

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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 16 SEPTEMBER 2026
Name of Individual Executive Councillors who will consider the items:	Councillors D Mickelburgh and N Hunt
Subject of item(s) to be considered:	Community Chest Grant Aid Awards to Voluntary Organisations 2026/27.
Summary of item(s) to be considered:	To consider the applications that have been submitted to the Community Chest 2026/27 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 7 day of September 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 2026/27 (Pages 3 - 12)

To consider applications received via the Community Chest Awards Scheme for 2026/27 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 2026/27

Meeting/Date: Grants Panel – 16 September 2026

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Communities, Health and Leisure
– Councillor D Mickelburgh

Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance
– Councillor N Hunt

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 July 2026. Applications must be for projects based in Huntingdonshire and where a significant majority of beneficiaries are Huntingdonshire residents.

The previous budget for 2025/26 was spent in year. With no unspent funds to carry forward, the total budget for 2026/27 is £30,000.

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 £800 per year to help keep these facilities and activities open.

Recommendation(s):

- a) To consider applications submitted to the Community Chest 2026/27 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 2026/27 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 2026/27, £30,000 was set aside for the Community Chest Award Scheme. With no unspent funds to carry forward from 2025/26, the total budget available for the panel to use in 2026/27 is £30,000.
- 2.2 From the commencement of the 2026/27 financial year, the panel has committed £4,627.79 to applicants, leaving £30,000 available for the remainder of 2026/27.
- 2.3 The maximum amounts that can be applied for have been increased and now stand at:
- a. £800 for Community Spaces,
 - b. £1,000 for community events, and
 - c. £2,500 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 £5,000.00 worth of grants awarded remain awaiting payment from previous years.

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 2026/27, 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 2026/27 scheme must be used against projects applied for and approved in the 2026/27 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 2026/27.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The funding of £30,000 allocated to the Community Chest 2026/27 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 2026/27.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

[Appendix 1 - Huntingdonshire District Council Community Chest 2026/27 – Funding Criteria](#)

[Appendix 2 – Community Spaces](#)

Appendix 3 - List of applications received, with officer comments.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Chest 2026/27 Eligibility Criteria

CONTACT OFFICER

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Huntingdonshire District Council - Community Chest Awards - 16 September 2026 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/10/26-27 (GHXFWFBM) Hilton Community Garden Sustainability Improvements to the Community Garden	The garden provides a safe space for people to come and relax and to meet others in a neutral setting. It is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and people can either go to enjoy the fresh air, sit quietly or meet others there for conversation and companionship. we have begun to make links with social prescribers and the local GP practice to encourage this. The weekly garden parties encourage physical activity for all ages, enables companionship for everyone and helps people to think about how to garden and grow food to eat.	• Helping people in crisis • Keeping people out of crisis • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	The garden was originally secured with rabbit proof fencing. Unfortunately, the fencing has been cut meaning rabbits can now access the garden. We also want to introduce water saving strategies to sustain the garden. We want to invite the community to a tea party in the garden when this is completed.	£1,000.00
CCG/11/26-27 (HCRTBRMQ) Yaxley Parish Council Yaxley Community Fridge (Fridge Replacement)	The Yaxley Community Fridge reduces food waste and carbon emissions by redistributing surplus food that would otherwise be discarded. It provides free access to food for everyone without stigma, helping residents facing financial pressures, unexpected costs or temporary hardship. The project can prevent people from falling into crisis while also supporting those already struggling. In addition, it promotes community wellbeing by bringing people together, reducing social isolation and helping households stretch their budgets. Overall, the Community Fridge delivers both environmental and social benefits, creating a more sustainable, resilient and connected community.	• Lowering carbon emissions • Helping people in crisis • Keeping people out of crisis • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	To purchase a new tall free-standing freezer and a new commercial display refrigerator	£800.00

CCG/12/26-27 (NDXNSLQP) Woodhurst Village Hall Woodhurst Craft Club	Woodhurst Craft Club is a volunteer-led group that meets weekly and primarily supports older residents by providing regular social contact, reducing isolation, and promoting wellbeing through creative activities. The club also addresses a lack of accessible craft opportunities for children and young people, including through its annual children's craft afternoon. Members contribute to village life by creating decorations and displays for community events and church projects, helping to strengthen community identity and cohesion. The project aims to expand activities, improve accessibility, and increase participation from younger residents, while continuing to support mental wellbeing, confidence, skill development, and social connections.	Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	An ongoing project providing weekly craft sessions, specialist workshops, shared materials, and intergenerational activities to reduce isolation, improve wellbeing, and strengthen community connections. The project will support older residents, attract younger participants, and enhance creative contributions to village events and displays.	£2,500.00
CCG/13/26-27 (DFCJVGPD) Woodhurst Village Hall Woodhurst Together Residents Group	Woodhurst Together aims to reduce loneliness and social isolation in the village by creating flexible and inclusive opportunities for residents to get involved in community life. The project recognises that older residents, newcomers, remote workers and others can become isolated, while increasing work and family commitments make traditional volunteering roles harder to sustain. By offering low-commitment ways to participate, the group seeks to strengthen social connections, improve health and wellbeing, encourage volunteering, support new residents to integrate, and build a more resilient community. The initiative also aims to help residents play an active role in shaping the future of the village, its community buildings and green spaces.	Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	Woodhurst Together is a resident led community group created to bring people together through inclusive events, activities and village initiatives. This project will create new opportunities for residents of all ages to meet, make friends, volunteer and become more involved in village life. It will complement the work of the parish council, village hall and church by coordinating additional social activities and community initiatives that are open to everyone. The group will help build a stronger, more connected and more resilient community.	£2,500.00

CCG/14/26-27 (NFKVJJKW) The Kite Trust Huntingdon LGBTQ+ Youth Group	This project aims to improve the wellbeing and quality of life of LGBTQ+ young people in Huntingdon by providing safe, inclusive youth groups and opportunities to build positive connections within their communities. LGBTQ+ young people face higher rates of poor mental health, self-harm, anxiety, depression and social isolation, as well as significant barriers in education and experiences of bullying. Using the NHS Five Ways to Wellbeing framework, the project offers activities that help young people develop friendships, confidence, skills, resilience and supportive peer networks. Programmes are shaped by the needs and interests of participants and include workshops, social activities and leadership opportunities. The project creates affirming spaces where young people feel safe, valued and able to be themselves, helping them achieve better personal, social and professional outcomes. Funding would support the continuation of this work in Huntingdon, where there is an identified need for dedicated LGBTQ+ youth provision despite a sizeable local LGBTQ+ population.	Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	A fortnightly youth group in Huntingdon for LGBTQ+ young people to support improved wellbeing, skill development, and reduction of isolation. Activities will include workshops, skill sharing, arts and crafts, sports, and leisure activities. All activity is aimed at supporting improved outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth and connection to their local community.	£2,500.00
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CCG/15/26-27 (BZGVHTGL) Cambridgeshire Army Cadets 2 Company Outdoor Skills & Expedition Equipment Project	This project will increase opportunities for young people in Huntingdonshire to take part in outdoor activities, navigation training and Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. Through instructor-led group activities, participants develop physical fitness, confidence, resilience, independence, teamwork and social connections. The project will support up to 80 cadets each year and deliver several Bronze DofE expeditions. Funding will be used to create a shared pool of outdoor equipment, removing cost barriers for families, improving accessibility, and enabling the organisation to provide higher-quality training. The reusable equipment will benefit future groups of young people for many years.	• Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	To establish a shared outdoor equipment pool enabling young people across Huntingdonshire to access navigation, expedition and Duke of Edinburgh's Award activities. The project will remove financial barriers to participation while developing outdoor skills, physical activity, confidence, resilience and teamwork through progressive training delivered by trained volunteer instructors.	£2,500.00
CCG/16/26-27 (XQVRKKNR) Tiny Heartbeat Heroes UK CPR Training Equipment Project	Tiny Heartbeat Heroes UK supports people in crisis and helps keep people out of crisis by giving parents, carers and local families the practical skills to respond if a baby or child stops breathing, chokes, or needs emergency CPR. The project is needed because many parents and carers have never received hands-on paediatric CPR training. Our charity was created after our own baby stopped breathing at 7 weeks old and we had to perform CPR before paramedics arrived. That experience showed us how important it is for families to have these skills before an emergency happens. The new toddler CPR manikins will allow more people to practise properly during each workshop, improving confidence, knowledge and emergency response in the community.	• Helping people in crisis • Keeping people out of crisis • Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	To purchase a pack of four toddler CPR training manikins so Tiny Heartbeat Heroes UK can deliver more free, hands-on paediatric CPR and choking workshops for parents, carers and local families, improving confidence and lifesaving skills in a child emergency.	£1,263.59