



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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 19 NOVEMBER 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 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 12 day of November 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 – 19 November 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 £34,271.00 to applicants, leaving £18,785.27 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 £20,990.00 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 - 19 November 2025 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/38/25-26 (RQNJVZTQ) Huntingdon Riverside Gala Huntingdon Riverside Gala 2026	We provide music, life size dinosaurs, petting farm, live wrestling, fun dog show, punch & Judy, Bedford pipe band, performance arena acts, arts and crafts, rescue tortoises, balloon modelling all for free for the community of Huntingdon to enjoy, socialising is an important aspect of life, we encourage everyone to attend as there is so many free activities for all walks of life to participate in. We really do work hard to provide a fun filled day for the community to enjoy.	Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	A one day annual free entry community event, bringing together the community of Huntingdon for fun and enjoyment. We pride ourselves on providing as much free activities and entertainment as our budget allows, so that all the families in the community can benefit from this wonderful day.	£1,500
CCG/39/25-26 (DTKFQDVT) Houghton & Wyton Time Bank Playing field green area planting	This project will encourage social connections across our community, bringing people together to plant shrubs and a tree for the community to enjoy for the benefit of all for years to come.	Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	We have a small area (approx. 3m x 3m) near our playing field that would benefit from new shrubs and plants.	£500
CCG/40/25-26 (NDRRSCGR) Wistow Parish Council Playground remedial works	As Wistow is a remote village with limited facilities and public transport, the play park allows children and families to socialise and enjoy physical and mental stimulation. Without funding, the Parish Council cannot afford to fix the remedial works and cannot obtain any grant funding for new equipment from the national lottery until July 2026. The multiplay equipment is already sectioned off and is the largest piece of equipment in the play park which is used heavily by children and families in the community.	Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	Wistow Parish Council is a remote village with limited facilities and is applying for funds for remedial works to the unexpected play park works which is used by children in the village.	£1,000

CCG/41/25-26 (GPNRQGJN) Dramatic Irony Inclusive New Years Event	We want everyone to be able to have the same experiences and enjoyment, regardless of their background or circumstances. We want to create an inclusive event that give parents and children the feeling of a large family gathering for the New Year, where their own family may not be an option, or they are unable to due to financial challenges. We understand the festive period is one of immense financial pressure and challenges around childcare. We aim to help participants to have something to look forward to that eases these pressures and will help to improve the quality of their life, support positive wellbeing through community and social engagement, and foster a sense of belonging that will run far beyond the event	Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	We plan to host a New Years' Eve event for families, including those from single parent backgrounds, those facing financial barriers, and those with children with SEND. The event will be hosted on New Years' Eve, allowing families to come together for no cost, and to take into account the individual needs of parents and children.	£800
CCG/42/25-26 (SWFCMKJP) St Ives Free Church, Cambridgeshire. Replacement chairs for the community area within the church	This huge range of activities provides a social environment for community use and we wish to provide a comfortable, welcoming and safe environment for everyone.	Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	The present chairs are dilapidated and uncomfortable and have been in use for 45 years. The backs of the chairs fall off and are dangerous. The fabric is worn and shabby. We have embarked on a project to replace all 150 chairs.	£1000
CCG/43/25-26 (JQJGZSXG) Great Staughton Playing Field Committee Provision of Battery Storage	The proposal is to provide battery storage in the pavilion. This will supplement existing actions to reduce carbon emissions. The building is heated by an air source heat pump and recently has had significant work to improve the insulation. As use of the pavilion is not a consistent use over long periods but more peaks and troughs, the air source heat pump is having to maintain a constant temperature to optimise use at times when it is not needed thus creating an unnecessary	Lowering carbon emissions	The proposal is to provide battery storage in the pavilion. This will supplement existing actions to reduce carbon emissions. The building is heated by an air source heat pump and recently has had significant work to improve the insulation.	£2000

	electricity demand. The answer is to store power in a battery to enable the air source heat pump to work efficiently and provide adequate heat source without using unnecessary electricity			
CCG/44/25-26 (WKGWSFJG) Godmanchester Sports Lettings (Godmanchester /Rovers Football Club) Solar Panel Installation	Together, this project strengthens community connections, promotes health and inclusion, protects the environment, and ensures the club remains a sustainable and positive hub for everyone.	Lowering carbon emissions Helping people in crisis Keeping people out of crisis: Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	Godmanchester Rovers Football Club is installing solar panels to power our growing community sports facilities. This sustainable energy project will reduce carbon emissions, lower operating costs, and support long-term environmental responsibility while enabling more people of all ages and abilities to benefit from affordable, inclusive, year-round sporting opportunities.	£3,000
CCG/45/25-26 (PJPNPVXG) Hinchingsbrooke Hunters Flag Football Club Training Schedule	Our project directly supports improving the quality of life and well-being for local young people by promoting regular physical activity, community engagement, and positive social development. The Hinchingsbrooke Hunters Flag Football Club will deliver free training sessions (two sessions per month) for young people aged 11–17 across. Outcome Participants will experience improved physical and mental well-being, feel more connected to their peers and local community, and benefit from positive sporting experiences that support healthy development.	Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	2026 training sessions for Hinchingsbrooke Hunters Flag Football Club. Providing young people, 11-17 within Huntingdonshire, access to free Flag Football training sessions.	£1,920
CCG/46/25-26 (BSFZZJZV) Hilton Community Hub Food and Refreshments & Hall Hire	We know from experience and the positive change in attendees of the Hub that we impact positively on keeping people out of crisis and help people in crisis. One lady bereaved during the past year says her week revolves around coming to the weekly Community Hub. On a weekly basis, regularly benefiting on average 30 people per week.	Improving the quality of life and well-being for Everyone keeping people out of crisis Help people in crisis	We meet weekly to support community contact for all we have an 'Open Door' policy for all. We deliver hot drinks and refreshment, and a mid-day meal. Plus, speakers to enlighten and educate, craft activities to improve skills, cookery sessions to encourage new skills and healthy	£1,000

			eating, there is also a weekly quiz to promote discussion. And a relaxed social setting to support and build confidence for the bereaved, troubled and lonely.	
CCG/47/25-26 (DZHDTDCX) Ramsey Mereside Village Hall CIO Community Hub	We provide a safe space to meet new people over a hot drink or try out a new activity. All are welcome and this is helping to improve relationships and the mental health of many villagers.	Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	This is to provide refreshments (tea and coffee) and warm snack (soup and a roll)	£250
CCG/48/25-26 (GXVLNPKN) All Saints' Parish Church, Elton Servery Project - Floor Element	Within Elton village there is no other large community space than the church building, since the closure of the Methodist Chapel. There are regular events at the church such as coffee mornings, concerts and theatre productions. There are also key civic events such as Remembrance Sunday. The church always participates in village community events such as the tree trail, and the open village day. The servery area is used as a means of providing refreshments at all these events. It is the wish of the church to renovate this area and install a new bespoke servery area. I community events. However, before we can do this there is significant remedial work required to the floor area, which has dropped due to a rotted joist.	Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	Redevelopment of the servery area of the church to better facilitate community events. This requires, firstly, the renovation of the floor area to create a solid foundation. The kitchen area will then be redeveloped.	£1,000