



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

to
**STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
15 SEPTEMBER 2022**

STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING POLICY

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To review, amend if required, and approve Maldon District Council's (MDC) local policy and due diligence measures with regard to Section 3.1 of the Street Naming and Numbering Policy - Naming Streets after People attached as **APPENDIX A**.
- 1.2 To approve adoption of the full Street Naming and Numbering policy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Council

- (i) That the Street Naming and Numbering Policy (**APPENDIX A**) is approved:
- (ii) That a comprehensive, accessible policy for use by Residents, Developers, Officers and Council, Town and Parish Councillors is agreed which demonstrates and clarifies the criteria applied to current Street Naming and Numbering decisions;
- (iii) That the Council agree on the local policy for the use (or not) of peoples' names, including a due diligence stage undertaken via Ward Members on the suitable use of any names submitted by Residents, Officers or Councillors (Ward or Parish) prior to them being submitted for wider consultation when naming new Streets.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Challenges are sometimes received from Residents or Developers when their suggested house names or numbering schemes cannot be adopted, which can lead to Member or Senior Officer involvement. Adoption and publication of the policy will mitigate some of these challenges.
- 3.2 The policy advises of the criteria that must be met and followed by the Council when allocating Street Naming and Numbering under Sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 and to comply with National data conventions under British Standard BS7666:2006 (spatial data-sets for geographical referencing) and the soon to be published National Street Naming and Numbering Code of Practice.
- 3.3 The review of Section 3.1 is proposed due to a Nationally seen increase in requests by members of the public to remove street names associated with current or

historical figures due to a change in public perception of the individual in question. These changes can prove costly for residents, businesses and the Council if it is agreed that renaming is required.

- 3.4 National guidelines allow for local policy in this area although they strongly recommend that local authorities do not allow the use of names of living individuals as there is increased potential for perception to change during the course of their remaining life due to actions they may take. MDC however has previously allowed the use of surnames, and in exceptional circumstances full names, of both living and deceased individuals recognised for significant service or contribution to the local community or a local resident who has made a national or global contribution.
- 3.5 Section 3.1 in the Policy presented gives the current process used by Officers when asked to consider peoples' names and includes an updated due diligence process used recently whereby the relevant Ward Members have been pre consulted to determine whether suggested names should be put forward or excluded from consideration before wider consultation.
- 3.6 This is an opportunity to review this current process to determine whether, given the National issues previously highlighted, Council agrees this is still the correct approach for MDC or whether amendments need to be made e.g. agree to non - use of names of living individuals, prior to the adoption and publication of the full policy.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Adoption of the policy will provide comprehensive guidance on the current criteria for Street Naming and Numbering and will reduce the number of queries, questions and challenges received.
- 4.2 Requests to name after individuals are not common currently but having a reviewed and agreed policy on naming after people will help Officers when faced with challenges from the public. The addition of the due diligence stage is not expected to significantly impact the Ward Members' time but when needed will provide the Council with an additional step towards identifying and reducing future potential costs.

5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

- 5.1 An accessible Street Naming and Numbering Policy will provide transparency to our decision-making process when providing addressing for all properties and businesses in the area and will demonstrate our commitment to the themes of Place and Prosperity by providing clear addressing.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Clear addressing enabling effective delivery of Utilities, Deliveries and quick attendance by Emergency Services.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.

- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Identification and mitigation of risk of future financial costs which may be incurred through the renaming and replacement of an undesirable Street Name.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – No additional finance required to implement the policy.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Additional time required with relevant Ward Members as and when Naming nominations have been put forward for consideration (Teams meeting or email consultation – minimal time impact).
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** – None.

Background Papers:

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