

## CABINET

17 JANUARY 2012

<b>Title:</b> Review of Responsibilities for Naming and Renaming of Roads and Buildings	
<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration</b>	
Open Report	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
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<b>Accountable Divisional Director:</b> Jeremy Grint, Divisional Director for Regeneration	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Tracie Evans, Corporate Director of Finance and Resources	
<b>Summary:</b> <p>This report considers whether the current responsibilities for naming and renaming of roads and buildings are fit for purpose and what changes are necessary.</p> <p>Currently under the constitution the Cabinet is responsible for the naming of roads and buildings for which the Council is responsible irrespective of whether names are used from the Approved List of Names. This is considered unnecessarily bureaucratic. The constitution does not say who is responsible for the renaming of roads and buildings or for amendments to the Approved List of Names.</p> <p>At its meeting on 29 September 2009 (Minute 62 refers), Cabinet agreed an updated Approved List of Names and delegated authority to the Chief Executive to add the names of residents who died in active service abroad and residents awarded the Elizabeth Cross (Note: at the time of this delegation the Divisional Director of Regeneration was under the line management of the Chief Executive but has subsequently transferred to the line management of the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources. Therefore, this delegation should similarly transfer to the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources).</p> <p>This report recommends that the current arrangements be amended to provide a more responsive road and building naming service while at the same time ensuring that Members continue to be appropriately involved in the process.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b> <p>The Cabinet is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Approve the following arrangements for the naming of roads and buildings:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Cabinet be responsible for:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ approving amendments to the Approved List of Names, apart from those delegated under Minute 62, 2009/10)</li><li>○ approving all proposals to rename roads and buildings</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	

- b) The Corporate Director of Finance and Resources be responsible for:
- approving the use of names from the Approved List of Names
  - approving the use of names not on the Approved List of Names following consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and relevant Ward Members.

(ii) Note that the Council's Constitution will be amended accordingly.

### **Reason(s)**

The naming of new roads is a good opportunity to reference people and features of local relevance which can help increase civic pride and interest in the local area. This helps deliver one of the expressed outcomes of the Council's Policy House which is; "a borough in which people are proud and satisfied to live and work".

## **1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 The naming and numbering of roads and buildings is an important statutory Council duty. It is vital that roads and buildings are named and numbered clearly and logically as service providers depend on this information including the emergency services and many Council services. The naming of new roads is also a good opportunity to reference people and features of local relevance which can help increase civic pride and interest in the local area.
- 1.2 This report considers whether the current responsibilities for naming and renaming of roads and buildings are fit for purpose and what changes are necessary.
- 1.3 Section 3 of the Council's Constitution stipulates that the naming of roads and buildings for which the Council is responsible is a responsibility of the Cabinet except for those names delegated to the Chief Executive by Minute 62, 29 September 2009. No mention is made of the renaming of roads and buildings.
- 1.4 Minute 62, 29 September 2009 states that the Chief Executive has delegated authority to add to the Approved List of Names:
- the names of further residents of the Borough who died in active service abroad that are not currently included; and
  - the names of those commemorated by the award of the Elizabeth Cross, subject to obtaining families' approval before a formal proposal is made to use a name.
- 1.5 It should be noted that at the time of this delegation the Divisional Director of Regeneration was under the line management of the Chief Executive but has subsequently transferred to the line management of the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources. Therefore, this delegation should similarly transfer to the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources.
- 1.6 The Approved List of Names is a statutory requirement under the London Building Act. Cabinet on 29 September 2009 agreed to a revised and expanded list. The revision consisted of two parts: the first updated the current list and the second, at the request of Members, added the names of Borough residents who lost their lives during the war together with the names of servicemen and civil defence volunteers who either died in the borough whilst on active service or whose gallantry resulted

in the award of the Victoria Cross, George Cross or George Medal. It is planned to bring a report to Cabinet in the near future to add the names of local pubs current and past to the Approved List of Names.

- 1.7 As currently written the Constitution requires the Cabinet to authorise the naming of all roads and buildings for which the Council is responsible irrespective of whether they are on the Approved List of Names.
- 1.8 The Cabinet reporting process takes about three months which is too long to meet the day to day requirements of developers including the Council and its partners who want to progress their developments. At the same time, Members need to be involved in the naming of roads and buildings to ensure that the names used are locally acceptable.

## **2. Proposal and Issues**

- 2.1 To address this it is proposed that the Constitution is changed so that Cabinet is responsible for agreeing amendments and updates to the Approved List of Names apart from those names agreed by Minute 62, 29 September 2009. The responsibility for naming of roads and buildings using names from the Approved List of Names would be delegated to the Corporate Director. If names are suggested which are not on the Approved List of Names and time dictates that it is not appropriate for Cabinet to be asked to agree changes to the Approved List then the Leader, the Lead Member for Regeneration and the relevant Ward Members would be consulted prior to the decision being taken by Corporate Director .
- 2.2 On rare occasions requests are received to rename existing roads. The Public Health Act Amendment Act 1907 requires that a road cannot be renamed unless it has the support of two thirds of those who live on the road under consideration. Officers consider that this can be a sensitive issue and for this reason recommend that the Constitution is changed so that it is clear that any proposals to rename existing roads must be approved by Cabinet before a consultation is carried out. If no consultation is necessary because there are no residents affected Cabinet approval should still be necessary.

## **3. Options Appraisal**

- 3.1 The recommendations of this report are considered to strike the right balance between being able to provide a responsive roads and buildings naming service and ensuring Members are appropriately involved in the process.
- 3.2 Alternative options that were considered but discounted as they did not strike the right balance were:
  - To delegate the entire responsibility for the naming of all roads and buildings to the Corporate Director;
  - For the Cabinet to be responsible for all approvals.

## 4. Consultation

- 4.1 Section 2 above outlines the arrangements for consulting with relevant Members and the local community on any future proposals for the naming and renaming of roads and buildings.

## 5. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: David Abbott, Principal Accountant

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. As and when roads are named the cost of the road signage will be funded from existing Council budgets.

## 6. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Doreen Reeves, Legal Group Manager

- 6.1 The present powers which control the naming and numbering of roads in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and the Greater London area are derived from Part II of the London Buildings Act (Amendment) Act 1939.
- 6.2 The original Act referred only to the inner London area and was amended by Section 43(1) of the London Government Act 1963 to include the whole of Greater London.
- 6.3 With the dissolution of the Greater London Council in 1985 the powers held by that Council, in respect of road naming and numbering, were devolved to the London boroughs by virtue of the Local Government Act 1985.
- 6.4 During its existence the Greater London Council applied policies to regulate the naming of roads and the numbering of buildings, and adopted Regulations, formulated by the London County Council in 1952, governing the display of numbers and names on buildings. These have subsequently been adopted by the Council.
- 6.5 The Council Constitution delegates the power to name council property and roads to the Cabinet - Section B - The Cabinet Article 4 - Pages B25- B26 and Scheme of Delegation Pages C15-C16.

## 7. Other Implications

- 7.1 **Risk Management:** The proposed changes to the constitution are designed to ensure that the risk of inappropriate naming of roads and buildings is minimised.
- 7.2 **Customer Impact:** The revised responsibilities put forward in this report will provide a more responsive service for naming roads and buildings in comparison to what the Constitution currently requires. However the revised responsibilities still ensure that Cabinet approves any amendments to the Approved List of Names other than those delegated to the Chief Executive, and that the relevant Members are consulted where names not on the Approved List of Names are suggested.

7.3 The Approved List of Names predominantly contains names which have an association with the borough. Using names which reflect the borough's heritage can help promote pride and understanding.

**Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:**

- Cabinet Report, 29 September 2009, Revisions to approved street naming list (Minute 62 – 29/09/09).
- Council Constitution

**List of appendices:**

None