

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD 29 March 2023

PROVISION OF STREET NAME PLATES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Margaret Sherrey
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Guy Revans - Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services
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Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Strategic Purpose	Communities which are safe, well maintained and green
Key Decision: No	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to note the Report.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council is responsible for the repair and maintenance of Street Name Plates (SNPs) on adopted roads, and replacement, when necessary, either due to accidental damage, vandalism or normal wear and tear. In the case of a new development however, the developer is required to provide and erect the initial SNPs. These are purchased to the Council's specification and the costs are covered by the developer.
- 2.2 It is of course necessary for the continuing need to maintain a good standard of SNPs and to improve existing standards where necessary. This being essential for the efficient functioning of the Postal and Emergency Services as well as for the convenience and safety of the general public. It should be remembered that street names need to be legible by night as well as by day, therefore they should be illuminated from existing street lamps where at all possible.
- 2.3 SNPs are positioned usually at the rear of the adopted footway and as near to street corners so that they can be easily read by drivers and pedestrians alike. There are other various specific recommendations for installation which are of course followed, but obviously variances are necessary where individual site restrictions apply.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD 29 March 2023

- 3.1 The current annual budget for SNPs is £3.9k, with the average cost for each plate being £75 - £100, depending on size required together with added features such as a 'T' symbol denoting a cul-de-sac. The budget is quickly exhausted as there is always a waiting list.
- 3.2 Currently, the SNP manufacturer is Nibra Signs Ltd of Bristol, but this contract ends this financial year. Consequently, a quotation exercise will be undertaken shortly to ascertain an approved manufacturer for the next three years. It is of course anticipated that supply costs will rise due to the current financial climate.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The relevant powers for local authorities are contained in Section 19 of the Public Health Act 1925:

Indication of name of street: (1) The urban authority shall cause the name of every street to be painted, or otherwise marked, in a conspicuous position on any house, building or erection in or near the street, and shall from time to time alter or renew such inscription of the name of any street, if and when the name of the street is altered or the inscription become illegible. (2) If any person pulls down any inscription of the name of a street which has lawfully been set up, or sets up in any street any name different from the name lawfully given to the street, or places or affixes any notice or advertisement within twelve inches of any name of street marked on a house, building, or erection in pursuance of this section, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £200 and to a daily penalty not exceeding £1.

- 4.2 Obviously, in instances where damage has occurred to a street name plate as a result of a collision by a motor vehicle, and details are known of the driver in question, then of course reimbursement charges are levied against the driver concerned. Unfortunately, in these times, drivers are often reluctant to report such accidents when they are able to drive away unnoticed.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 *Communities which are Safe, Well Maintained and Green* – covered by item 2.2.

Climate Change Implications

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD 29 March 2023

5.2 There are no Climate Change implications.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.1 There are no Equalities and Diversity Implications

Operational Implications

6.2 Damage to SNPs are usually reported by the general public or Members through the Council's website or verbally to the Officer responsible. After a site inspection to determine what remedial works are required, it may be added to the order for the supply of a new SNP. If safety measures are required e.g., removal of the damaged SNP, these will be undertaken immediately.

6.3 Obviously, through lockdown due to COVID, there was a backlog of replacing SNPs that steadily built up over this period, which took some time with manufacturing delays to catch up with.

6.4 The SNPs are ordered in bulk as it is more cost effective with the saving on delivery costs. The manufacturer taking some 6 weeks to complete the order.

6.5 It should be noted that the Minor Works' Team who undertakes all works associated with SNPs for both Councils have, for the last year, been understaffed, which caused some unfortunate delays. This has now been resolved, and therefore installation of new SNPs in the future can be undertaken soon after they are delivered.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 Covered by item 6.2.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

None