

**Public
Key Decision - Yes**

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme award

Meeting/Date: Grants Panel – 7 August 2024

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Place
– Councillor S Conboy

Executive Councillor for Community and Health
– Councillor B Pitt

Executive Councillor for Climate and
Environment
– Councillor L Davenport-Ray

Report by: Assistant Director (Strategic Insights and Delivery)

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

Huntingdonshire Futures sets out a vision to make Huntingdonshire a better place to live, work, and visit over the next 30 years. Over the last year, the council has started to work with local communities to bring the strategy to life.

The grants will provide funding of up to £2,500 to enable groups to put on events or activities that support the Huntingdonshire Futures vision, such as improving physical and mental health, protecting and supporting our environment and celebrating our sense of history and place.

The strategy is made up of five 'journeys'. Applications must link to and support at least one of these and may cover more than one.

The five journeys are:

- Pride in Place
- Inclusive Economy
- Health Embedded
- Environmental Innovation
- Travel Transformed

Community groups and organisations requiring financial aid to deliver projects that address one or more of the five Journeys are invited to apply from 15 May 2024. Applications must be for projects based in Huntingdonshire and where a significant majority of beneficiaries are Huntingdonshire residents.

This activity supports our commitment from the Corporate Plan to “explore how place strategy priorities are transformed into practical delivery.”

The total budget for 2024/25 is £40,000

Recommendation(s):

- a. To consider applications submitted to the Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 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 Huntingdonshire Futures grant scheme. Applications from community groups and organisations who would like to support the District Council in achieving priorities that have been set out within the Corporate Plan for 2023-28:

- Improving the quality of life and for local people
- Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY?

2.1 In setting the Council budget for 2024/25, £40,000 was set aside for the Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme.

2.2 From the commencement of the 2024/25 financial year, the panel has committed £24,130 to applicants, leaving £15,870 available for the remainder of 2024/25.

2.3 The maximum amount that can be applied for is £2,500.

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 Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme will close.

3. ANALYSIS

3.1 Appendix 2 of the report provides a summary of applications been received since the last meeting. In establishing the Huntingdonshire Futures grant scheme, 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 2024/25 scheme must be used against projects applied for and approved in the 2024/25 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 6 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 Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme links directly to the Council's Corporate Plan 2023-28, specifically the following priorities and outcomes:
- Improving the quality of life and for local people
 - Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme is 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 2024/25.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The funding of £40,000 allocated to the Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme 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 Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 - [Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme - Funding Criteria - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

Appendix 2 - List of applications received, with officer comments.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme Funding Criteria

CONTACT OFFICER

Name/Job Title: Lily Simmonite, Place Strategy Coordinator

Tel No: 07354168354

Email: Lily.Simmonite@huntingdonshire.gov.uk