

COMMITTEE: NORTH WEST REF NO: NWAC/18/16
DATE: 17 JANUARY 2019
SUBJECT: FUNDING REQUEST - SPENDING
PROPOSAL: HIGHFIELD RD GRIT BINS
REPORT AUTHOR: SIMON LANNING
HEAD OF SERVICE: TOM MINNICAN

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

This report requests that the North West Area Committee consider allocating £319.98 to the Housing Service to enable it to apply for grit bins to be placed at two locations on Highfield. The bins have been requested by tenants of the Council's Housing Service and local residents that are concerned about the cold weather slip-hazards on the pavements and parking bays at 97-135 and 169-199 Highfield Rd. Placement of the bins is subject to application to Suffolk County Council.

List of Appendices included in this report:

This report has been prepared by Simon Lanning

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This report was prepared after consultation with:

Internal consultees

Emma Cook – Tenancy Services Neighbourhood Team Manager

Sam Barber - Tenancy Services Housing Officer

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)

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)

None

OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS

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

Protocol

Requirement	Met	Comments
Bank account	Y	N/A – internal spend
Constitution	Y	N/A – internal spend
Named officers	Y	N/A – internal spend
Year-end accounts*	Y	N/A – internal spend
Business plan**	N/A	

*Awards over £1,000

**Awards over £5,000

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report requests that the North West Area Committee consider allocating £319.98 to the Housing Service to enable it to apply for grit bins to be placed at two locations on Highfield Road. The bins have been requested by tenants of the Council's Housing Service and local residents that are concerned about the cold weather slip-hazards on the pavements and parking bays at 97-135 and 169-199 Highfield Rd. Placement of the bins is subject to application to Suffolk County Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Housing Service runs a Tenant Participation program as part of the Council's responsibilities as a social housing provider. The program supports council housing tenants to engage with the Housing Service to address housing and neighbourhood issues, and to scrutinise the performance of the service.
- 2.2 Through the programme, tenants can raise issues that affect themselves and their neighbourhood. Many issues will be within the operational remit of the Housing Service and some involve other services and partner agencies.
- 2.3 The tenants involved in the Housing Panel for the North West Area have raised concerns about the pavements and parking bays at 97-135 and 169-199 Highfield Rd in cold weather.
- 2.4 The Highfield Road carriageway is a primary gritting route for Suffolk County Council in freezing conditions however, some tenants and residents are concerned that this does not provide sufficiently for the pavements and parking bays.
- 2.5 Suffolk County Council has responsibility for the Highway and adopted footpaths. It operates a [scheme to maintain grit bins](#) for volunteers to use.



Figure 1 - Indicative model for proposed grit bin

- 2.6 Suffolk Highways, on behalf of Suffolk County Council, will only accept requests for new grit bins from a parish, town, borough or district council. A grit bin costs between £150 and £450 depending on the type and it must be funded by a county councillor's locality fund or by a town or parish council. The residents are therefore unable to apply for a grit bin without the support of Ipswich Borough Council.
- 2.7 Grit bins are generally placed at important locations, such as the bottom of hills, or on junctions on minor roads. The County Council agrees locations with parish councils to make sure they are in local trouble spots that are generally not on current gritting routes. These locations are on a gritting route and would be an exception to cover the parking areas and footpaths.

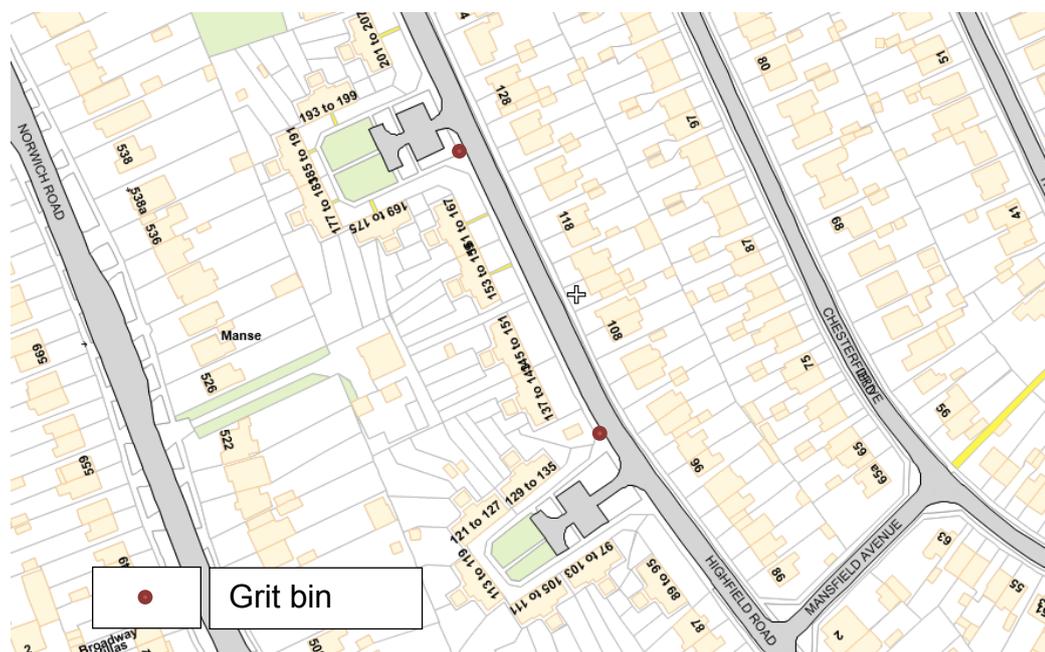


Figure 2 – Potential grit bin locations

- 2.8 The County Council can insure named volunteers for spreading grit or clearing snow providing the parish or town council maintains a list of these volunteers. If this instance were approved, the list would be maintained by officers of the Housing Service.
- 2.9 The Council's Stores Operatives have identified suitable bins for £159.99 each. If the application to Suffolk County Council Highways department is successful, the re-supply of salting grit to the bins will be made by the Highways department without further cost to the Committee.
- 2.10 The total amount requested from the North West Area Committee unallocated budget is £319.98.**

3. Relevant Policies and Area Action considerations

- 3.1 Building a Better Ipswich underlying principles:

- Priority 3: An Enjoyable Place to Live, Work and Study

3.2 To alleviate deprivation in the domain of:

- The Living Environment

4. Options Considered / Under Consideration

4.1 **Option 1** – Approve the spending proposal of £319.98 to the Housing Service to enable the application for two grit bins on Highfield Road.

4.2 **Option 2** – Do not fund.

5. Consultations

5.1 The tenants and councillors of the North West Area Housing Panel have been consulted on the plan. If the spending proposal is agreed, the Housing Service will consult with local residents on the plan and seek further volunteers for the scheme.

5.2 Before applying to the County Council, the Housing Service will obtain permission from any property owners ('owner-occupiers') nearby to the proposed locations.

6. Risk Management

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1: almost impossible - 6: very high)	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1: negligible - 4: catastrophic)
Accident claim	Cost to public purse	Guidance to volunteers Insurance cover Scope of scheme clearly instructed	2	1
Actions to mitigate risk	<p>If the grit bins are installed, resident volunteers will be instructed on how and when to properly apply grit to the parking areas and footpath.</p> <p>The Housing Service will maintain a list of the volunteers that will be communicated to the County Council Highways Department. Those listed volunteers will be covered by the County Council insurance to apply grit to the road and footpath within the Highways responsibility.</p> <p>This will not apply to sections of the footpath on Council Housing land and not adopted by the Highways Department. These boundaries</p>			

	and limitations will be communicated to volunteers and marked if necessary.			
Grit bin application not approved	Project cannot proceed and funds cannot be used as intended	Support for application Return of funds	5	1
Actions to mitigate risk	<p>The County Council Highways Department's approval of the grit bins at these locations is not assured but cannot be tested without completing an application, for which funding must be in place.</p> <p>If the application is refused, the Committee will be informed and the allocation will be returned to the Committee's unallocated budget.</p>			

7. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 7.1 Only negligible environmental impact is foreseen. Grit salt can be harmful to vegetation and it is the purpose of the grit bin to contain and limit damage. Cold weather gritting should be of sufficient quantity to cause significant negative impact.

8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 8.1 The proposed volunteer scheme will be open to and benefit all nearby residents. Enrolment will be according to resident's own assessment of their ability. Some disabilities would limit a resident's ability to participate; if this were the case, adaptations would be explored. It should be noted however, that the scope for physical adaptations is limited.

9. Financial Considerations

- 9.1 This spending proposal is to cover the cost of two grit bins:

Description of expenditure	Cost (£)
Grit Bins 200-litre capacity polyethylene bin with hinged lid. UV & Weather-Resistant £159.99 each x 2 pieces	£319.98
Delivery	£0.00
Supply and replenishing of grit salt	£0.00
Total project costs	£319.98

9.2 The total amount requested from the North West Area Committee unallocated budget is £319.98.

10. Legal Considerations

10.1 The Council has the power to make 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.

11. Performance Monitoring

11.1 The Committee will be informed by the Housing service of;

- The outcome of consultation with property owners
- The number of volunteers enrolled
- The result of the application to Suffolk County Council

11.2 The effectiveness of the bins and the volunteer list will be reviewed annually by the Housing Service.

12. Conclusions

12.1 The Committee is asked to enable the grit bin application by awarding funding to purchase two bins. This will enable this issue to be resolved and give residents the best chance of securing grit bins that are replenished under a scheme that is insured.

13. Recommendations

13.1 The North West Area Committee is recommended to consider the options set out in Section 4 and determine whether to agree the spending proposal.

Reasons:

- To support residents of Highfield Rd to maintain safety of nearby footpaths and parking areas in cold weather
- To support the Housing Service to engage and support tenants in caring for their neighbourhoods