

Community Chest Grants 2024 to 2025

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| Report number: | CAB/WS/24/011 | |
| Report to and date: | Cabinet | 6 February 2024 |
| Cabinet member: | Councillor Donna Higgins Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities Email: donna.higgins@westsuffolk.gov.uk | |
| Chair of the Grant Working Party: | Councillor Jon London Telephone: 01638 599376 Email: jon.london@westsuffolk.gov.uk | |
| Lead officer: | Davina Howes Director (Families and Communities) Telephone: 01284 757070 Email: davina.howes@westsuffolk.gov.uk | |

Decisions Plan: The decisions made as a result of this report will usually be published within 48 hours and cannot be actioned until five clear working days of the publication of the decision have elapsed. This item is included on the Decisions Plan.

Wards impacted: All wards

Recommendations: It is recommended by the Grant Working Party that:

A. the allocation of Community Chest funding for 2024 to 2025, be approved, namely:

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| 1. Reach Community Projects, Haverhill and Newmarket | £6,600 |
| 2. West Suffolk Citizens Advice, West Suffolk | £245,000 |

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| 3. Haverhill Community Trust – Signpost Project, Haverhill | £5,000 |
| 4. Haverhill Men’s Shed Haverhill | £10,052 |
| 5. Haverhill Scout and Guide Management Committee | £5,000 |
| 6. The Offshoot Foundation, West Suffolk | £3,000 |
| 7. The Racing Centre, Newmarket | £5,100 |
| 8. Bridge Community Church, Bury St Edmunds | £5,000 |
| 9. Rural Coffee Caravan, West Suffolk | £6,812 |
| 10. Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service (SARS), West Suffolk | £10,000 |
| 11. The Stable Café and Community Space, Newmarket | £5,000 |
| 12. Bury St Edmunds Women’s Aid, West Suffolk | £20,300 |
| 13. HOPE after Suicide Loss, West Suffolk | £10,000 |
| 14. St Nicholas Hospice Care, West Suffolk | £10,000 |
| 15. Suffolk Rape Crisis, West Suffolk | £10,000 |
| 16. Brave Futures, West Suffolk | £10,000 |
| 17. EPIC Dads, Mildenhall | £2,500 |
| 18. Home-start in Suffolk, West Suffolk | £7,000 |
| 19. Still Good Food CIO, Bury St Edmunds | £8,672 |
| 20. Suffolk Family Carers, West Suffolk | £2,500 |
| 21. The Befriending Scheme, Haverhill | £5,000 |
| 22. Second Chance Stroke Association, Bury St Edmunds | £2,500 |
| 23. Suffolk Mind, West Suffolk | £6,000 |
| 24. Bury Drop In, Bury St Edmunds | £9,916 |
| 25. Free Food in Haverhill, Haverhill | £7,481 |
| 26. Gatehouse Caring, Bury St Edmunds | £10,000 |

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| 27. Lyward Colley Trust CIC, West Suffolk | £6,000 |
| 28. Music Prescription CIC, Bury St Edmunds | £2,500 |
| 29. Our Special Friends, West Suffolk | £9,000 |
| 30. Lightwave CIO, Red Lodge and Beck Row | £5,000 |
| 31. The Voluntary Network, West Suffolk | £10,000 |
| 32. West Suffolk Vineyard Church, Bury St Edmunds | £5,800 |

B. For the reasons set out in paragraph 3.4.3 of Report number: CAB/WS/24/011, no Community Chest funding for 2024 to 2025 be awarded to:

- 1. Abbeycroft Leisure – Family Park Cooking, West Suffolk**
- 2. Jiggins Memorial Village Hall and Playing Field, Ixworth**
- 3. Theatre Royal, Outreach Project in Haverhill**
- 4. Vogue Athletics, Newmarket**
- 5. Brandon in Bloom, Brandon**
- 6. Haverhill Community Trust, Volunteer Centre, Haverhill**
- 7. St Mary' Church Community Project, Kennett and Kentford**
- 8. Moreton Hall Youth Action Group Ltd, Bury St Edmunds**
- 9. Cruse Bereavement, West Suffolk**
- 10. Families Together, West Suffolk**
- 11. Zebras Children and Adults Charity CIO, Brandon**
- 12. Art Branches CIC, West Suffolk**
- 13. Boomerang Pet Food Bank, Haverhill**
- 14. British Red Cross, West Suffolk**

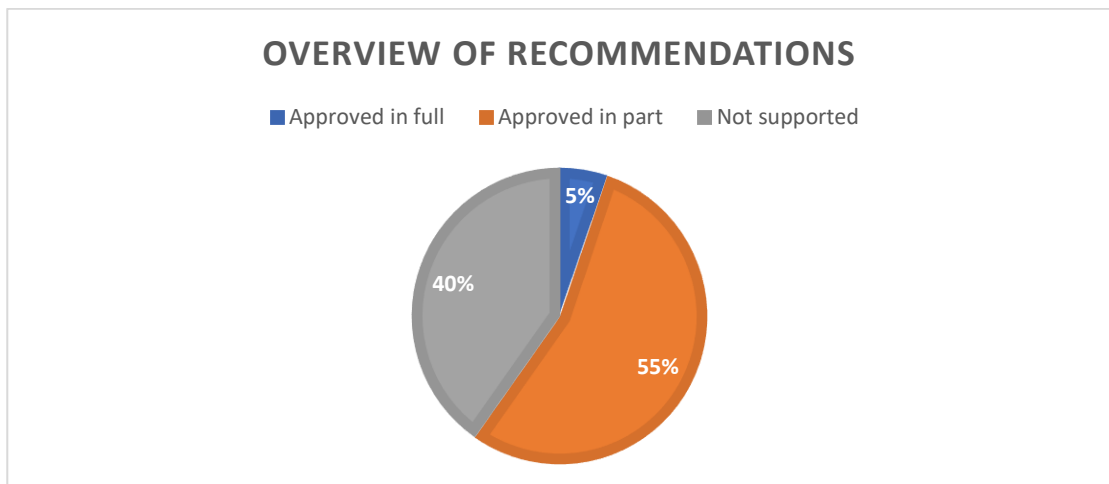
1. Context to this report

Recommendations of the Grant Working Party: Community Chest

- 1.1 Community Chest funding supports voluntary and community groups, who contribute towards improving the quality of life for residents across West Suffolk.
- 1.2 The Cabinet-appointed Grant Working Party met on three occasions in December 2023 and January 2024 where it thoroughly considered a number of applications submitted for Community Chest funding in the 2024 to 2025 financial year.

2. Proposals within this report

- 2.1 Community Chest has £466,733 available for allocation for 2024 to 2025, subject to the funding targeting organisations supporting vulnerable individuals/families with cost-of-living challenges.
- 2.2 Overall, 77 applications were received totalling **£1,319,843.12**. The scheme was oversubscribed by 282 percent. 46 applications were considered by the Grant Working Party (GWP) to the value of £1,066,087.12. 31 applications to the value of £253,756 did not meet the minimum matrix score but were available for GWP members to view at their discretion.
- 2.3 Each application had been summarised within the appropriate category listed in Appendix one attached to this report. Each application was required to be evaluated in accordance with the eligibility and selection criteria provided to the Grant Working Party.
- 2.4 The Working Party has recommended funding to 60 percent of the projects in either full or part.



3. Consideration of grants and recommendations: summary

3.1 Full amount recommended

The Working Party considered the following applications fully met the eligibility and selection criteria and felt that each project could be satisfactorily delivered. Members supported the allocation of the full amount for each project in 2024 to 2025, as applied for:

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| 1. Haverhill Men’s Shed, Haverhill | £10,052 |
| 2. Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service (SARS), West Suffolk | £10,000 |
| 3. Bury St Edmunds Women’s Aid, West Suffolk | £20,300 |
| 4. Bury Drop In, Bury St Edmunds | £9,916 |

3.2 Part amount recommended

3.2.1 The Working Party considered the following applications met the eligibility and selection criteria and supported an allocation of funding; however, it felt the amount applied for could not be granted in full in 2024 to 2025. This was largely due to the limited funds available and maintaining a fair and equitable approach to all, basing their rationale on the quality of the application and the amount of funding requested.

Members also considered that the proposed reduction would not impact on the organisation’s ability to deliver the project, having also acknowledged that many could be signposted to alternative sources of funding to potentially bridge the shortfall should it be required.

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| 5. Reach Community Projects, Haverhill and Newmarket | £6,600 |
| 6. Haverhill Community Trust, Signpost Project, Haverhill | £5,000 |
| 7. Haverhill Scout and Guide Management Committee | £5,000 |
| 8. The Offshoot Foundation, West Suffolk | £3,000 |
| 9. The Racing Centre, Newmarket | £5,100 |
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| 30. The Voluntary Network, West Suffolk | £10,000 |
| 31. West Suffolk Vineyard Church, Bury St Edmunds | £5,800 |
| 32. Citizens Advice West Suffolk | £245,000 |

3.3 **Recommendations for no Community Chest funding in 2024 to 2025**

3.3.1 The Working Party has recommended that the following applications should not receive Community Chest funding on this occasion for a variety of reasons, as set out in paragraph 3.3.2 below:

33. Abbeycroft Leisure – Family Park Cooking, West Suffolk
34. Jiggins Memorial Village Hall and Playing Field, Ixworth
35. Theatre Royal, Outreach Project in Haverhill
36. Vogue Athletics, Newmarket
37. Brandon in Bloom, Brandon
38. Haverhill Community Trust Volunteer Centre, Haverhill
39. St Mary’s Church Community Project, Kennett and Kentford
40. Moreton Hall Youth Action Group Ltd, Bury St Edmunds
41. Cruse Bereavement, West Suffolk
42. Families Together, West Suffolk
43. Zebras Children and Adults Charity CIO, Brandon
44. Art Branches CIC, West Suffolk
45. Boomerang Pet Food Bank, Haverhill
46. British Red Cross, West Suffolk

3.3.2 Reasons for not recommending Community Chest funding included:

- not meeting the eligibility and selection criteria;
- the quality of the application;
- lack of justification for the amount of funding requested and how it would be utilised;
- similar projects already exist in West Suffolk, therefore some projects could be consolidated with other existing organisations through effective collaborative working;
- whether the objectives of the project would benefit sufficient numbers of the community;
- projects could be funded by alternative funding sources, signposting for which would be provided by officers, where possible.

All organisations will be notified of the recommendation from GWP by the end of January (before Cabinet papers are made public). Successful applications (in full or part funded) will be notified of the recommendation from GWP early February, at this stage applicants will be informed of the Cabinet process and timeline for final decision.

3.3.3 Officers will endeavour to signpost applicants that were unsuccessful or need additional funding to other opportunities such as the Suffolk Funders Network or other local and national funds. Bookable one to one funding sessions with The National Lottery, East Region Officer are due to commence from April 2024 onwards.

3.3.4 Organisations that have previously not taking up support, will be offered the opportunity for additional capacity training workshops delivered by Community Action Suffolk specific to West Suffolk organisations.

4. Alternative options that have been considered

4.1 The Council could choose not to provide any grant funding; however, it is recognised that some support to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) is required. The Community Chest also enables the Council to commission services to support the delivery of its priorities.

5. Consultation and engagement undertaken

5.1 The Grant Working Party had prior sight of the applications and spent several hours considering each application in turn. The Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities has attended meetings and her views and comments have been sought throughout the process.

5.2 Officers provided the Grant Working Party with research of local and national funders and information of internal West Suffolk Council departmental grants to provide rationale for each application.

6. Risks associated with the proposals

- 6.1 Organisations are not aware of our approach to grants, which equates to a medium risk. Control – to implement a wide-ranging communication plan.
- 6.2 Requests for funding exceed the amount of money available, equates to a medium risk. Control – eligibility criteria and evaluation scoring matrix to be used to identify best fit and value for money.

7. Implications arising from the proposals

- 7.1 Financial - Funding for grants are contained within existing budgets.
- 7.2 Personal Data Processing - As a non-decision making body, the meetings of the Grant Working Party were not held in public. Personal contact details of applicants have been held by the Council for internal use only.
- 7.3 Equalities - The Council's approach to grants has been subject of an Equality Impact Assessment and no negative consequences have been identified.
- 7.4 External organisations – regular engagement has been held with relevant VCSE organisations during the Community Chest funding process.

8. Appendices referenced in this report

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Summary of applications received and amounts of funding requested.

9. Background documents associated with this report

- 9.1 Portfolio holder decision: 9 June 2022. Proposed changes to the Community Chest scheme criteria - Report number: [CAB/WS/22/024](#)