Job Title: Claudia Deeth, Community Development Project Support Officer
Tel No: (01480) 388513
Email: claudia.deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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Huntingdonshire District Council - Community Chest Awards - 16 July 2025 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/15/25-26 Buckden Community Events Christmas lunch for the over 75's	By bringing this age group together for them to enjoy each others company and to have a wonderful meal and feel thoroughly spoilt for the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	I'm thrilled to announce that we are planning to hold another Christmas lunch for our beloved over75's from the community, in December this year. The previous event was such an amazing success and made a real difference in the lives of our guests. It was heartwarming to hear that some of them wouldn't have been able to see their family or friends over Christmas, and this gathering provided a wonderful opportunity for people of the same age group to come together. Last time, we enjoyed a full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, delicious pudding, and of course, tea and coffee. Our talented Chef even made small cakes for each guest to take home, and we raised funds to provide them with a small gift as a token of our appreciation. We do, of course, rely on funding/grants to help us to achieve this and hope that we qualify for a grant.	£1,200.00
CCG/16/25-26 Somersham Parish Council Chaplins Panto Red Riding Hood	A free Christmas pantomime will be inclusive of all young children in the village, whatever class or race. We hope that it will provide a wonderful afternoon of community bonding. The Chaplins panto group performances are educational as well as enjoyable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	We would like to provide a free Christmas Pantomime to the children of the village aged 2yrs to 7yrs old. This would be held in our Millennium Pavilion in December 2025 for up to 50 children. We would also like to provide some free refreshments for the children. Volunteers will be used on the day and there will be no fee for the hall.	£1,275.00

CCG/17/25-26 St James Little Paxton PCC Little Paxton Health	<p>For many of the attendees, they spend a lot of time on their own (perhaps due to childcare or mobility issues) and worry about energy costs. We give them a space to meet, talk, watch a film, exercise, enjoy a meal and/or keep warm.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>By using our church as a community space, we provide around 70 hours per week of events and activities to which all are welcome. Many are free and provide food, warmth and companionship as well as exercise (e.g. line dancing and chair pilates).</p>	£1,000.00
CCG/18/25-26 Southoe Village Hall Activities for All	<p>With more younger people i.e children in the village who are using the playground and football field it would be good that they have the equipment to do it. The pétanque is for a group of older people who want to be more involved in outdoor activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>We are currently upgrading the hall and facilities, but we also want to improve the playground and football pitch for local groups. Plans are to install a pétanque court new nets for the goalposts on the football pitch a basketball hoop for the playground.</p>	£1,000.00
CCG/19/25-26 Alconbury Community Preschool Outside EY Provider Visits	<p>The opportunity for outside providers to visit our Preschool, allowing our children exposure to learning opportunities that they may not otherwise experience during their early years. We are keen to help our children gain a large variety of experiences to enhance their physical, emotional and social development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>We would like to fund for outside providers to attend Preschool over the next academic year ('25- '26), allowing children access to diverse developmental learning opportunities. The outside providers we would like to visit include Spanglish (Early years Spanish learning through songs and sensory play) and LA Ballers (motor development football skills).</p>	£1,445.00
CCG/20/25-26 Rotary Club of St Ives Huntingdonshire Coats 4 Kids	<p>The Coats 4 kids project aims to support children in the local area of ST Ives. Providing a warm coat for the child is important in supporting their mental health and wellbeing. The impact will have a knock-on effect in supporting parent manage increasing stress level and ensuring compliance in school attendance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping People in crisis 	<p>To support vulnerable children in schools who meet the criteria of "in hardship" This is identified by the School It will support the child's mental and family in improved mental health, self-esteem and physical health in a way that maintains the families dignity and confidentiality.</p>	£2,000.00