



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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 20 AUGUST 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 ☎ 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 August 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 – 20 August 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 £15,123.00 to applicants, leaving £37,923.27 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 £16,140.00 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 - 20 August 2025 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/21/25-26 Godmanchester Town Show 2025 Event	<p>The show is an ideal opportunity for people to come together and create social connections which improve their well-being. We aim to be environmentally friendly in terms of materials we use. Preparing entries for the show provides physical and mental health benefits to entrants in terms of being out in the fresh air growing fruit and veg or flowers. Art, handicraft and photography promote quality of life and well-being. On the day of the show – enjoying a day out with entertainment, refreshments, company of friends and neighbours is beneficial to people’s well-being and provides opportunities to strengthen social connections within the community. Holding the event at the Community Nursery allows visitors to enjoy an afternoon in beautiful surroundings, with opportunities to enjoy the natural environment, meet local people and catch up with friends.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>This annual event is an opportunity for all Godmanchester residents, young to old, to connect and showcase their skills and talents. Classes include fruit, vegetable and flower growing, art and craft, cookery and photography, with several categories for children. On the day we have entertainment, stalls to browse and refreshments.</p>	£468.00
CCG/22/25-26 Somersham Parish Council's - Changing Lives Caring for Carers	<p>Improving the quality of life for both the carer & cared for with: - Providing a safe space to reduce the effects of social isolation, where carers & cared for can mix with likeminded peers. Keeping people out of crisis and helping people in crisis: - Access to information for both financial & practical support such as Adult social care, grants, benefits overview, what if plan, SUN Network, People Plus, Police Pegasus Scheme & Age UK etc. - Offering Workshops & wellbeing sessions such as First Aid & will writing, Mindfulness, Art, Sound Therapy, mini massage & pamper sessions etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>A free to attend community space support group for carers (especially unpaid) and their cared for to socialise with others in similar situations. The group will offer talks, workshops & activities providing practical information & support with both mental & physical wellbeing.</p>	£1,000.00

CCG/23/25-26 The Hobby Hub Yaxley CIC Self-Help Skills and Support Hub	<p>The Self-Help, Skills & Support Hub wants to help in improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all members of the community by providing a welcoming and supportive environment where people can build confidence and practical skills across a wide range of everyday challenges. We think by offering access to self-help resources on topics such as DIY repairs, sewing, budgeting, parenting, mental wellbeing, and much more, we can help people to take control of their lives and find solutions in a calm, inclusive space. As we are offering this within a space which has some of the tools to help with particularly the DIY and sewing skills, we feel that the project helps reduce feelings of isolation by encouraging connections through shared learning and informal peer support at our men shed and hobby hub. We want the environment provided to ensure that people of all abilities and backgrounds feel comfortable accessing the support and information they need, without pressure or judgment. We feel that by equipping people with the knowledge and confidence to manage small household repairs, personal challenges, and practical tasks independently, the hub contributes to preventing difficulties from escalating into crises. This early intervention holistic approach supports wellbeing on a wider scale.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>We want to create a calm, inclusive Self-Help Skills & Support Space offering self-guided resources, a self-help library, digital access, and sensory-friendly seating. The space will help build confidence in practical life skills and support everyday challenges, including parenting, budgeting, and caring for your wellbeing.</p>	£2,800.00
CCG/24/25-26 Woodhurst Village Hall Village Hall Refit	<p>Improving quality of life - We hope to significantly increase the number of social interactions and draw in more isolated members of the community by providing more opportunities for interactions with opportunities for lunches, themed food related evenings and regular social events that require useable facilities. By improving levels of engagement, we hope to reach more of the isolated individuals in our rural community. Updated facilities will be able to improve our aim to provide a winter warm hub more regularly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>Our current kitchen is unsuitable for food preparation and poses a health and safety issue with appliances and electrics that are 30+ years old. We want to increase community engagement by providing more events to cover providing food and a more useable space</p>	£3,000.00

CCG/25/25-26 Refuge Wellbeing Support Fund	<p>This project directly improves the quality of life and wellbeing of women and children living in our refuge, many of whom have experienced significant trauma due to domestic abuse. Victim/survivors often arrive in refuge experiencing high levels of stress, anxiety, and social isolation, having fled unsafe environments and left behind support networks, homes, and possessions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping people in crisis 	<p>This project will provide a flexible wellbeing fund for women and children victim/survivors of domestic abuse (DA) living in refuge in Huntingdonshire. It offers access to uplifting, resident-led activities such as cultural trips and self-care treatments to support recovery by improving mental wellbeing, reducing isolation, and helping rebuild positive, connected families.</p>	£3,000.00
CCG/26/25-26 Citizen Hub St Neots CIC Courtyard Activation: Green Space for Wellbeing	<p>Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone. The courtyard will become a welcoming greenspace for all ages — ideal for reflection, social connection, or participation in informal learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving quality of life and wellbeing 	<p>We'd like to transform our overlooked courtyard at the Citizen Hub into a vibrant, welcoming outdoor space that promotes mental wellbeing, supports people in crisis, and offers informal opportunities for skill-building and connection. This small but powerful project will introduce raised planters for accessible gardening and calming decorative elements. It will create a therapeutic space for young people, isolated adults, and those in crisis to decompress, connect, and take part in low-pressure green activities.</p>	£3,000.00

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