

**Teignbridge District Council
Executive
7 May 2024**

Part i

Street Naming and Numbering Policy

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with details of the Street Naming and Numbering Policy and recommend its adoption.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee RESOLVES to:

- (1) Adopt the Street Naming and Numbering Policy as set out in Appendix 1 to this report
- (2) Work with Exeter and East Devon Councils to review the shared Policy against the Local Government Association guidance to respond to calls for public realm changes

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

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Risk Assessment

Risks are set out in Section 3 of this report.

Neil Blaney, Head of Place and Commercial Services

Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

The Proposal relates to adoption of a policy only and has no material Climate

Change implications.

Neil Blaney, Head of Place and Commercial Services

Report Author

Neil Blaney, Head of Place and Commercial Services

Executive Member

Cllr Gary Taylor, Executive Member for Planning

Appendices

1. Street Naming and Numbering Policy
2. Results of consultation with Town and Parish Councils
3. Equalities Impact Assessment

Background Papers

1. [Agenda for Full Council on Monday, 22nd February, 2021, 10.00 am - Teignbridge District Council](#)
2. [Local Government Association report – Responding to calls for public realm changes – June 2020](#)

1. Introduction and background

The naming and numbering of streets and buildings is controlled under the Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847.

The prime objective in naming streets and numbering buildings is to facilitate easy identification of premises by the emergency services, postal and delivery services, and general visitors to the area.

Street Naming and Numbering is a joint service undertaken by Strata on behalf of Teignbridge, Exeter, and East Devon Councils. There are clear operational benefits to all three Authorities adopting a single, unified policy approach.

The Street Naming and Numbering (SNN) policy has been used in practice since 2019 but has never been formally adopted by Teignbridge.

In addition to formalising the approach to SNN, a Notice of Motion on Equality of Representation was supported by Council in February 2021, within which Council resolved to:

- Review the street naming and numbering procedure to reflect the recent Local Government Association (LGA) advice note relating to requests from the public to change the public realm.

Links to the Notice of Motion and LGA Advice notes are contained in the Background Papers.

2. Considerations in relation to the Notice of Motion

The LGA advice note contains four points for consideration in calls for public realm changes:

- Establishing a forum for discussion
- Establishing a measure of objectivity
- Countering extremism
- Considering a suite of solutions in addition to 'erasing' a statue of street name'

Section 4 of the Policy deals with procedures to name/rename an existing street, road or lane.

Consultation on changes needs to demonstrate support of at least two thirds of affected properties, or the owner in the case of a privately owned street. The Ward Member and Town / Parish Council will then be consulted.

The Policy does not currently require a wider forum to be convened, which misses the opportunity for a wider understanding, dialogue and debate to take place around a proposed change.

There is no requirement in changing a name to require measures of objectivity, although the criteria for naming new streets does contain guidance in sections 3.9.5, 3.9.6 and 3.9.13 that aligns with the LGA guidance.

Overall, the Policy aligns well with the LGA guidance, but could be amended to reflect the advice more specifically, particularly in relation to renaming. This would require all three authorities to agree to and update the policy accordingly.

This should be done with engagement with communities and interest groups.

3. Town and Parish Council Feedback

As part of the Policy, prior to new streets being named, input and ideas are canvassed from our local councils.

To inform this report all Town and Parish Councils were consulted via a three-question survey to understand their views on the Policy.

The survey posed three questions:

Q1: Do you approve of the Policy update, to make it the same as Exeter and East Devon Councils?

Q2: Is there anything missing?

Q3: Please state which Town or Parish Council you represent.

Ten responses were received to the consultation, the content of which can be found as Appendix 2 to this report. Seven responses agreed with the policy, 1 neither agreed nor disagreed, and two responses were against.

None of the responses received against the Policy have resulted in material changes as there was not information included explaining why or what was missing.

A refresh of the policy should include a more engaged discussion with Town and Parish Councils to understand why there was disagreement and what could be improved.

4. Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact

There are no substantive risks arising from adopting the Policy. The adoption of the Policy will assist with better supporting requests from the community to rename or explain historic street names.

The Policy as proposed is being used to provide guidance to decisions at present. The risk of adopting it is therefore negligible, as complaints are received very irregularly. The greater risk is that if the Policy is not adopted, we are left without an adopted Policy against which to carry out our Statutory Street Naming and Numbering duties.

4. Alternative Options

There are no feasible alternative options that would comply with the resolution agreed by Council when considering the Notice of Motion.

5. Conclusion

Members are requested to adopt the Policy. Consideration should also be given to updating the Policy in collaboration with Exeter and East Devon Councils to reflect the LGA advice note.