



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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 21 JANUARY 2026
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 14 day of January 2026

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 - 14)

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 – 21 January 2026

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 £42,721.00 to applicants, leaving £10,335.27 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 - 21st January 2026 - Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/53/25-26 (FWZFPNCX) CARESCO CARESCO Centre Guttering and Corridor heater	<p>The CARESCO Centre hosts the Green End Day Club, Chatterbox Carers Group, Sounds Good Music Group, Coffee Shop and Community Strength and Balance Classes. volunteers and visitors to the Centre average 200+ per month. The Centre is also used for Management and Trustee meetings and Quiz nights for the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for Everyone Lower carbon emissions 	<p>Replace the faulty 25 years old corridor heater. Replacing it with a modern energy efficient heater will improve heat output, lower the charities significant heating costs and benefit our service users and the the environment. The guttering at the back of the CARESCO Centre is very old, cracked and broken contributing to water pooling at the base of the building. We have installed a water butt but are not getting the maximum amount saved that we could. The garden at the back of the Centre is used by all groups, staff and volunteers in the warmer months. This will increase the life of the guttering significantly, prevent water loss, prevent damage to the building and ensure it is safe when the garden is used again in Spring 2026.</p>	£560.00

<p>CCG/54/25-26 (FTRWFMRK)</p> <p>The Wire Community Badminton Club</p> <p>The Wire Community Inclusion & Wellbeing Badminton Project</p>	<p>The project increases access to regular physical activity for juniors, adult beginners, women, low income families, and ethnic minority groups. Badminton provides a positive outlet for physical health, mental wellbeing, confidence building, and social interaction. Offering free equipment and subsidised access ensures financial hardship does not prevent participation, supporting those at risk of inactivity, loneliness, or declining wellbeing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and well-being for Everyone • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis 	<p>A weekly community badminton programme at HBK Leisure for juniors and adult beginners, providing inclusive, low-barrier physical activity to improve wellbeing, build social connections, and support low-income and minority communities. The project includes equipment provision, beginner coaching, volunteer training, and community outreach to increase participation across Huntingdonshire. There is no comparable community badminton programme for juniors and adult beginners in the Huntingdon area. Local clubs are predominantly competitive and not beginner-focused.</p>	<p>£3,000</p>
<p>CCG/55/25-26 (NLHVDHFT)</p> <p>All Saints' Church, Morborne- from fragile to Forever</p> <p>All Saints' Morborne, from fragile to forever</p>	<p>The project would primarily tackle the theme of 'Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone' by securing the future of All Saints' Church for the congregation, local people and visitors to Morborne and the surrounding countryside. Churches and the church community also have an important role in helping people in crisis, and keeping people out of crisis. We have received messages of support from many of the villagers. Morborne is a popular place for recreation- e.g. walking, birdwatching and cycling. Once the church is in a safe and weatherproof condition, it will be available for everyone to enjoy, and we hope to make it a place to showcase the history of the church and village, as well as the wider environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis 	<p>All Saints' Church is on the heritage at risk register. The key problem is the state of the roof, which is leaking badly, and causing further damage. We urgently need to make the building weatherproof to prevent further deterioration.- We would use the grant to cover the majority of the examination and replacement of the timbers with English Oak.</p>	<p>£3,000</p>

<p>CCG/56/25-26 (TBTFVDNJ)</p> <p>Pidley Cum Fenton Village Hall</p> <p>Pidley Community Centre Warm Space/Coffee Mornings</p>	<p>It will improve people's quality of life and wellbeing as it will tackle loneliness and hunger, as quite often we provide tea/coffee cakes and bacon rolls/sausage sandwiches. We can also provide a warm inviting space for families to attend.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone 	<p>We are aware a lot of the elderly in Pidley are unable to get out of the village and we would like to make the community centre a place for people to be able to come and have a cup of tea and a chat. The cost of electricity has crippled the charity this year, so we are in need of some funds to cover the cost of electricity. Our own funds are required for the roof of the building, as it will need replacing shortly due to several leaks, this is an old school building and will cost a lot to replace.</p>	<p>£1,000</p>
<p>CCG/57/25-26 (KSFKDCXH)</p> <p>St Ives Carnival and Music Festival</p> <p>St Ives Carnival and Music Festival 2026</p>	<p>The festival is free to attend, accessible, and family-friendly, providing opportunities for social connection, physical activity, and cultural enrichment.</p> <p>By fostering community cohesion and reducing isolation, the event supports mental health and resilience, particularly for vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The festival offers a safe, supportive environment, with dedicated spaces and activities for those with additional needs, and signposting to local support services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone Keeping people out of crisis Helping people in crisis 	<p>St Ives Carnival and Music Festival brings the community together with live music, family entertainment, local food, and a vibrant summer atmosphere. It's a colourful, creative celebration that welcomes all ages and showcases the spirit of St Ives. We are looking to provide a different level of entertainment this year that focuses on being more inclusive and offering a wider range of event types across the weekend. This will ensure that people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities can take part in activities that suit their needs and feel welcome throughout the festival.</p>	<p>£1,500</p>

<p>CCG/58/25-26 (RCNZDGXP)</p> <p>Ramsey (Cromwell Abbey) Neighbourhood Watch (No. 000184755)</p> <p>Community defibrillator and emergency bleed kit in Cromwell Abbey, Ramsey</p>	<p>This project delivers a clear and tangible improvement to local quality of life by addressing a recognised gap in emergency health infrastructure in the Cromwell Abbey area. The development and its neighbouring estates currently have no publicly accessible defibrillator within a realistic response distance, despite serving around 100 households and bordering rural footpaths and adjacent developments. The nearest existing publicly accessible defibrillator requires a walk of approximately ten minutes each way, meaning a round trip of around 20 minutes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone • Keeping people out of crisis • Helping people in crisis 	<p>This project will install a publicly accessible defibrillator in a central, highly visible communal location serving the Cromwell Abbey development in Ramsey and the surrounding residential areas. The project includes a solar and wind powered, heated outdoor cabinet (using a low-noise, discreet turbine), a fully automatic defibrillator (AED) and an emergency bleed control kit stored alongside the device. This will provide 24/7 access and help ensure the equipment remains operational year-round, including in winter when reduced daylight and overcast conditions can limit solar generation, with wind generation providing additional resilience without reliance on mains electricity.</p>	<p>£3,000</p>
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CCG/59/25-26 (QJRVVDJQ) Yaxley Vintage Festival Yaxley Vintage Festival 2026	<p>Now in its 9th year and the longest running community event in Yaxley. Entry is free to all. there are displays and activities for all ages. The attendance has grown over the years with 2025 exceeding 3000. There is zero staff as all volunteers but we have approx 20 of those</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone 	<p>Yaxley Vintage Festival is a community event that was born to showcase vintage vehicles and machinery that families do not get to usually see, and to provide an education of these lost and historic machines and vehicles. The event provides an educational opportunity to showcase traditional and vintage machinery including traditional methods.</p>	£1,057
CCG/60/25-26 (TXVRTDNR) Particle Community Group PA equipment for performing arts events	<p>Our community group launched in September 2025 with a series of concerts on St Neots Market Square to coincide with the Farm & Craft Market. These are funded by St Neots Town Council and delivered using some basic equipment provided by the Town Council, plus other borrowed equipment. Having our own, better quality PA equipment will improve the quality of these events and allow us to host larger musical ensembles. It will also allow us to deliver other events outside of the existing Town Council contract without needing to hire equipment on a per-event basis. This will significantly increase our ability to put on high quality events that are free (in public spaces such as the Market Square) or at affordable ticket prices (in local venues that we hire).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone 	<p>The purchase of PA equipment is presented here as a stand-alone application. Other funding sources (including St Neots Town Council and charitable grants) will be used for the delivery of events that this equipment will put us in a better position to deliver.</p>	£2,873

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