

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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 17 SEPTEMBER 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 11 day of September 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 – 17 September 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 £23,221.00 to applicants, leaving £29,835.27 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 £21,238.00 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 - 17 September 2025 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/27/25-26 Huntingdonshire Parkinson's Group Therapy Classes	By enabling better mobility, people are more able to walk and reduce the use of automobiles. The social function, and the comradeship provided, along with help from Parkinson's UK, prevents catastrophic breakdown, and the ongoing help from Parkinson's nurses in the area helps people in crisis We intend to improve quality of life, prevent and help people in crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	To prevent falls, and encourage exercise, we provide several therapy classes, all delivered by qualified instructors, to help alleviate the symptoms of Parkinson's.	£1,000.00
CCG/28/25-26 Grafham Water Sailability Concrete Slipway Extension	Grafham Water Sailability is 'a friendly, inclusive, sailing club for adults of all ages with a range of different disabilities.' There is the possibility of either having a sail in a larger open boat (Drascombe Lugger) as a passenger in a group with carers if necessary or to sail independently or supported in a specially designed Challenger dinghy. Our sailors have said that this is their only opportunity to be moving unaided in the open air, away from their carers, and gives them a sense of freedom while they are out on the water. A group of all volunteers – some with a sailing background but many without - support the sailors with all activities both direct such as getting in and out of the boats and launching them, and indirect such as maintenance of the boats and grounds. It is also a social organisation as it allows the disabled sailors and volunteers to mix, and we see people still coming to club even when they are not well enough to sail or help just to meet up and chat with their friends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	To extend the launching slipway by as far as possible to allow sailing to continue when the water level drops in Grafham Water. In 2023 and 2025 sailing has had to stop as boats could not be launched.	£3,000.00

CCG/29/25-26 Horizons Education Trust Outdoor Spaces	<p>Improving the outdoor space enhances children's quality of life by supporting physical health, emotional well-being, and social development. For SEND pupils, it offers a safe, inclusive environment where they can regulate emotions, build confidence, and develop essential life skills. Outdoor play encourages movement, creativity, connection, and a sense of belonging, fostering overall wellbeing in a natural, engaging setting.</p>	<p>Improving quality of life and wellbeing</p>	<p>This project supports Horizons Education Trust's values of inclusion, innovation, and quality education. It will create a playground that fosters physical development and holistic growth, tailored to every child's needs. With your support, we can build a space where all children feel valued, included and empowered to thrive.</p>	<p>£3,000.00</p>
CCG/30/25-26 Concrete Slipway Extension Annual Maintenance Day	<p>The project allows individuals to get out in the fresh air, socialise with other people, undertake some physical work and be proud of the Village they live in.</p>	<p>Improving quality of life and wellbeing</p>	<p>For the community to get together, social outside and help tidy up Wistow to make it a better and proud place to live.</p>	<p>£200.00</p>