

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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 15 OCTOBER 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:	To consider the applications that have been submitted 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. Supporting report attached.
Contact for further supporting information	Claudia Deeth, Community Services Manager ☎ 01480 388233 Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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

Dated this 9 day of October 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 – 15 October 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 £29,421.00 to applicants, leaving £23,635.27 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 £27,438.00 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 - 15 October 2025 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/32/25-26 1st Somersham Scouts Scouts Air Rifle Coaching Starter Kit	- Encouraging physical activity: Provides structured sporting activity that promotes focus, discipline, and self-control. - Supporting social connections: Sessions encourage teamwork, confidence, and mutual respect across age groups and abilities. - Developing skills and aspirations: Participants will be able to complete the NSRA Youth Proficiency Scheme, which provides an accredited and nationally recognised pathway into club, county, and even Olympic-level competition. - Promoting equality and inclusion: Target shooting is one of the few mixed-gender sports competed on equal terms at all levels, including the Olympics. It is also highly accessible to participants with disabilities. - Local community benefit: The project provides a sustainable, no-cost opportunity for young people to experience a nationally recognised sport under qualified supervision. Equipment will remain a shared resource for ongoing delivery and inclusion.	Improving the quality of life and wellbeing	To purchase a complete air-rifle training kit to enable safe, regular, and structured shooting sessions for young people in the local community. The kit includes four .177 rifles, a back-stop curtain, pellet catchers, target stands, range mats, signage, and consumables such as pellets and paper targets.	£1,525.00
CCG/33/25-26 Spaldwick Community Allotment Association Community Allotment Compost Bins	Gives people the opportunity to recycle and gets people out of their homes to grow vegetables and fruit. Keeps people out of crisis by enabling them to go out and meet and work together. Lowers carbon emissions by recycling.	Improving the quality of life and wellbeing	We have 27 plots for the village giving over 60 people in Spaldwick access to an allotment. Funded by Spaldwick Parish Council 5 years ago. We now want to install a dozen large compost bins to help the plot holders deal with waste keeping the site green and helping to put back compost onto the land.	£1,000.00

CCG/34/25-26 All Inclusive Football Coaching CIC SEND Football	Our inclusive football sessions directly improve physical health, fitness, and emotional wellbeing for children with additional needs, while also reducing isolation for families. The sessions build confidence, social skills, and friendships, enhancing overall quality of life for participants and their carers. Keeping people out of crisis By providing regular structured activities, children and families have positive outlets that reduce stress, prevent social isolation, and promote mental resilience. Parents and carers report that access to inclusive sport helps reduce pressure on family life and lessens the risk of escalation into crisis. Helping people in crisis For some families, SEND challenges can cause significant strain. Our sessions provide a safe, supportive environment where parents, carers, and children can connect with others, share experiences, and access informal peer support, helping them cope better during difficult periods. Lowering carbon emissions (optional – if you want to include) - While not the primary aim of our project, we actively encourage shared transport, carpooling, and local participation to minimise travel. We also reuse equipment where possible and are exploring sustainable kit options for the future.	• Improving the quality of life and wellbeing • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis • Lowering carbon emissions	All Inclusive Football Coaching CIC delivers weekly SEND football sessions in Huntingdonshire, giving children and young people with additional needs a safe, fun, and inclusive environment. The project removes barriers, improves health and wellbeing, builds confidence, and creates opportunities for families to connect through sport.	£3,000.00
CCG/35/25-26 Alconbury Recreation Field Charity Drilling to Reseed Football Pitches	The Alconbury Recreation Field Charity aims to improve the quality of life and wellbeing for all through a whole host of different activities and events. For our footballers regular outdoor training and matches promote both physical and emotional wellbeing for all players. In addition, families and friends of the teams plus other local people coming along to support also feel the benefit of exercise, fresh air and socialisation, which in turn helps to promote a sense of community and belonging which in turn enhance wellbeing.	• Improving the quality of life and wellbeing	Our five football pitches get heavy use with three adult teams and five junior teams training and playing matches on a weekly basis. With the weather having been so dry this spring and summer they have really suffered, despite us having restricted usage. We would like to be able to reseed them by having a specialist company drill the seed in enabling play to continue while the seed grows.	£1,000.00

CCG/36/25-26 Hilton Community Garden Polytunnel Refurbishment	I can't tick more than one on the form, but improving life and wellbeing by being outside, showing people how to grow crops, enabling conversations and friendships and keeping people out of crisis by giving them a purpose and routine of coming to the garden which is always open.	• Improving quality of life and wellbeing • Lowering carbon emissions	We want to improve the floor, which is dangerous and uneven, and recover the polytunnel. We also want to improve the beds in the poly tunnel as they currently flap over spilling soil onto the paths and purchase a watering system for the beds.	£1,000.00
CCG/37/25-26 7th & 8th Cambridgeshire FSE Marine Scout Group Campsite Improvements	We continue to offer outdoor activities for the scout community not just locally but also nationally. it has helped us have a site that can be used by all scouts no matter what organisation they belong to as well as their families and the wider community.	• Improving the quality of life and wellbeing	We have a site down meadow lane in St. Ives and are working towards making this a place that the young people can use for longer periods of time and help to get them outdoors and loving the outside world.	£1,850.00

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