



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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 17 DECEMBER 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 13 day of December 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 December 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 £37,771.00 to applicants, leaving £15,285.27 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 £24,490.00 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 - 17th December 2025 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/42/25-26 (SDFCCWC) St Ives Free Church, Cambridgeshire Replacement Chairs for the Community Area within the Church	The building is open every day of the week. There is a café open Monday Friday. A list of activities also occur on a weekly basis: 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. The Free Church is unique in providing a space for a huge range of activities catering for all ages. We need the space to be suitable for this diverse range of groups and by purchasing new lightweight chairs, which are easily stackable, we will be increasing the versatility of the space.	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.	£2,250
CCG/49/25-26 (FMBDZVFT) Little Miracles Charity, St Ives Inclusive Activity Sessions for Disabled Children	Families raising children with complex needs face significant barriers to inclusion. Many mainstream activities are inaccessible due to specialist requirements, high costs, or the absence of nonjudgemental spaces. As a result, children miss out on opportunities to play and develop, while parents and siblings often experience isolation. Our project directly addresses these challenges by offering monthly adapted sessions in St Ives. These affordable, inclusive sessions allow children with complex needs and their siblings to participate together.	Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone	Our project provides 12 monthly inclusive activity sessions for disabled children, their siblings, and families in St Ives. Activities such as swimming, bowling, roller skating, and bouncy castle play reduce isolation, improve wellbeing, and foster social connections for families who otherwise lack local, accessible support.	£1,350

CCG/50/25-26 (WJBHCHSP) 3rd St Neots (Wintringham) Scout Group New Group Start Up	<p>Scouting plays an important role in improving quality of life and well-being for people of all ages and backgrounds. It provides a safe, inclusive environment where both young people and volunteers can develop practical skills, resilience, and confidence. It encourages young people to lead active lifestyles, build friendships, and gain a sense of purpose, while also fostering values such as respect, responsibility, and kindness. By equipping individuals with life skills and creating opportunities for personal growth, Scouting can contribute to stronger communities and a healthier, happier society.</p>		<p>We are seeking funding support the establishment of a new Scout Group in Wintringham, St Neots. 3rd St Neots (Wintringham) Scout Group aims to provide young people with opportunities to develop skills for life through fun, adventure, and community involvement. As part of The Scout Association, we aim to support young people aged 4 to 14 in developing confidence, resilience, leadership, and teamwork, regardless of background or ability.</p>	£3,000
CCG/51/25-26 (BXWVMXJX) Houghton and Wyton Timebank Wyton Village Defibrillator	<p>The defibrillator will provide a vital lifeline for Wyton Village residents. Many elderly or vulnerable residents live in the surrounding properties. This defibrillator would also service the village pub which is a short distance away from the Pumping Station, and families who live in the surrounding area. The local Timebank will be arranging free CPR and Defibrillator training for residents once the new defibrillator is in place.</p>	<p>Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone</p>	<p>There is currently no defibrillator in this part of the village - the nearest one is in Houghton at the Sports Pavilion. This defibrillator would provide a vital lifeline to Wyton residents, particular those who are elderly.</p>	£1,200
CCG/52/25-26 (BHHKCZMZ) Southoe Village Hall Village Hall Storage	<p>The village hall is the only usable building in the village hence the reason for our commitment to move forward with as many improvements as Possible to benefit people locally.</p>	<p>Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone</p>	<p>The hall is now user freindly,and offers somewhere all age groups can meet, we are encouraging more people to use the hall, therefore storage for their equipment is important. This would be a Keter shed which is maintenance free and is lockable and secure.</p>	£1,000