

COMMITTEE: SOUTH WEST **REF NO:**SWAC/19/18
DATE: 12 MARCH 2020
SUBJECT: SPENDING PROPOSAL:
FLY-TIPPING & GRAFFITI REMOVAL BUDGET
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: CLLR SOPHIE MEUDEC
HEAD OF SERVICE: SHIRLEY JARLETT

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

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

Funding of £3000.00 is requested to tackle reported fly tipping and graffiti in the South West Area wards effectively and quickly, thereby helping to discourage others illegally disposing of waste, reducing environmental issues such as vermin and maintaining the presentation of the area.

Ward(s) affected: Gipping, Bridge, Sprites, Stoke Park

List of Appendices included in this report:

None

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This report was prepared after consultation with:

Community Engagement, Community Safety (ASB), Environmental Protection

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)

1.

OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS

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

1.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report requests the South West Area Committee to consider allocating funds of £3000.00 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 held responsible. If neither can be determined conclusively, an alternative solution is required.
- 1.3 In such instances, the most effective action is for the Council's Waste Services Cleansing Team to clear the waste or remove the graffiti. The Cleansing team offer a service for this work within a schedule of costs, which would then be deducted from the budget.

2. Background

- 2.1 There are locations within the South West Committee wards that are frequently blighted by incidents of fly tipped waste and unsightly graffiti, which 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 Environmental health have looked at the number of fly-tipping incidents that have been reported to Ipswich Borough Council's waste service department in the south west in 2018 and 2019 which are set out in the table below.

South West Ward	Number incidents reported 2018	of in	Number incidents reported 2019	of in	Total
BRIDGE WARD	99		101		200
GIPPING WARD	82		63		145
SPRITES WARD	5		7		12
STOKE PARK WARD	22		12		34

- 2.4 It is very hard to determine the cost to Ipswich Borough Council for the removal of the above incidents. Each case has a different outcome. It often takes a large amount of officer time to try and establish who is responsible for the fly tipping incidents.
- 2.5 During this financial year several requests have come from councillors to use the Make a Difference fund to pay for the removal of fly tipping. This includes a £250 spend in the Gipping ward and £180 spend in the Bridge ward.
- 2.6 In the Central Area Committee a similar fund is set up and the Waste Services Cleansing team has attended and cleared 18 incidents of fly tipping and 2 incidents of graffiti between 16 January 2018 and 22 November 2019.

Ward	Alexandra	St. Margaret's	Westgate
Fly-tipping	14 £2,226.80	0 £0	4 £240.00
Graffiti	1 £45.00	0 £0	1 £35.00

- 2.7 The South West Area Committee is asked to consider creating a fund to enable the Cleansing team to clear any fly-tipping or graffiti incidents where the responsible person cannot be traced.
- 2.8 **The amount requested from the South West Area Committee budget is £3000.00**

3. Relevant Policies

- 3.1 Building a Better Ipswich underlying principles:

Priority 4: A Healthy Community

Priority 3: Safe Communities

- 3.2 To alleviate deprivation in the domain of:

- Health
- Living Environment
- Crime

4. Options Considered / Under Consideration

- 4.1 **Option 1** – To approve the funding of **£3000.00**
- 4.2 **Option 2** – To approve the funding of an alternative amount.
- 4.3 **Option 3** – Not to fund.

5. Consultations

5.1 Consultation not required.

6. Risk Management

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1: impossible - almost - 6: very high)	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1: negligible - 4: catastrophic)
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 residents.	To remove reported fly-tipping, and graffiti promptly and effectively	3	2
Actions to mitigate risk	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
Actions to mitigate risk	Availability of additional funds to enable prompt response to incidents reported affecting non-statutory areas.			

7. Environmental Impact Assessment

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.

8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 8.1 No negative impacts were identified for any individual in respect of a protected characteristic. The use of the Fly-tipping & Graffiti Removal budget improves the public space for all residents without preference.

9. Financial Considerations

- 9.1 The proposed waste clearances and graffiti removal are costed individually, against a schedule of costs used by Ipswich Borough Councils Waste Services Team for both internal and external works.
- 9.2 The total amount requested of the South West Area Committee budget is £3000.00

10. Legal Considerations

- 10.1 The Area Committees have the power to take executive function decisions in relation to any works or services to be provided in its Area out of its budgets in prescribed circumstances pursuant to part 3 Section 2 paragraph 6.6.6 of the Constitution. In this instance the request relates to the instigation and/or contribution to crime prevention measures.

11. Performance Monitoring

- 11.1 The fund will be managed by Community Engagement officers. Initial reports of fly tipping will be investigated by the Environmental Health team for evidence to ascertain origin of fly-tipped waste.
- 11.2 The Environmental Health team will confirm whether the location is part of the Adopted Highway that Ipswich Borough Council has a statutory duty to cleanse 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 by the Waste Services team to the 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 Community Engagement officers will liaise and work together to reduce further incidents of fly tipping where possible.

12. Conclusions

- 12.1 The presence of fly-tipped waste, litter & graffiti has a detrimental impact on the South West area. Where waste is deposited in alleyways, footpaths can be obstructed, restricting access to the rear of some properties. Residents are not able to take items in or out of their back gardens, including the wheelie bins on collection days because of obstructed alleyways.
- 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 illegally deposited 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.
- 12.4 Residents are sometimes understandably reluctant to clear fly-tipped waste deposited by an unknown person, even where it is adjacent to their property and responsibility would revert to them. This is especially true where there are persistent issues. Further, residents in affected areas often do not have the means to safely dispose of accumulations of waste in the alleyways.
- 12.5 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 Waste Services costs clearance fees require funding.

13. Recommendations

- 13.1 That the South West Area Committee considers the options in Section 4 in relation to the allocation of funding to the South West Area Fly-tipping & Graffiti Removal Budget.

Reason:

- To enable the prompt response to reports of fly tipping and graffiti in the South West 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
- To improve the appearance of the South West area for residents and visitors.