

**COMMITTEE:** SOUTH WEST REF NO: SWAC/18/14  
**DATE:** 6 SEPTEMBER 2018  
**SUBJECT:** FUNDING REQUEST: SUFFOLK HOUSING,  
HANDFORD CUT PARKING AREA  
BARRIER GATES  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** SIMON LANNING  
**HEAD OF SERVICE:** SHIRLEY JARLETT

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

This report requests that the Committee to consider allocating £975 to Suffolk Housing to allow gates to be installed to the parking area of properties owned by the association on Handford Cut. The parking area has been a site of persistent drug dealing activity from motor vehicles. The installation of gates is intended to disrupt and deter such activity.

*This report has been prepared by Simon Lanning, Tel: 01473 432226*

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*This report was prepared after consultation with:*

*Internal consultees*

*External consultees - Suffolk Housing/Tenants of Suffolk Housing*

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

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

**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)

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**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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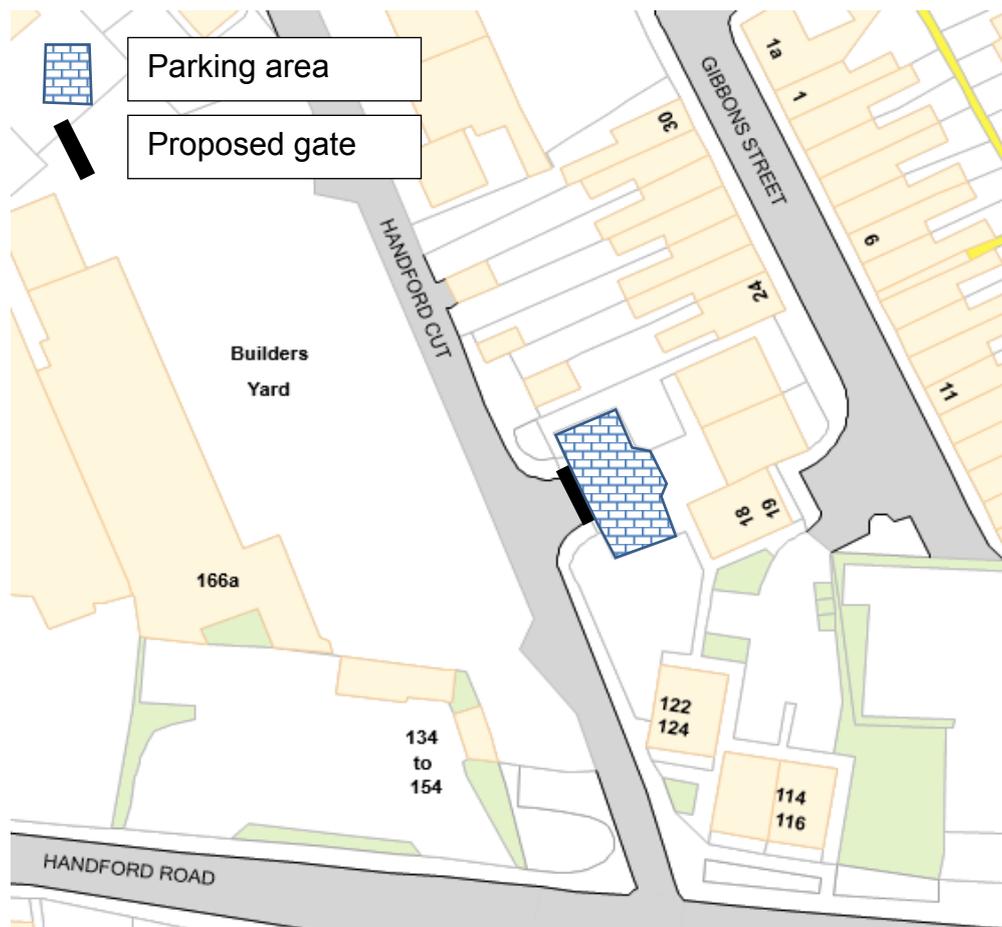
- 1.1 This report requests that the Committee to consider allocating £975 to Suffolk Housing to allow gates to be installed to the parking area of properties owned by the association on Handford Cut. The parking area has been a site of persistent drug dealing activity from motor vehicles. The installation of gates is intended to disrupt and deter such activity.

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## 2. Background

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- 2.1 Suffolk Housing is a Registered Social Landlord that provides social housing across Suffolk. The Suffolk Housing association have approximately 4,500 properties in Ipswich and the wider area of East Anglia that are a mixture of houses and flats and sheltered accommodation.
- 2.2 It has a development of 6 flats on Handford Cut and 6 at Gibbons Street at which the residents have been affected by drug dealing and criminal activity within the carpark. Individuals pull into the parking area, which is close to the town centre and hot spots of drug related litter finds, and conduct drug trades.



**Figure 1 – Map of parking area**

- 2.3 This has been both delivering parcels for dealers to sell nearby and users coming to the vehicle to buy drugs. Antisocial behaviour of shouting, street drinking and drug taking accompanies this criminal activity.
- 2.4 This is a situation known to both the Police and the Council's Community Safety team over an extended period. Regular patrols are made of this area but it is particularly difficult to tackle as the activity, while frequent, is for short periods. Partners have explored options to disrupt and deter this criminal activity with Suffolk Housing.
- 2.5 It is proposed to install lockable barrier gates to the parking area that would restrict the use to the residents and guests only. This would provide relief and improved quality of life to the residents. Further, this would disrupt the criminal activity at this location. In addition to this, on police recommendation, lighting has been repaired at the site and an area fenced off behind the bin store to reduce covert dealing.
- 2.6 The gates would allow residents to feel safer and reduce crime in this location, in which a number of elderly tenants live. Suffolk Housing would match the figure of £975 (plus VAT) to allow the installation to take place and accept maintenance costs once completed. Suffolk Housing will review the impact with partners (police, tenants and the Council).
- 2.7 **The amount requested of the South West Area Committee is £975**

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### **3. Relevant Policies and Area Action considerations**

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- 3.1 Building a Better Ipswich underlying principles:
- Priority 6: Safe communities
- 3.2 To alleviate deprivation in the domains of:
- Crime

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

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- 4.1 **Option 1** – Approve allocation of funding of £975 to Suffolk Housing Association toward the cost of barrier gates to the parking area for the Handford Cut flats.
- 4.2 **Option 2** – Approve allocation of funding of a lesser amount, up to £975 to Suffolk Housing for the same.
- 4.3 **Option 3** - Do not fund

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### **5. Consultations**

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- 5.1 Suffolk Housing has engaged with the residents of its properties on Handford Cut over several years about the antisocial behaviour there. Staff from the organisation have also worked with the Council's Anti-Social

Behaviour team and the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team to tackle the problem.

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## 6. Risk Management

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6.1 The Suffolk Housing management team are responsible for overseeing the installation and management of the parking gates. The risks outlined here relate to the potential Area Committee award toward the project.

<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Consequence of risk</b>	<b>Risk Controls</b>	<b>Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1: almost impossible - 6: very high)</b>	<b>Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1: negligible - 4: catastrophic)</b>
Expectation of funding to improvements at other housing developments	Unsustainable demand on Area Committee funds	Threshold for action based on wider community benefit, evidence of need and community protection partners' advice.  Landowners own responsibilities	2	2
<b>Actions to mitigate risk</b>				
This kind of improvement is only considered where there is a sustained impact on the neighbourhood verified by the Council's own Community Protection team and the Police.				

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## 7. Environmental Impact Assessment

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7.1 The environmental impact of this project is assessed to be negligible.

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## 8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

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8.1 Installation of the gates would make the carpark and residences less accessible to those with a disability as drivers will need to exit their vehicle to open the gate before parking and close the gate again once parked. This will be more difficult for those with limited mobility through age or disability. As the properties at the site are not wheelchair accessible or suitable for disabled adaptations, this is not anticipated to have significant impact for current or future residents.

8.2 All groups are expected to benefit from improved security and diminished crime.

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## 9. Financial Considerations

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Item	Cost
<b>Supply &amp; Fit 2 galvanised gates</b> 2.4 metres wide including 3 posts. Allowing for combination padlock, hinge, bolts, latches and light reflectors	£1,950.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,950.00</b>

9.1 The total cost for the improvements is £1,950 (not including VAT). The application to the Committee is for a 50/50 share of the cost with Suffolk Housing Association.

9.2 **The amount requested of the South West Area Committee is £975.00**

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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.

10.3 The Funding Guidelines expectation of the applicant being a constituted organisation was met by registration with the Companies House [IP21198R](#) and the Public Mutuals register [21198R](#). Evidence of named post holders for the management team and trustees published [online](#). The bank account registered to Suffolk Housing was verified through the Council's payment system.

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## 11. Performance Monitoring

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11.1 Suffolk Housing would be required to complete the Area Committee monitoring report as part of the standard funding agreement. It is recommended that this should include feedback from residents and partners on the impact of the installation.

11.2 The Suffolk Housing Officer would be invited to present to the South West Area Committee.

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## 12. Conclusions

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12.1 The criminal activity at this location on Handford Cut has been detrimental to local residents, and a concern to services, for some time. The application before the committee represents an opportunity to support these residents to disrupt this activity and foster a safer community in Gipping ward.

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## **13. Recommendations**

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**13.1 That the South West Area Committee considers the merit of the options for funding set out in section four and decides an option.**

13.2 Reason:

- To deter drug related crime and antisocial behaviour.
- To improve the quality of life of residents