

Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2020/21

Meeting/Date: Grants Panel – 29 July 2020

Executive Portfolio: Executive Leader– Councillor R Fuller
Executive Councillor for Community Resilience
and Well-Being – Councillor S Bywater

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 response to the recent ongoing coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic the Council has taken the decision to make use of the Community Chest Grant Scheme and associated funding available.

The Grants Panel is meeting weekly to determine applications received. The first meeting was held on 13th May 2020. A summary of the applications that have been received since the previous week's meeting will be circulated ahead of the meeting on 22 July 2020 **(TO FOLLOW)**.

Recommendation(s):

The Panel is

RECOMMENDED

To consider the applications that have been submitted to the revised Community Chest 2020/21 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 propose an amendment to the funding criteria for the Community Chest to enable it to have a focus on aiding recovery following the Coronavirus pandemic.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY?

- 2.1 Members agreed, in setting the Council budget for 2020/21, that £30k 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. In light of the ongoing coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic the Council took the decision to make use of the Community Chest Grant Scheme and boost it with an additional £20k to offer additional financial support for community organisations and projects to help respond to their community's needs.
- 2.2 The Community Chest was opened in early May and the first meeting of the Grants Panel was held on 13th May 2020. Of the 39 applications received to date, 28 funding awards have been issued totalling an amount of £23,681, to a variety of community projects and initiatives across the District.
- 2.3 As we move to recovery and with funding remaining, it is felt an appropriate time to amend the criteria. A Recovery Report has been compiled that details fully the impact that Covid-19 has had on the community and businesses across Huntingdonshire which in turn highlights some real concerns. Therefore, with the help of the community and voluntary sector, we are proposing that the criteria be amended to stipulate that future initiatives and projects requesting funding from the Community Chest must aim to respond to an issue that has been identified within the Recovery Report.
- 2.4 The maximum amount that can be applied for remains as £1k and successful applicants will be required to complete an evaluation of their project demonstrating the outcomes, later in the year.
- 2.5 Once the funding has been allocated, the Community Chest will close.

3. ANALYSIS

- 3.1 Appendix 1 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 revised Community Chest for 2020/21, 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 2020/21 scheme must be used against projects delivered in the 2020/21 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 2021.

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 The Community Chest 2020/21 was advertised by the Council through a wide range of media including the District Council website and press releases.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The funding of £30k allocated to the Community Chest 2020/21 is within the Council's approved budget and additional funding of £20k is within approved related budgets.

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 revised Community Chest Award Scheme 2020/21.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 - List of applications received, with Officer comment (**TO FOLLOW**).

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Chest 2020/21 Eligibility Criteria.

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