

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Planning Committee: 7 February 2012

Subject: Street Naming Policy

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To seek the approval of the Committee regarding a street naming policy.

2. Background

- 2.1** Street naming and numbering is a statutory function which is undertaken by the Council under the provisions of Section 97 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (as amended). This function is administered by the Building Standards Section.
- 2.2** For developers the early allocation of addresses is essential in order to ensure that necessary services (gas, electricity, telecoms, etc.) can be provided timeously to new properties and allow conveyancing and mortgage provision to be undertaken. Postcodes are allocated by the Royal Mail and these cannot be provided until street names and numbers have been allocated by the Council.
- 2.3** Currently both residential and commercial developers are invited at an early stage of the development to suggest street names for consideration. These suggestions are considered by officers for suitability and are put forward to Committee for formal approval. However if the suggested name(s) are felt to be unsuitable, alternative names will be recommended by officers.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Presently there is no policy or guidelines for the allocation of street names in this Council area. Experience of dealing with requests for street names indicates that an agreed policy would allow allocation of street names to be done on a fair and consistent basis.
- 3.2** The proposed street naming policy is contained within Appendix 1. The main terms of the policy is that current themes within an existing area will be used whenever possible, such as where the theme of lochs or ships have been used this will be continued for any new streets. If it is not possible to use an existing theme or the development involves multiple new street names, a new theme will be considered. However all efforts will be made to keep it within the general theme.
- 3.3** Where a new theme is proposed, the street names should have a local significance and/or historical links to the local area. Consideration of alternative themes will only

be made if no local significance/historical link exists. Streets will not be named after people who are living; as there is a risk that the public perception of that person may change as a result of events occurring over the remainder of their lifetime. In appropriate circumstances, names of deceased people will be given consideration who have contributed in a beneficial way to the local community and area.

- 3.4** Names should not duplicate or conflict with any existing streets in the town concerned and variations in the suffix should be used with discretion and would only be considered if they led off each other; for example Glenfinnan Drive & Glenfinnan Lane which lead off each other. Names should be easily pronounced and spelt so as not to cause confusion, particularly in the case of an emergency.
- 3.5** The policy would allow officers to consider names for a new street and recommend a street name to be allocated to new street which is consistent with the policy. The policy will be available on the Councils website and it is recommended that consultation is carried out with the public via the Citizens Panel, Community Councils and Tenant Associations regarding the terms of the policy.

4. People Implications

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** There are no financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** There are no known risks to the council.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 7.1** An initial screening of the proposed policy has been carried out and no equality issues were identified.

8. Strategic Assessment

- 8.1** The proposed policy does not impact on any of the Council's strategic priorities.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1** No policy currently exists in respect of street naming and it is appropriate to have a street naming policy to allow the fair and consistent allocation of street names.
- 9.2** It is recommended that Committee approve the policy for street naming contained in Appendix 1 and if following consultation appropriate suggestions are considered for inclusion or amendment to the policy that the Committee be advised of these proposed changes.

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Date: 25 January 2012

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Proposed Street Naming Policy

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All

APPENDIX 1 - Proposed Street Naming Policy

What we aim to do:

Generally new street names in the West Dunbartonshire Council area will meet the following criteria:

- Follow the current theme within an existing area wherever possible,
- If it is not possible to use an existing theme or the development involves multiple new street names, a new theme will be considered,
- Where a new theme is proposed, the street name(s) should have a local significance and/or a historical link to the local area, places, events or culture, particularly if they have a direct connection to the site,
- Recognise native wildlife, flora, fauna or natural features related to the area or West Dunbartonshire.
- Street names should be easily pronounced and spelt so as not to cause confusion, particularly in the case of an emergency.

Issues that we aim to avoid:

- Names of people who are living; this is due to the risk that public perception of that person may change as a result of events occurring over the remainder of their lifetime. In appropriate circumstances names of deceased people will be given consideration,
- Street names duplicating or conflicting with an existing street name within the town concerned,
- Variations in the suffix of a street name in separate locations; alternative suffixes may be used with discretion and only be considered if the streets lead off each other;
- Punctuation, including commas, apostrophes, full stops, hyphens and slashes within a street name unless they are absolutely necessary.
- Names that is capable of deliberate misinterpretation or with adverse connotations.
- We will not use developers marketing titles as part of the new postal address.

Other matters:

- Consideration will be given to suffixes for street names:
New street names should end with an appropriate suffix for the road layout, e.g. Street & Road used for thoroughfares; Lane & Drive for side streets; Close & Place for cul-de sacs; and Crescent & Square, etc to suit geometry of the layout.
- We will use the number 13 when numbering properties.