

Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2022/23

Meeting/Date: Grants Panel – 1st March 2023

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Community and Health –
Councillor B Pitt
Executive Councillor for Corporate and Shared
Services – Councillor M Hassall

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. In 2020/21 and 2021/22, the Council took the decision to make use of the Community Chest Grant scheme and associated funding to respond to the ongoing coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic including responding to issues identified within the Council's Recovery Report. Having moved to a position of 'learning to live' with Covid, there is the opportunity to consider where else the Council would like to encourage the community and voluntary sector to focus their efforts. It is proposed that the 2022/23 Community Chest Grant scheme welcomes applications from groups and projects that will help residents to have:

- Good Start
- Good Place
- Good Health
- Good Work

At the Grants Panel meeting on 24th March 2022, Councillors Bywater and Criswell (former Panel Members) confirmed their wish for any funding left over from 2021/22 to be rolled over into the budget for 2022/23. The Executive Councillor for Strategic Finance authorised this at the time and the total budget for 2022/23 is £45,119.

On 15th September 2022, the Council announced that it would be setting up a Warm Spaces Network. The Executive Councillor for Community and Health has agreed to utilise the Community Chest grant scheme to enable community groups/organisations to apply for funding of up to £500 for Warm Spaces. In that light, the Grants Panel agreed to meet every two weeks (previously four weeks).

A summary of the applications that have been received since the previous meeting will be circulated ahead of the meeting on 1st March 2023 **(TO FOLLOW)**.

Recommendation(s):

The Panel is

RECOMMENDED

To consider the applications that have been submitted to the Community Chest 2022/23 funding programme to date and whether they meet award criteria. Following this, 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 2022/23 Community Chest. Applications either requested funding to support local responses to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, address the issues identified by the Council in its recovery report, respond to a need identified at a local level or for a Warm Spaces grant.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY?

- 2.1 In setting the Council budget for 2022/23, £30k was set aside for the Community Chest Award Scheme. The Executive Councillor for Strategic Finance has since confirmed that any funding left over from 2021/22 would roll over into the budget for 2022/23. On 24th March 2022, the Grants Panel held their last meeting of the 2021/22 financial year and spent £15,810 of the £30,929 budget.

Budget for 2022/23	£30,000
Unspent budget from 2021/22	£15,119
Total budget for 2022/23	£45,119

- 2.2 The maximum amount that can be applied for remains as £1,000, with the exception of Warm Spaces grants which are capped at £500. Successful applicants will be required to complete an evaluation of their project demonstrating the outcomes, later in the year.
- 2.3 Once the funding has been allocated, the Community Chest will close.

3. ANALYSIS

- 3.1 Appendix 3 of the report has been marked **TO FOLLOW** but will provide a summary of the applications that have been received since the previous meeting. In establishing the Community Chest for 2022/23, 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 2022/23 scheme must be used against projects delivered in the 2022/23 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 those organisations who submitted an application on their success or otherwise in being awarded funding.

- 5.2 Groups or organisations awarded funding must be able to confirm that the project can be delivered in the financial year the award is made, i.e. before 31st March 2023.

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The Community Chest programme links directly to the Council's Vision, as stated within the Corporate Plan, in that the projects being supported improve the quality of life for members of our communities.
- 6.2 The Enabling Communities Strategic Priority further references the creation and enhancement of the environment and the development of stronger and more resilient communities to enable people to help themselves. The projects for which applications have been received are a direct demonstration of the Council's support to a range of projects that epitomise the communities acting together to deliver stronger and more resilient local activities and facilities.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 In 2021/22 the Community Chest was advertised by the Council through a wide range of media including the District Council website and press releases. Further communications will be made to advertise the funding available in 2022/23 together with a look back on the achievements of the fund over the previous financial year.
- 7.2 The Warm Spaces Network was announced by the Council via a press release on 15th September 2022.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The funding of £30,000 allocated to the Community Chest 2022/23 is within the Council's approved budget and the rollover of £15,119 from the previous year's budget was authorised at the time by the Executive Councillor for Strategic Finance.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 9.1 Those applications that are recommended for consideration for approval are those that demonstrate that they satisfy the eligibility criteria set by the Council for the Community Chest Award Scheme 2022/23.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

[Appendix 1 - Huntingdonshire District Council Community Chest 2022 - 23 – Funding Criteria](#)

[Appendix 2 – Warm Spaces](#)

Appendix 3 - List of applications received, with Officer comment **(TO FOLLOW)**.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Chest 2022/23 Eligibility Criteria

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