



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

Date when item(s) to be considered:	Wednesday, 21 OCTOBER 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 15 day of October 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 - 14)

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 – 21 October 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 £10,241.38 to applicants, leaving £19,758.62 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 - 21 October 2026 Grant Panel Applications

Project Name/Applicant	Priority Focus	Criteria Met	Project Description	Amount Requested
CCG/17/26-27 (FGWBMMQW) Kym Valley Carpet Bowls Club New Bowling Mats	Encouraging physical activity and supporting social connections across communities. New members join and stay but we need to attract new younger members only having good equipment can we do this.	Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	Encouraging physical activity and supporting social connections across communities. New members join and stay but we need to attract new younger members only having good equipment can we do this.	£1,000
CCG/18/26-27 (DJWRLCHK) The Engine Room Plan Defibrillator	The Engine Room project in Sawtry aims to improve physical and mental wellbeing by providing an inclusive, community-focused space where residents can take part in fitness, exercise and boxing activities. The project seeks to engage people of all ages and abilities, particularly those who may face barriers to traditional sport or physical activity, including young people, women, older residents and adaptive athletes. Through regular exercise, social interaction and a supportive environment, The Engine Room will promote healthier lifestyles, build confidence, reduce social isolation and strengthen community connections. Ultimately, the project will serve as a community hub that supports the Council's priorities of increasing physical activity, improving wellbeing, fostering social connectedness and taking a preventative approach to health.	Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	We are opening a community fitness centre in Sawtry, holding physical and mental health classes (fitness and wellbeing), and boxing classes. We also hope to become a boxing club creating a hub for a youth programme. We need a defibrillator for safety purposes.	£1,200

CCG/19/26-27 (KMPPMFRXQ) RCCG Amazing Grace Huntingdon Community Energy Saving Project	The project will reduce carbon emissions by installing solar panels and battery storage, enabling the building to generate and store renewable energy on-site and reduce reliance on grid electricity. This will lower greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and provide long-term environmental benefits. The project will also serve as a practical demonstration of climate action for the congregation and wider community, encouraging the uptake of renewable energy and energy-saving measures. In addition, savings on energy costs can be reinvested into community and charitable activities, delivering environmental, financial and social benefits.	Lowering Carbon emissions	We seek funding to install solar panels and energy-saving technology at our church and community building. This project will reduce energy costs and carbon emissions, creating a more sustainable future. Savings will directly support our community outreach, youth activities, food support and charitable services, enabling us to help more local people.	£2,500
CCG/20/26-27 (XSMXPQCZ & LGDZWTVX) St Mary's Parish Church Warm Space	Church Hall Community Support We are aware that a number of people in our local community are experiencing mental health difficulties, loneliness and financial pressures. We would like to open the church hall for a few hours each day as a warm, safe and welcoming place where people can come and spend time with others. We will provide hot drinks, soup and some simple food, helping to reduce the cost of living while also providing an opportunity for companionship, conversation and support. Our aim is to create a friendly and welcoming space.	Helping people in crises Keeping people out of crises Improving the quality of life for everyone	heating 5 months open for the public- Warm Welcome Space We would like to open the church hall as a warm and welcoming space for vulnerable and isolated members of our community. Visitors will be able to come in, keep warm, meet others and enjoy hot drinks and homemade soup in a friendly and welcoming environment. The aim is to provide a safe place where people can find companionship, conversation and practical support, particularly during the colder months.	£2,500

CCG/21/26-27 (XHJPLKWN) Money Advice St Neots CMA Conference 2026	The charity provides free, confidential and independent debt advice to residents of St Neots and the surrounding area, supporting people in financial crisis through guidance on debt solutions such as Debt Management Plans, Debt Relief Orders, Administration Orders and bankruptcy. It also offers budget coaching to help people manage their finances, avoid debt and improve their financial resilience. Funding to attend a debt advice conference will enable three advisers to receive up-to-date training and share best practice with similar organisations, ensuring clients continue to receive high-quality, informed support. The project contributes to reducing financial hardship, improving wellbeing and helping residents avoid future crises.	Helping people in crises Keeping people out of crises	To allow attendance by three debt advisors advisers at the annual Community Money Advice conference.	£664
CCG/22/26-27 (TCGKRLSB) Bluntisham Parish Council Bluntisham Heritage Trail	The project will create an inclusive village walking route that encourages residents of all ages and abilities to be physically active while exploring Bluntisham. Alternative accessible routes will be identified to ensure participation is available to as many people as possible. The initiative aims to promote community involvement, encourage social connections and support wellbeing through walking. It will also highlight the village's rich history by promoting the existing heritage website and encouraging residents to learn more about and preserve their local heritage.	Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	We are producing a trail around the village (maximum 3 miles) which identifies historic areas, places of interest and local businesses. We will also be introducing some new features for the younger ages to identify (Dinky doors)	£800

CCG/23/26-27 (WLXQZDHK) Pidley-Cum-Fenton Community Centre Heating/Oil Tank Replacement and Re Siting	We need to do this project to maintain heating for the hall and a comfortable environment for our many and varied Community events. We serve our local community which is around 300 individuals and more and we are being visited by Patrons from surrounding villages, so potentially another 100.	Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	Our existing oil tank has ruptured, leaking oil and is an environmental hazard. Due to legislation the tank must be re replaced and re-sited further away from the main building.	£2,500
CCG/24/26-27 (DVGWFLGL) Huntingdonshire Community Gaming Club Inclusive Youth & Family Sessions	This project will provide a calm, structured and sensory-friendly community space for neurodivergent children and young people, including those with autism, ADHD and sensory processing difficulties, who may find traditional youth groups and sports clubs inaccessible. Through shared digital and tabletop activities, participants can build friendships and social connections, while parents and carers develop valuable peer-support networks. By offering early, inclusive community support, the project aims to reduce social isolation, emotional distress and carer burnout, helping to prevent families from reaching crisis point. Demand for the service has already been demonstrated, with 27 Huntingdonshire families pre-registering shortly after community outreach due to the lack of similar provision in the area.	Keeping people out of crisis Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	Huntingdonshire Community Gaming Club provides fortnightly, sensory-friendly tabletop and video gaming sessions for local children, youth, and families, particularly those with neurodiverse needs. The project offers a welcoming, calm community space tackling social isolation through inclusive play, structured board games, portable digital gaming, and dedicated sensory breakout resources.	£1,000

CCG/25/26-27 (RXWRNCNX) Southoe Parochial Church Council Tables For All-Community Hub Project Tables	The Hub Project aims to improve community wellbeing and reduce isolation in a village with limited opportunities for social interaction due to the absence of local amenities such as shops, a school and a pub. The Hub provides an inclusive, accessible space where residents, particularly older people, can meet, socialise and take part in community activities, supporting both mental and physical wellbeing. Community engagement has been central to the project's development, with local residents helping to shape future activities. Funding for tables would enable a wide range of events, including coffee mornings, lunch clubs, quiz nights, indoor bowls, concerts, dances and craft sessions, helping to strengthen social connections and enhance quality of life	Keeping people out of crisis Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	Over the past year, Southoe PCC has obtained funds from many grant making bodies to transform the nave and aisles of Southoe Church in a community space for the village of Southoe with Midloe and beyond. This includes two toilets, one with disabled facilities, and an open space for a variety of community events. Also achieved has been the introduction of solar panels funded by Hunts DC. The new facilities were celebrated at an opening ceremony on September 12th with an attendance of c 150 people and the local MP cut the ribbon to announce the facilities OPEN! Whilst the project was successful in obtaining funds for 65 new flexible wooden chairs, the project now needs a quantity of Gopak folding tables for the many activities that we envisage taking place in the large space.	£2,500
CCG/26/26-27 (TRMGZRVZ) The Alchemist's Forge Wellbeing Community Wellbeing Project	Forging Wellbeing will deliver free, preventative wellbeing activities that help people develop emotional awareness, manage stress, build confidence and connect with others. Using creative activities, mindfulness, sensory tools and emotional literacy resources, the project aims to support wellbeing before issues escalate and reduce barriers to accessing support. The programme builds on successful work already delivered with Scout groups, parents, carers, schools and community organisations, demonstrating clear local demand. Funding will create a reusable resource bank that can be adapted for different ages and needs, enabling ongoing community sessions that promote emotional wellbeing, social connection and resilience across Hunts.	Keeping people out of crisis Improving the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone	Forging Wellbeing will create a mobile community wellbeing resource bank to support free and accessible sessions across Huntingdonshire. Reusable emotional literacy, sensory, creative and relaxation resources will enable activities for children, young people, parents, carers and other community members, promoting emotional wellbeing, resilience, connection and practical self regulation skills	£2,500

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