

**STREET NAMING POLICY**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT (COUNCILLOR CARO WILD)**

**AGENDA ITEM: 17**

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**Reason for this Report**

1. To recommend the approval of the draft Street Naming Policy for consultation. Cardiff Council ("the Council") has statutory responsibilities and powers, within the context of adoptive legislation, for the naming of streets, alteration of street names and indication of street names. The Council also has additional discretionary powers to provide a number or name to a property.
2. Street naming and numbering has a number of important functions, for example, wayfinding, efficient delivery of mail and ensuring the emergency services can locate properties quickly.
3. Street naming is also a key element of place-making, and it is important in the context of the Council's commitments to the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Welsh Language Standards. Ensuring that the naming of new streets in Cardiff reflects local heritage, with names for new developments which are historically, culturally and linguistically linked, will help to deliver on the national well-being goal, 'A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language'.

**Background**

4. The Council's current approach relating to street naming in the city centre, core routes into the city centre and the Cardiff Bay area, is that street naming is bilingual with both Welsh and English on street name plates. There is a historical precedent for this approach and the guiding principle is that these streets are shared streets, as opposed to the city's more residential streets. This maintains consistency with other shared public spaces under the Council's control such as parks and public buildings and allows residents to navigate the capital's busiest streets in the language of their choice. Outside of this area, existing street names are not bilingual and the Council had previously not established a policy for naming streets. The new policy aims to bring together the approaches.

5. This Street Naming Policy has been developed to provide advice and guidance to developers and existing property owners, setting out how the Council controls the naming and numbering of streets and properties under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1925 – Sections 17 to 19.
6. The Council has a commitment to ensure that it works towards parity between Welsh street names and English street names across the city. Monitoring of street names will be carried out.
7. In line with the Council's commitment to the Welsh Language Standards, there are important Welsh language considerations in relation to new street names. The policy set out in the document is that for new street names, a Welsh name should be adopted which is "consistent with the local heritage and history of the area".
8. The policy does not apply to existing streets, apart from those considered 'bilingual' by the Council, as outlined in point 5. With the exception of these streets, existing street names will remain in the 'known' existing language to mitigate potential confusion (i.e. English only or Welsh only). This removes the need for English to Welsh and Welsh to English translations for street names. The only potential exceptions to this policy may be arterial routes into the city centre and the Cardiff Bay area which have historically had Welsh names which are not currently represented on street name signs (for example, City Road/Heol y Plwca).
9. The Council has statutory responsibilities and powers to maintain accurate and updated lists of the names of towns, villages, communities and wards as well as new developments. The policy also sets out the corporate requirements around the Corporate Address Gazetteer, which is the primary address register used in the delivery of Council services.
10. Guidance for developers is provided in the policy, which sets out the process which should be followed in naming and numbering new developments, including consultation with the Bilingual Cardiff Welsh Place/Street Naming Panel. The naming panel provides external expertise to facilitate, advise and suggest options for all naming matters concerning new developments. The policy also outlines the protocols which should be followed in numbering new developments, renaming/renumbering existing properties/streets and activating new addresses.

## **Issues**

11. Public consultation will be carried out. The Council's commitments under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 require that the sustainable development principle is applied to all of the Council's activities through the five ways of working, which emphasises the need for Collaboration and Involvement in developing and appraising proposals and policies. The Council will ensure that consultation with stakeholders and the public will be undertaken using the methods of engagement which are available, for example, online communication and contact through key services such as libraries and hubs.

12. Provision is made in the draft policy for local discretion in identifying street names. Cardiff has a significant historical background and therefore to ensure preservation of this heritage, preference will be given to naming schemes with an historical and local context. The Council has a naming panel with external expertise to facilitate, advise and suggest options for all naming matters concerning new developments.

#### **Local Member consultation (where appropriate)**

13. Consultation with local members will be arranged in advance of public consultation.

#### **Reason for Recommendations**

14. To ensure that the allocation of new or amended street and property names and/or numbers are logical and applied in a consistent manner. This will facilitate the effective delivery of services from both a public and private sector perspective, particularly ensuring that the emergency services can locate any address they may be required to attend.
15. In the context of the Council's commitments to the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Welsh Language Standards, ensuring that the naming of new streets in Cardiff reflects local heritage, with names for new developments which are historically, culturally and linguistically linked, will help to deliver on the national well-being goal, 'A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language'.

#### **Financial Implications**

16. There are no financial implications arising from implementing the recommendations of this report, the cost of any replacement signs will be funded from existing resources.

#### **Legal Implications**

17. As set out in the report the Council has a number of statutory responsibilities and powers with respect to naming streets. It is understood that the policy seeks to give guidance on the process. With respect to any decision as to naming a specific street, the Council should ensure it is in accordance with its governance procedures.

The report also sets out that the draft policy will be subject to consultation prior to approval of the final policy. Any consultation must be adequate and fair. The carrying out of consultation gives rise to a legitimate expectation that the outcome of the consultation will be considered as part of the decision making process.

In considering this matter the decision maker must also have regard to the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010.

The decision maker should also have regard when making its decision to the Council's wider obligations under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards.

### **HR Implications**

18. There are no HR implications for this report.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet is recommended to

- 1) approve the consultation of the draft street naming policy attached to this report
- 2) note that, subject to the outcome of the consultation, a report will be brought back to Cabinet to approve the policy.

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| <b>SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b> | <b>ANDREW GREGORY<br/>DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT<br/>AND ENVIRONMENT</b> |
|                                   | <b>9 November 2018</b>  |

*The following appendix is attached:*

Street Naming Policy