

**Report for:** Cabinet Member Signing – 10 November 2022

**Title:** Voluntary Payments to Support Residents and Businesses on Black Boy Lane with the Street Name Change

**Report authorised by:** Claire McCarthy, Assistant Director Strategy, Communications and Collaboration, [Claire.mccarthy@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.mccarthy@haringey.gov.uk)

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**Ward(s) affected:** All

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

## 1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022, Corporate Committee resolved to rename Black Boy Lane to La Rose Lane. Following the necessary preparatory work, it is proposed that the name change will take effect on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. This will allow of necessary support to be provided to residents in the run up to the change.
- 1.2 The Corporate Committee, as part of its decision, agreed to recommend to the Executive that a support package including a ‘voluntary payment’ of £300 and administrative assistance be made available to all households and businesses of Black Boy Lane to minimise any inconvenience resulting from the processes required to reflect the renaming.
- 1.3 This report seeks a decision to approve the support package, including expenditure of £300 per household, for Black Boy Lane residents.

## 2. Recommendations

The Leader is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve the proposed support package and administrative assistance be made available to all households and businesses of Black Boy Lane to minimise any inconvenience resulting from the processes required to reflect the renaming as set out in section 5 of the report.
- 2.2 To approve the ‘voluntary payment’ of £300 to eligible households and businesses located on Black Boy Lane and to approve the eligibility criteria for the voluntary payment as set out in para 5.9.3 of the report.
- 2.3 To note that it is intended that payments will be made to eligible householders on or after the date of implementation, which is expected to take place on 23 January 2023.

### **3. Reasons for decision**

- 3.1 The recommendation to the Executive for approval of a support package arises from a detailed assessment, which was reviewed during the period of further consultation. Any potential inconvenience resulting from renaming could be reasonably mitigated through delivery of a support package from the Council, including dedicated administrative support for all affected; and a 'voluntary payment' of £300. It is worth noting that no new costs or support needs were highlighted by residents related to the renaming during the latest period of consultation. The proposed support package is considered adequate to comfortably mitigate and any inconvenience related to administrative changes required. It is acknowledged that there is a time burden of making administrative changes, and for this reason council officers will provide support in updating relevant bodies and providing advice and guidance to residents affected by the change.
- 3.2 There are 182 properties listed on the street according to the latest Gazetteer data; our current projected cost of delivering the 'voluntary payments' is £54,600 based on this number. We are recommending provision is made for £65,520, allowing an additional £10,920, a 20% increase, should more Houses of Multiple Occupancy than expected be discovered.

### **4. Alternative options considered**

- 4.1 Not making voluntary payments was considered as this is not a statutory obligation on a local authority. This has been rejected following representations from residents and their representatives about the need for support including financial support during this process. The recommendation to make the 'voluntary payment' was supported by the Council's Equalities Lead Officer, as a means to providing mitigation against potential negative impacts of the name change to individuals who share a protected characteristic where they may be more likely to be of lower socioeconomic status and face financial costs from the name change.

### **5. Background information**

- 5.1 In June 2020 the Mayor of London announced the Commission on Diversity in the Public Realm, seeking to diversify the stories that are shared and commemorated across the city, making them more representative of its current population, and more reflective of its history.
- 5.2 The Council announced, in June 2020, a Review of Building, Place and Street Names. Some early projects were initiated under this umbrella of work, including the renaming of Albert Road Recreation Ground to O.R Tambo Recreation Ground and the consideration of renaming Black Boy Lane. Reports were brought to Corporate Committee in July and December 2020 and March 2021 on the question of renaming Black Boy Lane. It was resolved by the Committee in March 2021 that more consultation was necessary.
- 5.3 Following further discussions, the Corporate Committee considered the results of further consultation on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022, and resolved to make the order to

rename Black Boy Lane to La Rose Lane, to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, requesting officers use best endeavours to achieve an earlier implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. The Committee recommended to the Executive that a support package including a 'voluntary payment' of £300 and administrative assistance be made available to all households and businesses of Black Boy Lane to minimise any inconvenience resulting from the processes required to reflect the renaming. Officers were asked to bring back a progress report to the Committee in September 2022. This has been done.

## **5.9 The proposed process for implementing the road name change**

### **5.9.1 Further resident engagement**

Below is an outline of planned further engagement with residents of the street over the coming three months (September – November 2022).

A letter is scheduled to be circulated to residents in mid-September, to avoid missing people who may be away during the summer holidays, attached at Appendix 1. This outlines the planned date of the name change, the engagement opportunities people can use, the support we will provide, and a set of FAQs. A leaflet will be circulated alongside the letter to explain the background of the name change and provide information about the life of John La Rose.

The letter details the following engagement opportunities which will be scheduled over the next three months. These sessions will be led by Local Area Coordinators from Connected Communities to share information on the process, gain additional understanding of specific support needs among residents of the street, and answer questions:

- Door to door engagement
- Drop ins at St Ann's Library and Chestnuts Community Centre
- Pop ups on the street
- Online meetings
- Drop off boxes for feedback at nearby locations
- The option to write to us via email or by letter

As information is gathered through these sessions on any additional support required, the officer group coordinating the engagement and process of the name change will plan the most appropriate approach to providing administrative support to individuals, and any further information sharing that may be necessary.

Local Area Coordinators from Connected Communities leading the engagement with residents of the street will facilitate the identification of wider needs and engagement opportunities, separate to the support being provided on the renaming process. This may include making introductions to support services related to health, finances, or social activities.

The current street signage will be retained and part of the engagement with residents of the street will include thinking about how best to display the sign and represent its part in Haringey's history.

## 5.9.2 Other procedural steps

Communication is underway with Highways to prepare for new street signage being installed, and we have contacted TfL to plan for the changes that will be required to the bus stop and bus route which currently includes Black Boy Lane.

There are a number of services and bodies the council have undertaken to update about the change in road name, including Royal Mail, council services Geoplace etc.:

<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Royal Mail	No charge. We will inform them of the street name change. The same postcode will be kept, and this will ensure smooth delivery of post and parcels via Royal Mail.
HM Land Registry (HMLR)	No charge. We will inform them of the street name change for them to update their data.
HM Passport Office (HMPO) UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) / Home Office Office of National Statistics (ONS) Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) Companies House HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) *All other Government Agencies	No charge. Updated via Ordnance Survey (OS) AddressBase. If required residents can make changes to their addresses for free (if this is an address change only) by using <a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a> or by post.
The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)	Quarterly updates via Royal Mail PAF address data via third party software. There are no impacts (or costs) on existing certificates already issued. Once the street name changes then certificates will be issued to the street name provided on the DBS application form.
Banks Mortgages Utility Companies (Gas, Electric, Internet, Telephone and Water) Insurance Companies (Home, Contents, Car etc) Internet Shopping (accounts for online shopping etc)	Update address systems periodically. Might take a few months for address data to change with a lot of private companies. These companies use a mixture of Royal Mail PAF data and OS AddressBase data. Most forms have free text address fields where you can enter your address manually. Most will not charge to update. Some insurance companies may charge a nominal fee (such as an administrative fee) to update any information. A Street Naming Order document will be

<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Courier Companies	provided to show as evidence to update this.
Emergency Services (Fire Brigade, Police and Ambulance)	No charge. Updated addresses taken from OS AddressBase Premium.
Health (NHS, GP, Hospitals and Pharmacies)	No charge. Residents can update this via their local surgery to update their address. This should then replicate around so that Hospitals and Pharmacies have the latest address information.
Electoral Services Registrars (Births, Deaths & Marriages) Council Tax/Business Rates & Valuations Office Agency Schools Admissions Planning, Building Control, Local Land Charges and all other internal Council departments	No charge. Updated via Street Naming & Numbering and Local Land & Property Gazetteer (NLPG) Data – within 1-4 weeks of the change being made.
Solicitors (Tenancy agreements, Deposit agreements, Wills and other legal documents)	A charge may be incurred to update legal documents.

Other products such as Google Maps, Bing Maps and smart phone apps that use opensource address data will take up to a year to update. This will be mitigated by the postcode remaining the same, and the requirement to continue to display the previous street name for at least twelve months following the name change.

The council will make and publish the Street Naming & Numbering Order. Copies of this order will be made available to residents to assist with changes to legal documents etc. before the go live date. In order to mitigate lags in updating systems, we are required to ensure the street name reflects both the new name and the old name for a period of no less than a year. This is important for emergency services, but also allows other systems to be updated, including mapping systems such as Bing Maps and Google Maps as mentioned above.

It was intended that Executive decisions would be made in relation to the proposed 'voluntary payment' as required and, if approved, the process for distribution will be notified to residents and businesses on the street.

### 5.9.3 Eligibility for the voluntary payment

Eligibility for the 'voluntary payment' will be defined as follows:

- (i) Residents will only be eligible for payment if they can provide proof of residency at their address on Black Boy Lane on the date of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. This cut-off date will avoid people who move to the street following the name change, and will not need to make any administrative changes as a result, claiming payments.
- (ii) Up to one payment will be made per property where an eligible claim has been made, apart from registered HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupancy), in which case one payment will be made per eligible household who submits a claim. The Council will have the ability to exercise discretion in considering exceptional cases.
- (iii) During the upcoming engagement, and further communication, details of how to receive the £300 'voluntary payment' will be shared including how to share relevant details for us to make payment to them. The use of Post Office cash vouchers is an established payment mechanism we will utilise for speed and efficiency. The cost for this will be £1.50 per voucher and will include a letter to the occupier, detailing what ID is required for them to receive payment. ID requirements will be kept as basic as possible (as per other recent payment of funds using this mechanism), to ensure people who don't have photo ID are not excluded and do not face additional cost and administrative processes to receive payment.

## **6. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 6.1 This work contributes to and underpins the Council's approach to tackling inequalities and ensuring all local residents feel supported and enabled by their local environment.

## **7. Statutory Officer Comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer), Equalities)**

### **7.1 Finance**

- 7.1 As part of the Review of Building, Place and Street Names, which initiated in June 2020, it was highlighted that there were likely to be some one-off costs associated with any proposed name changes.

- 7.2 The report to Corporate Committee in March 2021 described the funding arrangements for the proposed support package in respect of the renaming of Black Boy Lane. Following the further consultation, the support package has not changed and it is confirmed that the recommended voluntary payments can be met from within existing Corporate budgets.

### **7.2 Procurement**

Strategic Procurement has been consulted in the preparation of this report and note the contents herein.

### **7.3 Legal**



7.3.1 The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted and notes that the Leader has the power to approve the recommendation in this report.

## **7.4 Equality**

7.4.1 The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not

7.4.2 The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

7.4.3 The report provides an update to Corporate Committee on the progress towards renaming Black Boy Lane.

7.4.4 The overall purpose of initiative to change the street name is to reduce discrimination. An EQIA was previously completed to understand the implications of the name change. The EQIA found potential negative impacts to individuals who share a protected characteristic where they may be more likely to be of lower socioeconomic status and face financial costs from the name change, (women who are single parents, BAME people, older people and disabled people) or would experience higher degrees of disruption from the name change (disabled people and older people). The Council has described steps to mitigate these negative impacts. To ensure residents of a lower socioeconomic status are not disadvantaged by this policy, the Council has proposed a payment of £300 to support with any costs of the name change which will mitigate financial implications, which is to be approved by the Executive, with particular regard to residents impacted due to socioeconomic background. We have also put forward a broader support offer to assist with administrative requirements, including FAQs, pro-formas, and more, outlined in Paragraphs 5.9.1 and 5.9.2.

7.4.4.1 The timeline for the name change will also help to mitigate administrative disruption by ensuring support needs can be identified and responded to, and minimises the risk of databases and systems being misaligned due to differing timetables for updates between services and organisations. These measures take into account the potential negative impact on people from protected groups, including single parents, older people, people from ethnic minority backgrounds, and disabled people.

## **8. Use of Appendices**

N/A

**9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

Not applicable.