



Report to:	Grants Advisory Committee	26 May 2023
Lead Cabinet Member:	Councillor John Williams Lead Cabinet Member for Resources	
Lead Officer:	Gareth Bell, Communications and Communities Service Manager	

Community Chest Grant: Funding Applications

Executive Summary

1. To consider new applications received between 1 April 2023 to 6 May 2023 the Community Chest Grant funding scheme.

Key Decision

2. No

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Grants Advisory Committee considers all applications for funding that are set out in Appendix A to this report and makes a recommendation to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance regarding the level of funding (£0 - £2,000) to be awarded for each, or defers a decision, if further information is required, or rejects an application if it doesn't comply with the grant criteria.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The Grants Advisory Committee's role is to consider and make recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member responsible for grants, or Cabinet as appropriate, including, but not limited to:
 - a) Reviewing the Council's grants schemes to ensure they reflect Council priorities.
 - b) Designing any new or revised grants schemes, including consideration of criteria and guidance applicable in respect of each scheme.
 - c) Considering applications made under the Council's grants schemes.

Details

5. The Community Chest is grant funding available to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and public sector bodies wishing to further improve quality of life in South Cambridgeshire. Applicants may apply for up to £2,000 and the community activity or project must deliver one or more of the following:
 - Improvements to community buildings and spaces (i.e., village halls / pavilions / play areas etc)
 - Repairs to historic buildings / monuments / memorials
 - Equipment / capital purchase
 - Materials
 - Start-up costs (may include training of staff / volunteers, hall hire and other revenue costs)
 - Costs involved with the creation of a Community-Led Plan (not the resulting projects)
 - Enhance the natural environment / result in a sustainable increase in local biodiversity
 - Provide a benefit to those affected by the cost-of-living crisis

In accordance with the criteria, Parish Councils of any size can apply for biodiversity grants through this fund

Parish Councils are also eligible to apply if they are using funds to deliver community engagement for the creation of a Community-Led Plan.

Parish Councils are also eligible to apply if they are using funds to provide a benefit to those affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

6. Guidance notes and full eligibility criteria can be found at Appendix C. This now includes a monthly application deadline of the 7th day of any given month in order to be included in the Grants Advisory Committee of the same month. This change (highlighted in grey) also applies to the last month of the financial year to help simplify the accounting process.
7. The total amount of funding available for Community Chest Grants in 2023/24 is **£58,000**.
8. In addition, there is **£10,000** ringfenced for 2023/24 for **Biodiversity Grants**, **£45,780** ringfenced (expiring in October 2023) for the creation of **Community-Led Plans** and **£18,468.08** ringfenced until end March 2024 (obtained from a successful bid to the Integrated Care System) **for cost-of-living crisis projects**.
9. At the end of the 2022/23 financial year the -£10,445.59 Community Chest Grant deficit was cleared using existing Council funds.
10. At the end of the 2022/23 financial year, £9,608.41 was reported as remaining in the Biodiversity Grant Fund. However, this figure was based on the assumption

that the funding from 2021/22 had been carried forward to 2022/23. This was not, in fact, the case and so the actual figure remaining at end 2022/23 is -£391.59. This small deficit has been cleared using existing Council funds and now for the 2023/24 financial year, the normal biodiversity budget of £10,000 is available.

11. A summary of the applications can be found at Appendix A (copies of the applications forms are available from the Communities Team upon request).

12. The table below details the budget remaining at the time of this report within each subsection of the Community Chest, as well as the number of applications made, and the total amounts applied for.

Type (total fund for the period)	Date fund expires	Total budget at last month	Applications received this month	Total applied for this month	Remaining budget if all projects funded this month
Community Chest (58,000)	31 March 2024	£58,000	4	£7,047.43	£50,952.57
Biodiversity (£10,000)	31 March 2024	£10,000	0	0	£10,000
Community-Led Plans (£45,780)	October 2023	£45,780	0	0	£45,780
Cost- Of Living (£18,468.08)	31 March 2024	£18,468.08	0	0	£18,468.08
Total	-	£132,248.08	4	£7,047.43	£125,200.65

Options

13. The Grants Advisory Committee may consider all applications for funding that are set out in Appendix A of this report and recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance to:

- A) award the amount of funding requested,
- B) award an alternative amount of funding, including zero funding,
- C) defer a decision, if further information is required from grant applicants, or

D) reject an application stating the reason for this.

Implications

14. There are no significant implications

Consultation responses

15. Wherever possible, local members have been consulted on applications that directly affect their local area.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

16. The corporate aims are referenced in the criteria and guidance notes for the Community Chest.

Background Papers

Grants Advisory Committee Meetings

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=1096&Year=0>

Appendices

Appendix A: Applications Summary

Appendix B: Guidance notes for Community Chest

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