

CHARGING FOR STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Geoff Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Deb Poole, Head of Transformation & OD
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	No
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Council discharges statutory functions relating to street naming and numbering and has the power to charge for those parts of the service that are not statutory duties. This report proposes the introduction of charges for providing these discretionary aspects of the service.
- 1.2 If agreed, the Council's Policy in relation to Street Naming and Numbering will need to be amended to include reference to these charges. The report recommends delegation to officers to implement the necessary changes to the policy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is requested to **RECOMMEND** :

- 2.1 That Sections 64 and 65 of the Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847 and Sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 be adopted by the Council.
- 2.2 That charging for the discretionary element of Street Naming and Numbering be introduced and that the fees set out at Appendix1 be adopted.
- 2.3 That authority be delegated to the Head of Transformation and Organisational Development, to make the necessary amendments to the Street Naming and Numbering Policy resulting from the decision at 2.1 and 2.2.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The income generated by charging for these services will be used to cover the cost of providing the street naming and numbering post within I.T. Services. The total cost is £27,000 which will be shared equally between Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils.
- 3.2 The charges proposed within this document are in line with neighbouring authorities such as Wyre Forest.
- 3.3 An estimated income of £16,000 per year for Bromsgrove is expected, based on the projected development of approximately 514 residential premises per year, over the next 5 years.
- 3.5 Adjustment to the charges may be required on an on-going basis to ensure that they comply with the costs recovery requirement and charges will be reviewed annually as part of the setting of corporate fees and charges during the Council's budget setting process.
- 3.6 The proposed charges are set out at Appendix 1. The charges will be paid by developers and house builders rather than being met by individual residents.

Legal Implications

- 3.7 The legislation under which naming and numbering can be carried out is:
 - Section 21 Public Health Acts Amenity Act 1907 (alteration of street name)
 - Sections 17 – 19 Public Health Act 1925 (the 1925 Act)(naming of streets and alteration and indication of street names)
 - Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847 (TICA) (street naming provisions)
 - Sections 64 and 65 Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847(street numbering provisions)
- 3.8 The Council must formally adopt the legislation it intends to use for street naming and street numbering. However, it has not been possible to pinpoint the adoption by the Council (or any of its predecessor bodies) of the relevant acts. Accordingly, it is proposed as part of the process for introducing charges for the discretionary services the adoption of the relevant legislation be confirmed by Council.

3.9 The table below sets out the different provisions that it is proposed to adopt and which part of the process they enable the Council to undertake.

Section 17 Public Health Act 1925	Power to name streets
Section 18 Public Health Act 1925	Power to alter street names
Section 19 Public Health Act 1925	Power to identify street/ attach nameplates including attaching to buildings plus introduces penalties for damage to street signs.
Sections 64 and 65 Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847	Power to name streets and identify buildings (property numbers); power to identify street and erect street nameplates; penalties for unapproved numbering/ naming and damage to street signs.

3.10 The Power to charge for the provision of discretionary services is contained in s93 of the Local Government Act 2003. An authority may charge where the party receiving the service has agreed to its provision and the charge must not exceed the cost of providing the service.

3.11 The Council has a duty to see that street names are conspicuously indicated in or near a street. The Act states that the initiative may come from a developer, who will provide the initial nameplates for new developments. Once new road names have been established, it is the Council's responsibility to produce the numbering scheme for a new development.

Service / Operational Implications

3.12 Agreement to the proposal to charge for the discretionary parts of the street naming and numbering service will assist in securing staff positions going forward.

3.13 There will be a requirement to manage the invoicing process, which will be managed by ICT and Finance.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.14 The service will continue to be provided as currently. Local residents should not be affected; the charges that are being introduced will be paid by developers and house builders.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Failure to adopt and introduce will increase the risk of redundancy to ICT staff if the service is unable to recover its costs from customers where it is permitted to do so.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – schedule of proposed fees.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Deb Poole

E Mail: d.poole@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Tel: 01527 881256

Name: Mark Hanwell

E Mail: m.hanwell@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Tel: 01527 881248