
MEMBER BRIEFING NOTE: STREET NAMING POLICY

Reason for the Report

1. A report titled 'Street Naming Policy' is due to be received by Cabinet at its meeting on the 15 November 2018. The report will be submitted to Cabinet for the following reasons:
 - *To recommend the approval of the draft Street Naming Policy for consultation. The City of 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.*
 - *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.*
 - *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

2. A draft 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.
3. 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 purely 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 has not established a formal policy for naming streets.
4. 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.
5. In line with the Council's commitment to the Welsh Language Standards, there are important Welsh Language considerations in relation to new street names. It is anticipated that the proposed policy will state that for new street names, a Welsh name should be adopted which is "consistent with the local heritage and history of the area".
6. The proposed new policy would not apply to existing streets, apart from those considered 'bilingual' by the Council. With the exception of these streets, existing street names will remain names in the 'known' existing language to mitigate potential confusion (i.e. English only or Welsh only). If approved this would remove the need for English to Welsh and Welsh to English translations for street names. The only potential exceptions to this proposed policy could 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).

7. 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 proposed policy would also set out the corporate requirements around the Corporate Address Gazetteer, which is the primary address register used in the delivery of Council services.
8. Guidance for developers will be provided in the proposed policy, which will set out the process that should be followed in naming and numbering new developments, including consultation with the Bilingual Cardiff Welsh Place/Street Names 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.

Consultation

9. Should the report be approved by Cabinet then a series of consultation events will take place. It is anticipated that local member consultation will take place in advance of a wider public consultation.

Reason for Recommendations

10. The reasons for the recommendations in the Street Naming Policy report to be received by Cabinet are:
 - *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.*
 - 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'.

Way Forward

11. Members are to note the contents of the Member Briefing Note.

Legal Implications

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Note the content of this Member briefing note.

DAVINA FIORE

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31 October 2018