

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2016/17

**Date:** Grants Panel - 30 June 2016

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Councillor for Community Resilience –  
Councillor Steve Criswell  
Executive Councillor for Strategic Recourses –  
Councillor Jonathan Gray

**Report by:** Chris Stopford – Head of Community

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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**Executive Summary:**

The Community Chest funding scheme recognised the Council's longstanding financial support to small projects delivered by community groups and volunteers within, or directly supporting, the local communities. Many of these projects deliver against the Council's core themes of community resilience, and deliver activities and facilities that support a thriving local community.

This report provides a summary of the 55 applications that were received for the 2016/17 funding.

**Recommendation(s):**

To confirm which of those applications submitted against the Community Chest 2016/17 funding programme, and meeting the award criteria, are to be allocated funding.

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The report details the applications received from the Huntingdonshire communities for project funding from the 2016/17 Community Chest. The report provides a summary of all the applications on which Members can determine those projects that are awarded funding in 2016/17.

## **2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members agreed, in setting the Council budget for 2017/17, that £60k should be set aside for the Community Chest Award Scheme. Members further indicated that they wished to see the Community Chest funds allocated to assist small-scale or short-term village/community initiatives.
- 2.2 Members requested that the community chest programme be a simple application process, with minimal bureaucracy and provide timely decisions. Appendix 2 of this report provides a summary of all applications received.
- 2.3 When the funds available in any financial year are allocated the programme will close until the next financial year.

## **3. ANALYSIS**

- 3.1 In establishing the Community Chest for 2016/17, Members agreed the following funding criteria, and it is against these criteria that the applications have been assessed.

- The maximum amount for any one grant award shall be £5,000 or 50% of the total cost of the project for which financial assistance is requested whichever is the lower amount;
- No organisation will be eligible for consideration for support if they have received £5,000 cumulative in previous two grant award years;
- No precepting authorities are eligible to apply to the community chest fund;
- Organisations must be able to confirm that if awarded a grant the project can be delivered in the financial year the award is made;
- The authority will not accept applications from community and voluntary organisations that are currently in receipt of funding from the district council;
- Applications will not be accepted either directly or indirectly on behalf of individuals or commercial organisations;
- Applications will only be accepted from organisations that are independent in that they have their own constitution/rules of operation and have their own bank account:

- 3.2 A total of 55 applications were received, 13 less than the previous financial year, and these are set out in the order received in Appendix 1 of this report. At the agreed deadline the amount requested by organisations requesting financial support was £166,794, which is approximately £30K down on the previous year.

However when applying the maximum award levels set out in paragraph 3.1 above, this reduces the eligible amount of funding to £150,077.

#### **4. KEY RISKS**

- 4.1 The funding awarded for the 2016/17 scheme must be claimed against projects completed in the 2016/17 financial year. Funding remaining unclaimed at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 is lost. Officers will monitor the uptake of funding, and if significant allocated funding remains unclaimed a further application process may be held during 2016/17.

#### **5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 5.1 At the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> June Members will determine which projects should be allocated funding from the £60k Community Chest Award Scheme budget. In support of this Officers will then advise all those organisations who submitted an application on their success or otherwise in being awarded funding. Those organisations receiving funding will be invited to attend the Council meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to be presented with their award.
- 5.2 Funding awarded must be claimed by the organisation on completion of the project, and before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

#### **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 2016-18, 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 enhance of the environment, and the development of stronger and more resilient communities to enable people to help themselves. These projects 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 The Community Chest 2016/17 was advertised by the Council through a wide range of media, including the Council's website, direct mailings to Town and Parish Councils for distribution within their area, and through funding publications issued by Hunts Forum.

#### **8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The funding allocated to the Community Chest 2016/17 of £60k is within the Council's approved budget.

#### **9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 9.1 Those applications that are recommended for approval are those that demonstrate that they satisfy the criteria set by the Council in advertising the Community Chest Award scheme for 2016/17.
- 9.2 After the application of the criteria, the fund remains over-subscribed, and therefore Members are requested to consider which applications are supported.

## **10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

10.1 Appendix 1 List of applications received.

10.2 Appendix 2 Summary of applications received officer comments and recommendation

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