

This report will be made public on 10 September 2026

Report Number **C/26/30**

From: Councillor Jim Martin
Date: 18th September 2026
Status: Non-Key Decision
Corporate Director: Ewan Green, Director of Place

**SUBJECT: FOLKESTONE & HYTHE DISTRICT GREEN GRANT PROGRAMME
2026**

SUMMARY:

This report sets out applications recommended for approval for the Green Grant Scheme and seeks confirmation for the grant award.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Leader is asked to agree to the recommendations of the Decision Panel on grant awards, as set out below, because agreement is needed on these applications to the Green Grant Scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note Report C/26/30
2. To approve the recommended grant applications to the Green Grant Scheme as summarised this report.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Cabinet of Folkestone & Hythe District Council approved the mechanism for establishing and managing the Green Grant Scheme in Spring 2026. The funding for this Scheme has been secured from the climate change reserve.

2. GREEN GRANT PROGRAMME

- 2.1. The aim of the Green Grant Programme is to support the priorities and objectives of the Council's Carbon Action Plan whereby objectives relate to the need to promote and support green business/organisation and decarbonisation efforts across the district.
- 2.2. The Green Grant Programme provides non-repayable grants of up to £2,000 for the micro grant category, Rewilding, tree planting, & wildflower meadow grants of up to £10,000, Social & community grants of up to £15,000, and small business, community group, charity & parish premises grants of up to £20,000.
- 2.3. Grants awarded can cover up to 100% of a total project cost for micro grants. Up to 80% can be awarded for the other grant categories, with the remaining 20% coming from the company's own resources, including bank loans, or other suitable grant schemes if applicable.
- 2.4. The grant funding through the scheme can be used for small businesses and organisations to implement measures that will deliver reductions in their carbon levels, in addition to educating and raising awareness within the local community. Though not exhaustive, this may include for example, solar panels, insulation, LED lighting, more efficient heating or boiler/ heat pump, events and workshops.
- 2.5. The grant scheme was launched in May 2026 and grant applications will be accepted at any time until the closure of the scheme. The scheme is expected to run until either 31st March 2028 or until funds have been allocated.
- 2.6. Applications received are assessed in the first instance by the Economic Development Team. Final decisions on individual applications are made by the Leader of the Council, in collaboration with the Lead Cabinet Member of the District Economy, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment, and a ward member determined by the location or proposed location of the organisation.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A GREEN GRANT

- 3.1 The table below lists applications recommended for approval by the Decision Panel. Reasons for the recommendations are also summarised.

Name of Applicant	Purpose of Grant	Town/ Area	Recommendations of the Decision Panel £	Conditions of grant award including
Hythe Bay Primary School	Recycling & planting project to involve & educate pupils	Hythe Ward	£2,000.00	
All Souls Primary School	Creation of a school sensory garden/ outdoor learning space	Cheriton Ward	£2,000.00	
Project Salus CIC	To create an enjoyable space for projects that explores the relationships between community, wellbeing and nature.	Hythe Ward	£2,000.00	
The Harbour Ward Community Garden CIC	Rain water capture project for community garden	Folkestone Harbour Ward	£900.00	
Mundella Primary School	Development of a pond and vegetable garden at Mundella forest school	East Folkestone Ward	£1,999.98	
Folkestone Community Fridge	Community cooking skills workshops	East Folkestone Ward	£2,000.00	
Saltwood C of E Primary School	Development of unused area of school grounds into an outdoor learning and well being space.	Hythe Ward	£2,000.00	
The Folkestone School for Girls	School robotics project aim at aiding Fire Brigade in tackling wildfires	Sandgate & West Folkestone ward	£2,000.00	
Lympne Parish Council	Funding for next phase of traim trail project (funding granted from 2025 green grant funding round to establish the pathway)	North Downs East Ward	£1,977.81	
St Andrews Methodist Church	Replement of aging gas cooker with electric cooker at church hall kitchen	Cheriton Ward	£1,277.00	
Ceri Elliston	Replace halogen lighting with LED lighting at commercial unit	Folkestone Harbour Ward	£1,480.00	

The Sandgate Society	Hythe to Sandgate open gardens awareness project	Hythe Ward	£1,375.00	
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4. LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

4.1 Legal Officer's comments (NM)

There are no legal implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However, any grants that are made available to third parties by FHDC will need to be legally documented and the legal team can assist with this.

4.2 Finance Officer's comments

As per the Cabinet report January 2025, £250,000 is available from the remaining from the climate change reserve.

4.3 Equality Comment (GE)

There are no equality and diversity implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

4.4 Climate & Ecology Comment (JW)

There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

5. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer:-

Jade Smyth, Senior Economic Development Specialist

Telephone: 01303 853760

Email: jade.smyth@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Green Grant Scheme guidelines:

<https://folkestone.works/green-business-grant-scheme/>