

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	4879
Author:	Sarah Abbott
Department:	Growth and City Development
Contact:	Sarah Abbott (Job Title: GIS Data and Infrastructure Manager, Email: sarah.abbott@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 64004)
Subject:	Street Naming and Numbering Policy
Total Value:	£0 (Type: Nil)
Decision Being Taken:	To adopt the Nottingham City Council 'Street Naming and Numbering Policy and Guidance January 2023' (see Appendix 1) and supersede the existing Street Naming and Numbering Policy (see Appendix 2). To note the changes to naming streets after deceased people, with the introduction of a 20 year delay, the changes to the requirements for suitable street names and the changes to the structure of the policy.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	<p>Nottingham City Council has a statutory responsibility for Street Naming and Numbering (SNN), which comprises the naming of streets and numbering/naming of properties. To ensure the service operates effectively and efficiently, it is necessary to set out process, procedures and adopted legislation in the form of a local policy. This is recommended national best practice. The existing Street Naming and Numbering Policy, although not formally adopted, has been in use since 2014 and its use has been instrumental in adopting a consistent and transparent approach to SNN decision-making. Recently, new national guidance on the re-naming of streets has been released (The Law and Best Practice for the Re-naming of Streets and Buildings, December 2020). It stated that whilst an authority may already have an SNN policy, due to the increasing focus on historic building and street names, it was worth considering a focussed review of that policy. This guidance also provided a best-practice structure for a policy. This has subsequently led to a review of the Council's existing policy/guidance document, ensuring the policy recognises and is learning from good practice and improving on the previous version. If the adoption of the Street Naming and Numbering Policy and Guidance January 2023 (Appendix 1) is approved and implemented, it is anticipated the changes will: better align with national best practice; better support the City's commitment to maintaining and enhancing the sense of place (Local Plan/ Design Quality Framework); reduce potential risk and cost to the Council and citizens associated with re-naming streets; more positively reflect and celebrate the diversity and culture of Nottingham; support improved operational efficiencies. Please refer to the Street Naming and Numbering Policy Background Paper (Appendix 3) for further detail.</p>

Other Options Considered:

Alternative options in respect of street re-naming were: 1) To do nothing and to continue as now with no specific requirement for a 20 year delay in naming streets after deceased persons; 2) Amend the Street Naming and Numbering Policy to include a specific requirement not to name after deceased persons at all. Option 1) was rejected due to the increased potential risk and cost to the Council and citizens associated with re-naming of streets. Option 2) was rejected as this would not offer the opportunity to represent noteworthy individuals in the history and culture of the City in our street naming in a meaningful way. The chosen option of a 20-year delay provides a balance; offsetting risk whilst still providing the opportunity to represent noteworthy individuals. Consideration regarding the length of time was primarily chosen following the example of English Heritage's Blue Plaque selection criteria, which requires that a person has been deceased for at least 20 years. This is a suggested criteria from GeoPlace (the national body for Addressing) and as such a significant number of other Local Authorities place a limit, often between 20 and 50 years, in their policies. The policy has been developed alongside the Corporate Statues, Plaques and Memorials Policy, to ensure that the same principles run throughout, including the 20-year delay. This approach will ensure consistent and robust policies are in place to direct the Council's response to residents' concerns around existing names and structures and to provide guidance to ensure that proposed names best celebrate the City's heritage and culture in a way that is compatible with a modern, diverse City.

Background Papers:

None.

Unpublished background papers:

Appendix 2 - Nottingham City Council Street Naming and Numbering Policy (Existing).pdf, Appendix 3 - Street Naming and Numbering Policy Background Paper.pdf, Appendix 1 - Nottingham City Council Street Naming and Numbering Policy and Guidance Jan 2023.pdf

Published Works:

The-law-and-best-practice-for-the-renaming-of-streets-and-building_FINAL-Dec-2020.pdf (geoplace.co.uk)

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

None

Consultations:

Date: 27/05/2022

Other City Council Bodies:Leadership (27/5/22), Corporate Leadership Team (6/5/22) and Departmental Leadership (26/1/22) were all consulted).

To ensure strong co-ordination exists between the development and publishing of new guidance around 'Statues and Public Artworks' and the 'Street Naming and Numbering policy' for the City.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

One of the criteria to be met before considering the re-naming of street is that there is a clearly identified problem. This could include vandalism and negative impacts on community cohesion of an existing street name.

Equality:

Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Equality Impact Assessment.pdf

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

14/03/2023

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

3/2/2023 - In discussion with report writer to make changes
 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the responsibility for Street Naming and Numbering (SNN) falls within the remit of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Planning.

The legal framework for street naming and numbering is as set out at section 3 in the proposed 'Street Naming and Numbering Guidance and Policy January 2023' attached at Appendix 1 to the DDM ('the Revised Policy'). Whilst there is no statutory requirement for a policy the proposal to adopt a SNN policy is set out in the 'Reasons and circumstances leading to the need for the decision' and it is within the Council's power to adopt the Revised Policy.

The Revised Policy is based on the legislative provisions and sets out the Council's processes for the naming of new streets, re-naming existing streets (including the provision not to name/rename a street after a deceased person until 20 years after their death at 11.2 of the Revised Policy) and property numbering/re-numbering. The Revised Policy also sets out rights of an aggrieved person to appeal to the Magistrates Court at section 12.1 against the decision of the Council to change a street name. There is no right of appeal for the re-numbering of properties. The Revised Policy is also intended to provide guidance and best practice advice as well as setting out the relevant processes.

The Revised Policy incorporates the December 2020 national guidance (GeoPlace LLP -'The law and best practice for the re-naming of streets and buildings). GeoPlace LLP are currently undertaking a consultation on a Street Naming and Numbering Code of Practice (June 2022), which aims to provide a practical manual for Local Authority Officers for street naming and property numbering for England and Wales to enable them to meet their statutory duty. This may introduce further changes to the national best practice guidance.

Adoption of the Revised Policy may be challengeable by way of Judicial Review on public law grounds.

Advice provided by Tahira Lee (Solicitor Planning & Environment) on 14/02/2023.

Finance Advice:

<p>As the updating of Street Naming and Numbering Policy has no financial cost associated with it, there are no direct financial implications of this decision. As this Decision relates to a statutory responsibility, this may also reduce potential risk and therefore cost to the Council and citizens associated with re-naming streets.</p> <p>Advice provided by Paul Rogers (Commercial Finance Business Partner (G&D)) on 30/01/2023.</p>
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Equality and Diversity Advice:

<p>The EIA has been reviewed, where it has been identified there may adversely be an impact. The author has included mitigation around this and I am therefore happy to sign off.</p> <p>Advice provided by Rosey Donovan (Equality and Employability Consultant) on 30/01/2023.</p>
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Signatures

Pavlos Kotsonis (Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Planning)
SIGNED and Dated: 07/03/2023
Sajeeda Rose (Corporate Director of Growth & City Development)
SIGNED and Dated: 02/03/2023