

# Birmingham City Council

## Report to Cabinet



11<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Subject:** Street Naming & Numbering Policy revision

**Report of:** Paul Kitson, Strategic Director Place, Prosperity and Sustainability

**Relevant Cabinet Member:** Councillor Liz Clements – Transport

**Relevant O &S Chair(s):** Councillor Chaman Lal – Sustainability and Transport  
Councillor Akhlaq Ahmed – Resources

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Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 009249/2021		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Street Naming and Numbering (SNN) policy was ratified by the former Transportation and Technical Services Committee meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1997. This policy is due for review in the light of current best practice and the variety and complexity of modern development layouts.

## 2 Recommendations

That Cabinet: approve the revised policy for SNN

### **3 Background**

- 3.1 The primary purpose of good addressing is to enable properties to be located quickly and efficiently, ensuring that each address is unique. This is particularly important when emergency services are required to access an incident quickly.
- 3.2 Building design has undergone massive change over the past 30 years including repurposing of buildings, complex layouts and conversions.
- 3.3 Increased use of the Internet for goods and services requires that addressing must be unique, accurate and capable of being processed digitally. Utility companies and financial institutions routinely verify Clients' credentials by matching address details. The favoured format for digital processing of addresses is BS\_7666. Addressing must comply with this standard in order for goods and services to be provided and delivered efficiently.
- 3.4 Street naming and numbering (SNN) has had to evolve to cope with new layouts and design standards and was recently subject to development of National Code of Practice incorporating legal advice on statutory powers and duties in the light of BS\_7666.
- 3.5 In addition, under the Equalities Act 2010 local authorities are now required to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. The National Code of Practice recommends that where a street is to be named after a person no longer living, that person should have been deceased for more than 50 years. This is due to reputational damage caused to bodies commemorating people who subsequently fell into disrepute many years after their death. Birmingham City Council wishes to comply with the Equalities Act by the introduction of street names using names of people from our newly settled diverse communities who have died more recently than the recommended period. New procedures are recommended to facilitate this. The proposed policy allows new street names to be considered for specific developments within the statutory one-month period, to be named after people deceased for more than 25 years. Furthermore, names after people no longer living can be considered at an earlier time for inclusion on a list for non-specific sites, allowing more time for research. The Equalities Impact Assessment is at Appendix B.
- 3.6 To incorporate recent developments in the built environment and cultural change within Birmingham the SNN policy has been revised as attached at Appendix A.
- 3.7 The revised policy incorporates BS\_7666 National Code of Practice as developed by the SNN Best Practise Working Party facilitated by GeoPlace LLP, Custodian of the National Address and Streets Gazetteers. Variations have been added to ensure that Birmingham City Council can reflect the nature of its newly established diverse communities.

### **4 Options Considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 4.1 To retain the existing SNN policy.

Due to the changing nature of developments, increased number of building conversions and changes of use, and complexity of current designs, the existing SNN policy is no longer fit for purpose.

#### 4.2 To adopt National Code of Practice

This would result in fully-compliant addresses for the purposes of BS\_7666 however it would not take advantage of the opportunity to promote good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

#### 4.3 Adoption of National Code of Practice with additional processes to allow the use of names of people deceased more than 25 years for specific developments;.

This results in fully compliant BS\_7666 addresses with the added advantage of promoting good relations. The additional process will further be used to produce a pre-approved list of street names relevant to specific areas for use by developers with less local knowledge which are unable to suggest suitable street names for their developments. The current pre-approved list is at Appendix E

### 5 Consultation

#### 5.1 Consultation has been carried out with all elected Members. The results are held in Appendix C. The draft policy was reviewed in the light of comments received during the consultation process and responses included in Appendix C.

### 6 Risk Management

#### 6.1 There is a potential risk to the Council's reputation where it is subsequently found that a person after whom a street has been named was an unsuitable candidate. The procedure includes consultation with Members for street names proposed for inclusion on the pre-approved list. All names commemorating a person no longer living will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment as described in the report at Appendix B. Where such names are in respect of a person who has been deceased less than 25 years the relevant Ward Member(s) will be asked to comment on that person's suitability for such commemoration. This will enable the Council to represent the diverse nature of its communities whilst mitigating the risk of reputational damage.

### 7 Compliance Issues:

#### 7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

7.1.1 It is proposed that the revised policy replace that approved by the Transport Committee on 1st October 1997.

#### 7.2 Legal Implications

7.2.1 The revised policy is compliant with the Public Health Act 1925 and West Midlands County Council Act 1980 which have been adopted by the Council in relation to its SNN duties.

### **7.3 Financial Implications**

The report covers the review of the Street Naming & Numbering Policy to ensure it remains current and fit for purpose. There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendation in the report.

### **7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)**

7.4.1 N/A

### **7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)**

7.5.1 N/A

### **7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty**

7.6.1 The revised policy allows improved recognition of Birmingham's younger and more diverse communities.

7.6.2 Due to the need for clear, logical addressing throughout enabling properties to be located swiftly in case of emergency, it is recommended that numbers no longer be dropped for cultural or superstitious reasons. Whilst this fails to reflect the differences of various cultures, no cultures will be reflected in the policy in this instance; this means that no culture is given any greater recognition than any other.

### **7.7 Sustainability Issues**

7.7.1 This Policy relates to an existing statutory duty and there is no adverse effect on sustainability issues arising from its implementation.

## **8 Appendices**

### **8.1 List of Appendices accompanying this report:**

Appendix A – Proposed Street Naming & Numbering Policy

Appendix B – Equality Analysis

Appendix C – Consultation Outcome

Appendix D – Street Naming & Numbering process Flow Diagram

Appendix E – Approved list of Street Names

## **9 Background Documents**

### **9.1 Addressing flow diagrams from National Code of Practice**

