



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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Tuesday, 24 MARCH 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 17 day of March 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 - 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 – 24 May 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 £56,606.27.

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 £56,606.27.

2.2 From the commencement of the 2025/26 financial year, the panel has committed £52,814.00 to applicants, leaving £3,792.27 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 £14,750.00 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 - 24 March 2026 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/66/25-26 (RJFPPQTG) The Fenland Road Safety Campaign (Charlotte's Way) Speed cushions & designated crossing	The combined speed cushions and designated crossing project is intended to promote and preserve the safety of students attending the college, and all accessing the adjacent leisure centre, reassuring affected local families of the safe passage of their loved ones, and to promote healthier lives by promoting walking and cycling, rather than motorised transport, as the optimum modes of traveling to and from the College and Leisure Centre, for those who are able. It is hoped that promotion of pedestrian and cyclist travelling to and from the College and Leisure Centre will also help to reduce carbon emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone Lowering carbon emissions 	To secure installation of speed cushions and designated crossing on Hollow Lane, Ramsey, to promote safe transit of student pedestrians and cyclists to and from the College, and all others transiting Hollow Lane to access the College and adjacent Leisure Centre.	£3000
CCG/67/25-26 (BNRKBVHT) Od Hurst Village Hall Od Hurst Village Hall Rebuild	The demolition of Old Hurst's former village hall, deemed no longer fit for use, has left the community without an essential space for social, educational, and recreational activities. This loss has negatively impacted residents' quality of life by removing a key venue for gathering and connection. Rebuilding the hall would restore these opportunities, helping reduce isolation and strengthen community engagement. Plans for the new hall include a small car park to improve accessibility, and its central location means most residents will be able to walk there easily. Overall, the project aims to create an inclusive, accessible facility at the heart of village life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone 	Focus is to raise funds to construct a new accessible village hall after the original hall was demolished due to being unsafe. Statutory and fundraisings costs have been achieved but we would like help with other preliminary building costs at this crucial stage whilst moving forward to achieve planning permission.	£3000
CCG/68/25-26 (LRVHKLPN)	When you are disabled, on a low income and facing rising prices for food, fuel and rent, even a small cut or delay in benefits can push you from "just about	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping people in crisis 	We help people with disabilities and older people navigate an extremely complex and often	£3000

<p>Disability Huntingdonshire (Dish)</p> <p>Here to Help</p>	<p>managing" into crisis overnight. At the same time, the specialist advice services that help people navigate this system have never been more needed or more at risk. Our clients rarely face only a benefits problem. Many are living with food, fuel and utility poverty, isolation and loss of community, alongside the unique challenges of rural transport and access in Cambridgeshire. All our support is personalised and relational: clients work with a consistent caseworker, backed by volunteer phone buddies who provide emotional support when the process becomes overwhelming. We also run outreach in community venues reaching those who would never travel to an office.</p>		<p>hostile disability benefits system so they can have the income they need to live independently. We advise on and support applications for Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Attendance Allowance (AA) and other disability related benefits, and we stay with people all the way to tribunal if their claims are initially denied.</p>	
<p>CCG/69/25-26 (DMHLWFSL)</p> <p>Samuel Pepys Special school</p> <p>Grafham Water Adventure Day</p>	<p>A trip to Grafham Water would provide pupils with meaningful opportunities to improve their quality of life and well-being. The calm, natural environment offers rich sensory experiences that support regulation, reduces stress, and promotes emotional stability. Activities such as feeling the breeze, hearing natural sounds, and exploring outdoor textures help pupils engage with their surroundings in a safe and accessible way. Being outdoors also encourages social interaction, shared enjoyment, and positive relationships, helping pupils feel included and connected. These experiences build confidence, support communication, and contribute to overall happiness and well-being.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone 	<p>We are looking to fund some of our young people to go on a trip to Grafham Water to help expand their independence skills and explore different activities that they may not ordinarily access.</p>	<p>£950</p>
<p>CCG/70/25-26 (KWBTFFHPV)</p> <p>Godmanchester Town Show Committee</p>	<p>The annual Godmanchester Town Show is an event which aims to enhance the community engagement of the residents of Godmanchester, bringing together people from different backgrounds and nationalities in a friendly yet competitive event held within a social afternoon of socialising and engagement. People can benefit from enjoying activities of gardening,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone 	<p>Our show provides opportunities for any Godmanchester resident to showcase their talents/skills in various hobbies and interests from growing vegetables to art and cooking. Anyone in the community can benefit from competing in the</p>	<p>£546</p>

<p>Godmanchester Town Show 2026</p>	<p>creating handicraft items or painting to enter into the show- thus contributing towards their well-being. The main part of the show is the competition aspect where residents of Godmanchester of any age can showcase their skills and talents in many areas of life including growing fruit and vegetables, flower growing and arranging, cookery, various handicraft skills, photography and art, including specific class for children. On the day there is plenty going on to entertain visitors of all ages; live music to listen to, refreshments to enjoy, art, craft and sporting activities for younger visitors and a wide range of craft stalls to browse in addition to the opportunity to view and admire all the entries that have been submitted to the competition.</p>		<p>show and/or attending on the day to socialise, thus improving community cohesion and resident wellbeing.</p>	
<p>CCG/71/25-26 (XHNLPXR) North Eastern Huntingdonshire Table Tennis Club The Lion Community Hub</p>	<p>The project aims to bring an unused property in Ramsey St. Mary's back into community use by creating a versatile facility that residents and nearby communities can hire for a wide range of activities. These include group meetings, social clubs, arts and crafts workshops, tabletop games, indoor sports such as table tennis, carpet bowls, martial arts, yoga, cornhole, and line dancing, as well as events like exhibitions, seminars, training sessions, and birthday celebrations. By providing local access to these activities, the facility will improve wellbeing, reduce social isolation, and lower carbon emissions by limiting the need to travel elsewhere. As part of its launch, the table tennis club will run free taster sessions open to all members of the community, including people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, while visitors explore the building's progress and potential for hire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone • Lowering carbon emissions 	<p>The project is to convert The Lion public house situated in the heart of Ramsey St. Mary's into a variety of community spaces and an indoor sports hub, for the whole community to utilise. As this property has been sitting empty and unloved for coming up to 6 years.</p>	<p>£1000</p>

<p>CCG/72/25-26 (NQWDTCSJ)</p> <p>Fenstanton Short Mat Bowls and Social Club</p> <p>Fenstanton Short Mat Bowls and Social Club</p>	<p>We will improve the quality of life by giving regular opportunities for exercise for all abilities, including elderly and disabled. We will also have a strong emphasis on the social aspect which will help to reduce loneliness and isolation by offering regular opportunities to meet, make friends and be part of the community. Having the facility in the village means people wont have to travel to other villages or to Huntingdon to take part as some do now. It will also encourage people from our outdoor bowls club (60 members) to participate in Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone Page 2 of 4 the winter months offering exercise and social interaction, all year round</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone 	<p>We wish to start a local short mat bowls club in our new community hall which will be completed in July this year. the project will provide physical activity suitable for all ages and abilities. It will support well being and combat social isolation. It will give a facility that in the village so people do not have to travel for the activity</p>	<p>£3000</p>
<p>CCG/73/25-26 (PCPCRXHJ)</p> <p>Citizen Hub St Neots</p> <p>Citizen Hub Gatherings-Chairs</p>	<p>Citizen and Business Leaders Gatherings create a regular, inclusive space where residents, employers, voluntary groups, and public services can meet, collaborate, and shape local priorities. By fostering connection, they reduce isolation, strengthen community belonging, and help identify challenges early—whether financial, employment-related, or linked to wellbeing—allowing timely, supportive referrals to Hub services.</p> <p>For those already in crisis, the gatherings offer direct access to partners and advice in a non-stigmatising setting. The chairs purchased will also support a wide range of Hub activities, including workshops, volunteer training, skills sessions, and support groups, increasing the Hub’s overall capacity for both preventative and crisis-response work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone • Helping people in crisis 	<p>Citizen Hub St Neots is seeking funding to purchase additional stackable chairs to support growing attendance at our Citizen and Business Leaders Gatherings and community events. The chairs will increase accessibility, enable wider participation, and ensure residents can safely engage in local decision-making, skills sessions, and wellbeing activities.</p>	<p>£1000</p>