

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Planning & Transportation	14 July 2020
<b>Subject:</b> Naming of new City Walkway and associated open space: Bazalgette Embankment	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of the Built Environment	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Stuart O'Callaghan, Department of the Built Environment	

### Summary

This report advises Members that an application has been made by Thames Tideway in consultation with Thames Water Utilities Limited to name the new publicly accessible City Walkway and associated open space located at the site of the Thames Tideway Tunnel project along the river foreshore to the west of Blackfriars Bridge as 'Bazalgette Embankment'. It recommends that the name Bazalgette Embankment should be approved in recognition of the civil engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette who, as chief engineer of London's Metropolitan Board of Works, was responsible for the construction of the London's Victorian sewer network which was an integral part of the Thames embankments constructed in central London.

### Recommendation

Members are recommended to approve the name Bazalgette Embankment and require that a statutory order be issued.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The City Corporation is responsible for the authorisation of all building names, street numbers and street names within the City in accordance with the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act 1939. The normal procedure is for most applications to be dealt with by officers under delegated authority, but it is usual for new street names and other high profile or contentious cases to be reported for decision by Planning & Transportation Committee.
2. The Thames Tideway Tunnel project which is expanding London's sewer network is due for completion in 2024. It is being created from 24 construction sites between Acton in West London to Beckton in East London. Many sites are located on the river edge in the centre of London, and the project includes a site in the City at the foreshore of the River Thames to the west of Blackfriars Bridge.

## **The site**

3. The site is located at the foreshore of the River Thames west of Blackfriars Bridge alongside Victoria Embankment and close to Blackfriars Bridge. Appendix 1 shows the site plan, detailing the new embankment space which comprises a proposed City Walkway and publicly accessible open space (ref BAZALG0001). The existing Victoria Embankment will continue as currently named and the new name will not lead to any changes of address for existing occupiers on Victoria Embankment. The new name will apply only to the new space being constructed.
4. A City Walkway is defined as  
“A way, place, public circulation space or precinct over which the public have a right to pass and repass and a right of access, on foot only, but nevertheless without being a public highway, pursuant to the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1967”.
5. The new City Walkway and associated open space will provide a significant new area of public realm beside the river for recreation and leisure activities.

## **The naming as Bazalgette Embankment**

6. An application has been submitted for the naming of the Embankment by Thames Tideway in consultation with Thames Water Utilities Limited. The new City Walkway and associated open space will be within a publicly accessible embankment once the current Thames Tideway construction works have been completed.
7. The City Corporation “Street Naming and Numbering Advice Note” sets out  
  
“In applications to name streets after deceased persons, permission must be obtained from the person’s family or estate administrators. In order to be considered the individual in question should:
  - Have been dead for 20 years or have passed the centenary of their birth
  - Have a significant and demonstrable connection to the site in question”.
8. The proposed naming of the site as Bazalgette Embankment is in honour of Sir Joseph Bazalgette who created the original sewer network which the City still relies on today. His work not only cleaned up the river Thames during the late 19th Century but also had a major impact on the public health of Londoners by helping to reduce and eliminate cholera epidemics. His work had both a valuable and demonstrable connection to the site.
9. The Bazalgette family have been consulted and consider “It is an honour to see his name getting the credit it deserves as his system is expanded to cope with modern-day London”.

## Consultation

10. A full consultation has been undertaken on the proposed name. Statutory consultees have been consulted and a public notice was posted on-site and on-line inviting comments. There were several responses from the site notice and online notice, who were supportive of the proposed name.
11. Ward Members for the ward of Castle Baynard and members of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee have been consulted and are supportive of the proposed name.
12. The landowner Thames Water Utilities Limited have confirmed that they fully support the proposed name.
13. Current members of the Bazalgette family have been consulted and support the proposed naming of the embankment.
14. Statutory consultees and Royal Mail have raised no objections to the proposed name.
15. Several respondents were in favour of there also being a statue or an explanatory plaque relating to Sir Joseph Bazalgette and his work. This suggestion is a separate matter and is not being considered as part this naming application. Separate discussions can be held with the landowner Thames Water Utilities Limited concerning their interest in the suggestion.

## Conclusion

16. The proposed new name in honour of Sir Joseph Bazalgette meets the street naming and numbering guidelines set out by the City Corporation recognising his significant and demonstrable connection to the building of London's original sewer network which improved the health of Londoners and formed an integral part of central London's Thames embankments.
17. The proposal has received supportive comments as part of the consultation process.
18. This report recommends that Members:
  - A. Grant approval for the name: 'Bazalgette Embankment'.
  - B. Require that a Statutory Order be issued.

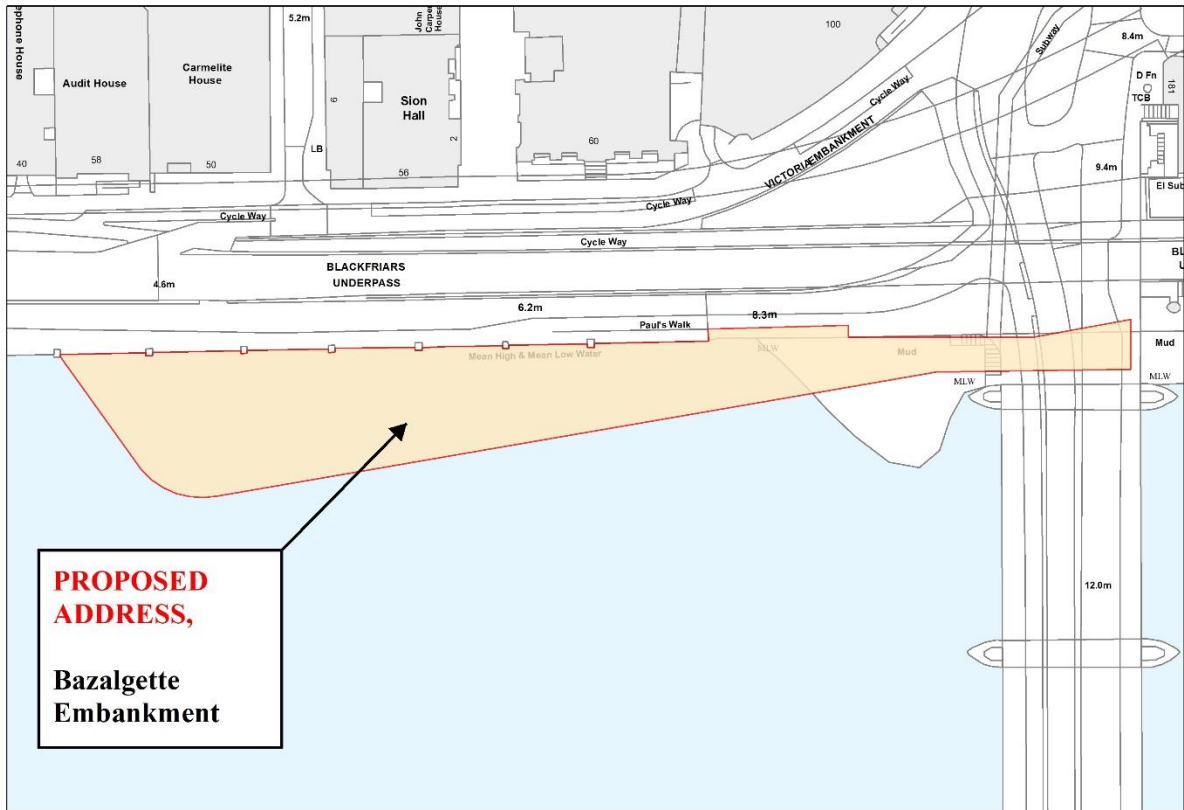
### Contact: Paul Beckett

Policy and Performance Director, DBE

T: 0207 332 1970

E: [paul.beckett@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:paul.beckett@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1: Drawing Reference BAZALG0001



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(2020)

Map Reference: TQ531535,180180

If you require further details reference can be made to the Thames Tideway Tunnel Order 2014 and on the Thames Tideway internet page

<https://www.tideway.london/locations/blackfriars-bridge-foreshore/>