

**COMMITTEE: CENTRAL AREA REF NO: CAC/17/18**

**DATE: 17 JANUARY 2018**

**SUBJECT: FUNDING REQUEST: FLY-TIPPING &  
GRAFFITI REMOVAL**

**REPORT AUTHOR: GLYNIS WOOD**

**HEAD OF SERVICE: JAMES FAIRCLOUGH**

***Short description of report content and the decision requested:***

To request funding to enable the clearance of fly tipping, dumped rubbish and graffiti from areas of non-statutory land and Council owned land within the Central Area where ownership and responsibility cannot be determined.

Funding of £3,000 is requested to tackle reported fly tipping and graffiti in the Central Area wards effectively and quickly, thereby helping to discourage others looking to dispose of waste, to reduce environmental issues such as vermin and to maintain the presentation of the area.

***Ward(s) affected: Westgate, St Margaret's and Alexandra***

***List of Appendices included in this report:***

N/A

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***This report was prepared after consultation with:***

*External consultees –*

***The following policies form a context to this report:***

*(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)*

*Building a Better Ipswich 2017*

*Central Area Committee Action Plan*

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW**

*(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information)*

1.

**OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS**

*(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)*

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## **1. Introduction**

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- 1.1 This report requests that the Central Area Committee consider allocating funds of £3,000 to enable the clearance of fly tipping and graffiti reported to the Council on areas of land not covered by the Council's statutory duty.
- 1.2 In each instance, Environmental Health officers will investigate the land ownership and seek to identify the perpetrator so that either the party with responsibility for the land or for the act can be made responsible. If neither can be determined conclusively, an alternative solution is required.
- 1.3 The most effective alternative action is for the Council's Waste Services Cleansing staff to clear the waste or remove the graffiti. The Cleansing team offer a service for this work within a schedule of costs.

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## **2. Background**

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- 2.1 There are locations within the Central Area Committee wards that are frequently blighted by incidents of dumped waste and unsightly graffiti, where the Council does not have a responsibility to maintain, such as rear-access alleyways to properties.
- 2.2 Historically without the additional funding to enable clearance, accumulations of waste would remain in situ. These accumulations of waste would increase as further items were added. Some of these items have the potential to cause harm or encourage vermin. All have a negative impact on the appearance of the area.
- 2.3 The Central Area Committee has previously allocated funds to enable these types of incidents to be resolved. The Waste Services Cleansing team has attended and cleared several incidents of fly tipping & graffiti during the last 12 months and the allocated funds have are now spent.

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## **3. Relevant Policies**

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- 3.1 Building a Better Ipswich 2017:
  - Priority 3: An enjoyable Place to Live, Work and Study
  - Priority 4: A Healthy Community
  - Priority 6: Safe Communities
- 3.2 Central Area Committee Action Plan – aims to alleviate deprivation in the following domain:
  - The Living Environment

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#### **4. Options Considered / Under Consideration**

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- 4.1 **Option 1** – To approve the funding of £3,000.
- 4.2 **Option 2** – To approve the funding of an alternative amount.
- 4.3 **Option 3** – Not to fund.

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#### **5. Consultations**

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- 5.1 This is of benefit to the local community and consultation not required.

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#### **6. Risk Management**

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| <b>Risk Description</b>   | <b>Consequence of risk</b>                                   | <b>Risk Controls</b>   | <b>Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (scale 1-6)<br/>1 – almost impossible<br/>6 – very high</b> | <b>Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (scale 1 – negligible; 4 – catastrophic)</b> | <b>Actions to mitigate risk</b>   |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| Build-up of waste may lead to increased risk of vermin and unpleasant environmental implications. Fly-tipped waste may contain hazardous materials.           | Impact on health, well-being, and safety of local residents. | To remove reported fly-tipping, dumped waste and graffiti promptly and effectively   | 3   | 2  | Funding to enable the prompt and effective removal of reported occurrences of fly-tipping and graffiti.         |
| Public perception that the Council is failing to react and deal with these anti-social acts when they occur in areas outside of the Council's statutory duty. | Negative effect on Council reputation.                       | Through the request of the grant that allows funding to swiftly remove reported fly-tipping, dumped waste and graffiti in an effectively manner. | 4   | 2  | Availability of additional funds to enable prompt response to incidents reported affecting non-statutory areas. |

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## **7. Environmental Impact Assessment**

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- 7.1 Items of rubbish, electrical items, litter and hazardous waste fly-tipped in alleyways have a detrimental impact on the environment. The funding will enable the appropriately trained staff of Waste Services Cleansing team to attend, remove and dispose of these items in accordance with relevant environmentally compliant disposal processes.
- 7.2 Items that can be reused or recycled will be taken to the Materials Recovery Plant for processing and all other items will be taken to the Energy from Waste plant.
- 7.3 Vehicles will be used effectively to reduce unnecessary additional travel to disposal plants to reduce impact on environment.

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## **8. Equalities and Diversity Implications**

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- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was completed for this funding application and no negative impacts were identified.

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## **9. Financial Considerations**

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- 9.1 The proposed waste clearances and graffiti removal are costed individually, against a schedule of costs used by the Waste Services Team for both internal and external works.
- 9.2 The total amount requested of the Central Area Committee budget is £3,000.

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## **10. Legal Considerations**

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- 10.1 The Council has the power to award grants to community projects through the Area Committees. The Area Committees have delegated Executive powers and devolved budgets.
- 10.2 Area Committees have the power to award grants in accordance with part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution i.e. the Area Committee terms of reference.

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## **11. Performance Monitoring**

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- 11.1 The fund will be managed by Community Engagement Officers. Initial reports of fly tipping will be investigated by the Environmental Health (EH) Team for evidence to ascertain origin of fly-tipped waste.
- 11.2 The EH Team will also confirm the location is not part of the Adopted Highway that Ipswich Borough Council has a statutory duty to maintain or within ownership of a registered landowner.

- 11.3 The fund will only be used for clearance of fly-tipped waste and graffiti from non-statutory land and land where ownership cannot be proven or identified.
- 11.4 Each report of fly tipping or graffiti will require an assessment and estimate of clearance/removal time and costs. An estimate will be provided to Community Engagement Officer for approval and agreement to proceed.
- 11.5 Before and after photographs will be provided where requested. Each clear-up will be logged and costs recharged against the allocation, if agreed.
- 11.6 No works will take place without the approval of the Community Engagement Officer.
- 11.7 Waste Services, Environmental Health staff and local community officers will liaise and work together to investigate ways to reduce further incidents of fly tipping where possible.

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## **12. Conclusions**

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- 12.1 The presence of fly-tipped waste, litter & graffiti has a detrimental impact on the Central area. The alleyways where waste is dumped are obstructed and restricting access to the rear of some properties. Residents are not able to take items in or out of their back gardens because of obstructed alleyways, including the wheelie bins on collection days.
- 12.2 The majority of the alleyways that access back gardens in the area have no registered landowner and do not fall within the remit of the Council to maintain in any way. New residents may inherit problems with an alleyway obstructed by dumped waste from a previous tenant or untraceable source.
- 12.3 The Council has no corporate budget for clearing these areas. Without additional funding such rubbish would remain in-situ, creating a risk of vermin, odour issues or fire. Residents are sometimes reluctant and often do not have the means to safely dispose of accumulations of waste in the alleyways.
- 12.4 The most efficient, safe and effective way to resolve the issue is for Waste Services and Environmental Health officers to attend, investigate and clear the fly-tipped waste or remove unsightly graffiti. To enable this, the service areas require access to available funding.

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## **13. Recommendations**

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- 13.1 That the Central Area Committee consider the options set out in Section 4 and determines the allocation of funding from the Central Area Committee budget for the clearance of fly-tipped**

**waste & graffiti in areas where the Council does not have a statutory responsibility to maintain.**

Reason: To determine the provision of Area Committee funding to enable the prompt response to reports of fly tipping and graffiti in the Central Wards area; to enable the effective and efficient removal and clearance of waste and graffiti in areas that would not normally be attended; to reduce the impact of such nuisance on the environment; and to improve the appearance of the Central area for residents and visitors.