



## Policy and Resources Committee

8 February 2021

<b>Title</b>	<b>Member's Item in the names of Councillor Geof Cooke</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Head of Governance
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
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### Summary

The report informs the Committee of a Member's item and requests instructions from the Committee.

### Recommendations

1. That the Committee's instructions in relation to the Member's item is requested.

#### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 A Member of the Committee has requested that the item tabled below is submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and determination. The Committee are requested to provide instructions to Officers of the Council as recommended.

Member	Item
<p data-bbox="204 286 464 320"><b>Cllr Geof Cooke</b></p> <p data-bbox="204 434 416 539"><b>Council Tax Revenue Safeguarding</b></p>	<p data-bbox="491 286 1433 416">While enquiring about a particular case, I have discovered that the registration of properties for Council Tax after new-build, renovation, extension or sub-division depends on the developer or owner volunteering to the relevant authority that the work has been completed.</p> <p data-bbox="491 456 1433 685">There is little incentive for the developer to do that and so delays of years may occur and even a permanent loss of revenue to the council. No interest is charged on retrospective liabilities. It appears that this problem exists largely because of a lack of any comprehensive process for cooperation between public bodies to prevent it. Using computers to cross-reference information from disparate sources is already standard practice for the council in combatting fraud.</p> <p data-bbox="491 725 1433 855">I propose that the relevant senior officers review the situation, devise a suitable process and report their proposal back to Policy and Resources committee by September 2021 after considering proactive information sharing and cross-referencing between those responsible for</p> <ol data-bbox="539 891 1433 1196" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council tax (Capita CSG)</li> <li>2. Property banding (Valuation Office Agency, part of national government)</li> <li>3. Building Control (Re)</li> <li>4. Planning (Re)</li> <li>5. Street Naming and Numbering (Re)</li> <li>6. Benefits (Capita CSG)</li> <li>7. Electoral Registration (Barnet Council)</li> <li>8. Corporate Anti-Fraud (Barnet Council)</li> </ol> <p data-bbox="491 1232 1433 1326">and any other agencies which hold relevant information. If automatic cross-referencing with publicly available records of private sales and/or lets is possible, that should also be incorporated into the process.</p>

## 2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Committee are therefore requested to give consideration and provide instruction.

## 3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Not applicable.

## 4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

## 5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 **Corporate Priorities and Performance**

5.1.1 As and when issues raised through a Member's Item are progressed, they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024 and other relevant policies.

## 5.2 **Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

## 5.3 **Legal and Constitutional References**

5.3.1 The Council's Constitution (Members of the Council, Article 2) states that a Member, including appointed substitute Members of a Committee or Sub-Committee will be permitted to have one matter only on an agenda that he/she serves. Members' items must be within the term of reference of the decision making body which will consider the item.

## 5.4 **Social Value**

5.4.1 Not applicable.

## 5.5 **Risk Management**

5.5.1 None in the context of this report.

## 5.6 **Equalities and Diversity**

5.6.1 Members' Items allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

## 5.7 **Corporate Parenting**

5.7.1 None identified in the context of this report – any substantive report will consider the implications in detail.

## 5.8 **Insight**

5.8.1 None.

## 5.9 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.9.1 None in the context of this report.

## 6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None.