

Title:	Street Naming and Numbering Policy and Procedure
Portfolio holder:	Graham Payne
Reporting officer:	John Follows
Key decision:	No

Purpose

To approve a Street Naming and Numbering Policy and Procedure. A proposed Policy and Procedure is shown at Appendix 1.

Background

Street naming and numbering is a statutory function. The Council is required to devise and implement naming and numbering schemes and to maintain street nameplates to a good standard.

This process is carried out in consultation with the developer or land owner and is subject to the constraints of the Royal Mail. The Council has successfully performed this function since its inception, but since September 2007 a new British Standard for addressing has been introduced.

Key Issues

- The new British Standard recommends that “Creating Authorities should adopt a protocol for the use of the names of living and deceased people”.
- Additionally a mechanism to resolve disputes needs to be agreed in the light of some recent high profile cases. Examples are:-
 1. Where a developer, Mr Griffin, and Heytesbury Parish Council failed to reach agreement over a street name. Mr Griffin wants his development (to be built on the site of his former garage, Griffins) to be called Griffins Mews. Heytesbury Parish Council strongly objects to this. Mr Griffin has since rejected any alternative names put forward by the parish council.
 2. Warminster Town Council reportedly felt snubbed when it was advised that we recommend the avoidance of names relating to persons living or dead.

A proposed procedure has been drawn up, which is based on best practice and has been recommended by the IDeA. This is attached at Appendix 1.

Effect on strategies and codes

None

Risk management Implications

- The reputation of the Council may be affected by ambiguous or unclear processes
- A clear means of resolving failures to agree is needed which takes account of national standards and local views.

Finance and performance implications

- None

Legal and human rights implications

- The relevant powers are contained in sections 64 and 65 of the Towns Improvements Clauses Act 1847 and sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925.

Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- Consider the proposed Street Naming and Numbering Policy and Procedure
- Agree (or otherwise amend) the criteria on not naming streets after persons living or dead
- Agree (or otherwise amend) the procedure for achieving agreement over street naming
- In the light of the above, to agree and adopt a Street Naming and Numbering Policy and Procedure.
- Authorise the Property and Commercial Services Manager to update the procedure in the event of new legislation or standards of good practice, in consultation with the portfolio holder

Next Steps

- To implement an approved policy and procedure for Street Naming and Numbering

Background papers

Files -room no.G 38.