

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council
AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Corporate Services)

22 July 2010

STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING

Purpose

1. To ask Council to make a resolution to adopt Section 64 of the Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847. This is not a key decision.

Recommendations and Reasons

2. That Council resolves to adopt the provisions of Section 64 of the Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847.

Executive Summary

3. Across the country and within Cambridgeshire a number of local authorities are reviewing the way they provide their street naming and numbering service and considering what actions could be taken to ensure that the full cost of this activity is not carried by the wider community.
4. The Council resolved on the 31st January 2008 to adopt the provisions of Sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 to allow the Authority to name or re-name streets within the District Council area.
5. Having adopted the provisions of the 1925 Act the Council may now, under Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003, charge for anything done for the provision of such a service, provided the person to whom the service is given has agreed to its provision. This excludes the statutory elements of the function for which there should be no charge.
6. On 27th May 2010 the Council resolved to give notice of its intention to adopt the provisions of Section 64 of the Town Improvement Clauses Act, subject to advertisement provisions. Section 64 of the Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847 requires the Council to ensure houses and buildings are "to be marked with numbers as they think fit". This will ensure that the Council has the statutory authority to also charge for its services in relation to street numbering.

Considerations

7. After examining the legislative requirements for notice in more detail it has become apparent that the Council does not have the same notice requirements under the Town Improvement Clauses Act as it had under the Public Health Act 1925. The Council can therefore move to adopt the section of the Town Improvement Clauses Act without any consultation period or requirements to advertise and the adoption will have immediate effect.

Implications

8. Financial	There are positive financial implications as revenue will be generated to supplement the current budget for the street naming and numbering service including the street nameplate repair and replacement programme, which is insufficient to meet current demand.
Legal	Current legislation does not provide a right to charge for the statutory SNN service but there are powers to charge to cover the cost of providing the non-statutory service.
Staffing	There are no staffing related implications although a full staffing compliment will need to be retained to offer a fee generating and improved service.
Risk Management	Charges will not be popular with those affected but as they are modest and non-profit making the risk of alienating residents or businesses is small.
Equal Opportunities	None specific.
Climate Change	None specific.

Consultations

9. Adoption of Section 64 of the Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847 does not require prior advertisement and consideration of any responses received before resolving to adopt.

Effect on Strategic Aims

10. Being a listening Council, providing first class services accessible to all: Additional revenue will allow an improved service and help meet the demands being placed upon the service.
11. Ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all: Street nameplates and logical numbering are important so that the emergency services and the public can find locations quickly and effectively. Damaged signs pose a safety risk to the public and may delay emergency services in finding the correct location.
12. Making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live: Damaged signs not only pose a safety risk but may present an unkempt appearance to an area.
13. Assisting with provision for local jobs for all: The provision of street nameplates and their erection support local jobs.

Conclusions / Summary

14. The introduction of a scale of charges for the provision of street naming and numbering services will allow for service improvement and provide revenue in future years.
15. In order to ensure that the Council has the legal powers to entitle it to charge for elements of its street naming and numbering service it is necessary to adopt the 1847 legislation.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Council Agenda, 31st January 2008

Report to Senior Management Team, 13th January 2010

Council Agenda 27th May 2010

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