

Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title:	Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2017/18
Meeting/Date:	Grants Panel, 3 rd July 2017
Executive Portfolio:	Executive Councillor for Housing and Regulatory Services – Councillor Ryan Fuller Executive Councillor for Strategic Resources – Councillor Jonathan Gray
Report by:	Chris Stopford – Head of Community
Ward(s) affected:	All

Executive Summary:

The Community Chest funding scheme recognises the Council's longstanding financial support to small projects delivered by community groups and volunteers within, or directly supporting local communities. Many of these projects will help the Council achieve their strategic priorities and objectives, especially those linked to Enabling Communities.

The Community Chest totals an amount of £60k, with applicants eligible to apply for a maximum amount of £5k or 50% of the total cost of the project, whichever is the lowest amount.

This report provides a summary of the 37 applications that have been received for the 2017/ 18 funding.

Recommendation(s):

Grant Panel are requested to:-

Consider the applications that have been submitted to the Community Chest 2017/18 funding programme and whether they meet award criteria. Following which, decide which applications will be allocated funding.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The report details the applications received from groups or organisations representing Huntingdonshire communities for project funding from the 2017/18 Community Chest. This report provides a summary of all the applications to enable Members to determine those projects that will be awarded funding in 2017/18.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY?

- 2.1 Members agreed, in setting the Council budget for 2017/18, 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 or community initiatives.
- 2.2 Members requested that the Community Chest programme be a simple application process, with minimal bureaucracy to enable timely decisions. Appendix 2 of this report provides a summary of all the applications that have been received.
- 2.3 Once 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 2017/18, Members agreed the following funding criteria, and it is against these criteria that the applications have been assessed.
 - A 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;
 - B No organisation will be eligible for consideration for support if they have received £5,000 cumulative in previous two grant award years;
 - C No precepting authorities are eligible to apply to the community chest fund;
 - D Organisations must be able to confirm that, if awarded a grant, the project can be delivered in the financial year the award is made;
 - E The authority will not accept applications from community and voluntary organisations that are currently in receipt of funding from Huntingdonshire District Council;
 - F Applications will not be accepted either directly or indirectly on behalf of individuals or commercial organisations;
 - G 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 37 applications were received, 18 less than the 2016/17 financial year. The applications are set out in the order that they were received in Appendix 1 of this report. At the agreed deadline the amount requested by organisations applying for financial support totalled £115,243, which is circa £51K down on the 2016/17 year.

However when applying the criteria set out in paragraph 3.1 above, this reduces the eligible amount of funding available to £80,321.86.

4. KEY RISKS

- 4.1 The funding awarded for the 2017/18 scheme must be claimed against projects completed in the 2017/18 financial year. Funding remaining unclaimed at the 31st March 2018 is lost. Officers will monitor the uptake of funding and if significant allocated funding remains unclaimed a further application process may be held during 2017/18.

5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 At the meeting on the 3rd July 2017, Members will determine which projects should be allocated funding from the £60k Community Chest Award Scheme. 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 a Council meeting to be presented with their award.
- 5.2 Funding awarded must be claimed by the organisation on completion of the project, and before the 31st March 2018.
- 5.3 Following a restructure of the Community Team in late 2016, a new Community Development Team has been introduced. Officers from this team will work with those applicants that are unsuccessful in the Community Chest process to assist them in trying to fund their project from alternative funding opportunities or signpost them to other organisations that may be able to help.

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 2017-18, 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 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 The Community Chest 2017/18 was advertised by the Council through a wide range of media including the District Council 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 2017/18 of £60k is within the Council's approved budget.

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 criteria set by the Council for the Community Chest Award Scheme 2017/18.
- 9.2 After the application of the criteria, the fund remains over-subscribed and therefore Members are asked to decide which applications are to be 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 recommendations.

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