



Subject:	Bilingual Street Signage – Counsel Opinion on Call-in
Date:	18th December 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd October 2020 relating to bilingual street signage, changing the current policy requirements and establishing a trigger for consultation of an expression of interest by a resident/residents/Elected Member with a 15% threshold of residents responding positively as satisfying a policy position to erect a second nameplate other than in English, was called in on both procedural and adverse community impact grounds.
1.2	In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2014 and Standing Orders, Counsel's opinion has been obtained and the grounds set out within the call-in have been analysed.

1.3	Counsel finds that the grounds for challenge do not have merit on either the procedural or the adverse community impact ground. Her opinion reflects that there was no failure to take into account relevant considerations including resources, that the policy when drafted will be subject to equality screening and consultation, and that the operation of residual discretion will allow for appropriate consideration of any potentially sensitive decisions.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the content of Counsel's opinion as attached.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> As above.
3.2	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> N/A
3.3	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> A draft policy will be presented to Committee in January and thereafter put out for consultation.
4.0	Document Attached
	Counsel's opinion