

**Report for:** Corporate Committee – 23 November 2021

**Item number:** 11

**Title:** Officer Response to the Motion by Cllr Ejiofor putting forward additional recommendations relating to the Renaming of Black Boy Lane

**Report authorised by:** Charlotte Pomery, Assistant Director for Commissioning,  
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**Ward(s) affected:** St Ann's / West Green

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** N/A

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1. Following the presentation of the officer report at the Corporate Committee meeting on 16 November 2021, a motion was put forward to the Committee by Cllr Ejiofor and seconded by Cllr Amin that proposed to move forward with the process of renaming Black Boy Lane and *“agrees to the making of an Order to rename Black Boy Lane to La Rose Lane to take effect on 1 February 2022 and concurs that officers should now provide the necessary assurances to residents of Black Boy Lane for the change of street name. The Committee also instructs officers that the support package offered to the residents be further explained and clarified.”*
- 1.2. On the advice of the Deputy Monitoring Officer, further consideration of the item was adjourned to a meeting of the committee on 23 November 2021 in order to allow officers time to consider the implications of the motion in terms of its viability. The committee did, however, agree to adopt the motion in principle, whilst accepting the further advice of the Deputy Monitoring Officer that such a decision should not be seen as an attempt to pre-determine the outcome of any subsequent decision of the committee to rename Black Boy Lane.
- 1.3 This report responds to the motion in that it proposes the Committee take forward the process for the renaming of Black Boy Lane in accordance with the decision of the Committee made on 17 March 2021. The decision of the Corporate Committee provided that *“a further period of consultation should be carried out in order to provide further assurances to residents of Black Boy Lane and to elicit their support for the change of street name”* and that *“the support package offered to the residents be reviewed as part of the further consultation work”*.
- 1.4 On the 18 March 2021, Black Boy Lane residents, businesses and community groups were advised of 17 March 2021 Committee decision that further consultation (referred to as engagement) is to be undertaken in due course.

Residents would therefore rightly and legitimately expect a further period of consultation and due consideration of feedback received before the Committee proceeds to make a final decision. To date, the further consultation is yet to be embarked upon.

- 1.4.1 Black Boy Lane residents, businesses and community groups would have had a legitimate expectation that the published report put before the Committee on 16 November 2021 would not lead straight to a final decision to rename Black Boy Lane as subsequently proposed in the motion. In addition, residents would have understood from the previous March 2021 Committee decision that further consultation would be undertaken before any decision to rename is made.
- 1.4.2 Therefore, this paper recommends to the Committee that a time-limited period of further consultation is undertaken with residents of Black Boy Lane as requested by the Committee in March 2021. The consultation period would run from 1 December 2021 to 19 January 2022, enabling a paper to be brought back to Committee at its meeting on 1 February 2022.
- 1.5 Further, this paper notes that an Executive Decision on funding the support package to residents will be required once the consultation is concluded. In order for the Committee to make an informed and final decision on 1 February 2022, officers will ensure that an Executive Decision in respect of funding the support package for residents directly affected is made following the period of consultation on 19 January 2022 and prior to the Committee's decision on 1 February 2022.
- 1.6 Further, this paper notes to the Committee that officers will prepare a report to Cabinet on a Strategic Framework on Building, Place and Street Renaming: Reimagining Haringey's Public Realm. This will set out a strategic approach for the future to ensure that our built environment reflects our local communities, celebrates the contribution that Haringey's Black, minority ethnic and diverse communities have made to politics, education, business, arts, and culture in our borough and beyond and addresses racial and other forms of discrimination and injustice, much of it a legacy of history. It will address issues of public safety and ensure our values are reflected in our public realm, visible to and within our communities, building ownership and a sense of identity for all. In addition, the Cabinet paper will also seek endorsement of a budget to be set aside to fund the support packages to be made available to those affected by a street renaming, should these be agreed in the future.
- 1.7 At the 1 February 2022 meeting, in the event that the Committee decides to make an Order to change the street name, care needs to be taken in implementation to ensure that it does not cause any practical problems around electoral registration nor cause any problems for the smooth running of the local government elections in May 2022. This will need to be worked through in order that the Committee can make an informed decision on any implementation timescale.

## **2. Recommendations**

### **2.1. It is recommended that:**

- 2.1.1. Officers take forward the decision of the Committee made on 17 March 2021 to undertake a further period of consultation with Black Boy Lane residents, to commence on 1 December 2021 and to close on 19 January 2022.
- 2.1.2. A report on the outcome of the consultation be brought back to the Committee on 1 February 2022 for a final decision on the making of an Order to rename Black Boy Lane. Further, for a decision on the implementation timetable such that it does not affect the preparation for and conduct of the May 2022 local elections, in particular, with regard to voter registrations.
- 2.1.3. In view of recommendations 2.1.1 to 2.1.2 above, it is proposed that the Committee amends its resolution to agree in principle the proposal made by Cllr Ejiofor so as to permit further consultation with residents and a report back to the Committee before a final decision is made to rename Black Boy Lane and as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Committee note that after the close of further consultation, an Executive Decision will be sought to fund the proposed package of support to be offered to residents in the event of an Order of the Committee.
- 2.3 It is also recommended that the Committee note that the Council is developing a Strategic Framework for Reimagining Haringey's Public Realm, and that a report will be made to Cabinet on this in due course including funding to be made available for any future street renaming.

## **3. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

### **3.1 Finance**

- 3.1.1 As set out in para 3.3.4, the Corporate Committee's powers are limited to the making of the street renaming Order, and not to making decisions regarding resource allocation on behalf of the Council (ie agreeing a support package).
- 3.1.2 The report to Corporate Committee in March 2021 described the funding arrangements for the proposed support package in that report in respect of the renaming of Black Boy Lane. This would be reviewed following the outcome of consultation.
- 3.1.3 Further, the Council is developing a Strategic Framework for Reimagining Haringey's Public Realm, and the financial implications of this will be addressed in a report to Cabinet.

### **3.2 Procurement – N/A**

### **3.3 Legal**

- 3.3.1 The Committee, at its meeting on 17 March 2021, decided that a further period of consultation should be carried out with residents of Black Boy Lane. On 18 March 2021, residents were advised of the Committee decision and that, in due course, they will be informed of the details of the further engagement (i.e. consultation). In these circumstances, there is a legitimate expectation by residents affected by the decision that they will be further consulted before the Committee proceeds to make a final decision to rename Black Boy Lane. The recommendations including the proposed amendment to the motion gives effect to this expectation. Fairness demands that the Committee afford residents the opportunity for further consultation promised in its decision of 17 March 2021. Therefore, the original motion to rename Black Boy Lane to La Rose Lane to take effect on 1 February 2022, without the benefit of further consultation promised, is potentially unlawful.
- 3.3.2 The further consultation with residents of Black Boy Lane must comply with the requirements of Part II Section 6 of the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act 1939 ("The Act") which gives the Council the power to make an Order to substitute the name of any street, way, place, row of houses or block of buildings with any name they think fit. Under Section 6(2) and (3) of the Act, before making an Order, the Council shall (at their option) either: post notice of their intention in some conspicuous position in the street way or place or adjacent to the row of houses or block of buildings; or give notice of their intention by circular delivered at every building situated in the street way or place or forming part of the row of houses or block of buildings. Every notice must state how and when (allowing at least 1 month) objections to the intended Order may be sent to the Council.
- 3.3.3 The further consultation must be adequate and fair having regard to all the circumstances. It must adhere to the following general principles. It must take place at a time when the proposal is still at its formative stages. The Council must provide the consultees with sufficient information to enable them properly to understand the proposed change being consulted upon and to express a view in relation to it. The information must be clear, concise, accurate and must not be misleading. The consultees must be given adequate time to consider the proposal and to respond.
- 3.3.4 The powers of the Committee, as set out above, are limited to the making of the street renaming Order. The Act does not provide for a package of support to residents affected by the Order. However, the Council has stated that residents will be offered a package of support (including financial support). The decision making on this rests with the Executive.

### **3.4 Equalities – N/A**

## **4. Appendices**

### **4.1 Appendix 1 – amended Motion**