

<b>Committee(s):</b> Planning & Transportation Committee	<b>Date:</b> 21/10/2025
<b>Subject:</b> Naming of new Highway Maintainable at Public Expense: Greyfriars Square	<b>Public report:</b> For Decision
<b>This Proposal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides statutory duties</li> </ul>	Street Naming and Numbering
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b>	Katie Stewart, Executive Director of Environment
<b>Report author:</b>	Richard Tranter, Local Land and Property Gazetteer Custodian,

### Summary

This report advises Members that an application has been made by the City of London Corporation, acting as the local highway authority, to name the publicly accessible square to the west of 81 Newgate Street created as part of the St Paul's Gyratory Transformation Project as 'Greyfriars Square'. The new square encompasses the southern part of King Edward Street and land adjacent Christchurch Greyfriars Churchyard and Garden. It recommends that the name Greyfriars Square should be approved.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are recommended to:

- APPROVE the name Greyfriars Square and require that a statutory order be issued.

### Main Report

#### Background

- 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 City of London Corporation are working to transform the St Paul's gyratory. The final design option for the gyratory was approved by the Streets and Walkways Sub Committee on 23 May 2023, with the developed design for the Greyfriars Square new public space approved 14 May 2024.
3. Largely unchanged since the 1970s, the new design will reorganise the traffic-dominated streets to create a new public space, introduce safer walking and cycling routes, whilst retaining access for buses and motor-vehicles. The works started onsite on 28 April 2025 and will take place over two years.
4. Closing the southern section of King Edward Street to traffic enables the creation of a new 3,000-square-metre public space. Further details of the project can be found at:  
<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/streets/traffic-schemes-and-proposals/st-pauls-gyratory-transformation-project>

## **The Site**

5. The site is located to the west of 81 Newgate Street created as part of the St Paul's Gyratory Transformation Project. The new square encompasses the southern part of King Edward Street and land adjacent to Christchurch Greyfriars Churchyard and Garden. Appendix 1 shows the site plan, detailing the new area of highway maintainable at public expense to become part of the new square (ref. GREYSQ0001). The remainder of King Edward Street will continue as currently named. The new name will apply only to the new space being constructed as outlined in Appendix 1.
6. Addresses at the site of 81 Newgate Street were approved under delegated authority on 7 February 2023. It is proposed as part of this street naming proposal that the addresses 1 King Edward Street (office) and Units 1 and 2, 1 King Edward Street (retail) on the west side of the development facing the proposed square, be renamed as 1 Greyfriars Square and Units 1 and 2, 1 Greyfriars Square.
7. A highway maintainable at public expense is defined as "A way over which the public have a right to pass and repass in perpetuity. The highway is maintainable by the highway authority".

## **The naming as Greyfriars Square**

8. An application has been submitted by the City of London Corporation for the naming of Greyfriars Square.
9. A public consultation was held by the City of London Corporation from 18 August to 2 October 2023 and stakeholders were given a shortlist of four proposed names for the new space and asked to select their preferred name. Greyfriars Square was the preferred name by a significant margin.

10. The new square lies adjacent to the current Christchurch Greyfriars Church Garden on the site of the former Franciscan Friary of Greyfriars Monastery that was established in 1225. It was the second largest church in medieval London, destroyed by the Great Fire of London in 1666. A new church designed by Sir Christopher Wren was completed by 1705. In 1940, incendiary bombs devastated Christchurch Greyfriars, destroying the roof and much of its interior. The remaining shell became a Listed Building. The proposed name Greyfriars Square thus will help reinforce the local area's historic identity.
11. Greyfriars Square has been endorsed by members of the Streets & Walkways sub-committee on 30 January 2024. Further details can be found in the committee paper "St Paul's Gyratory Transformation Project – Phase 1". In this paper the members of the Streets & Walkways sub-committee were asked to "note that Greyfriars Square was the most popular name for the new space in the public consultation and that officers will progress the statutory process for re-naming a street pursuant to existing delegations".
12. The City Corporation's Street Naming and Numbering Guidelines state that "A strong justification for renaming a street would need to be provided because of the potential inconvenience to existing occupiers whose numbers and street address would need to be changed. Renaming an existing street will therefore require strong support from owners and occupiers on that street."
13. The St Paul's Gyratory Transformation Project provides a strong justification for the renaming as it provides a new transformative public space. The square will provide a mix of hard and soft landscaping befitting a major public square, distinct from adjacent streets and the remainder of King Edward Street. The only property affected is the aforementioned 81 Newgate Street.

## **Consultation**

14. Following the public consultation on the proposed names, a full street naming and numbering consultation was undertaken from 4 April to 20 April 2025 on the preferred name. Statutory consultees were consulted, and a public notice was posted on-site inviting comments.
15. Statutory consultees and Royal Mail have raised no objections to the proposed name. Ward Members for the wards of Cheap and Farringdon Within have been consulted without further comment of the proposed name. Both the developer of 81 Newgate Street (Pella) and the agent representing the new tenant (HSBC) have confirmed that they have no objection to the proposed re-naming.

## **Next steps**

16. Following committee approval, a statutory Street Naming and Numbering Order will be created to bring the proposed name into legal effect. This will

take place upon completion of works, and the opening of the square for public access. It accordance with the Street Naming and Numbering Advice Note, the Order will be sent to the applicants for their records and communicated to organisations such as Royal Mail, Land Registry and the emergency services. New signage associated with the renaming will also be clearly displayed in accordance with the principles of the Guide.

### **Corporate & Strategic implications**

17. None

### **Financial implications**

18. None

### **Resource implications**

19. None

### **Legal implications**

20. A Statutory Street Naming and Numbering Order will be created in accordance with the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act 1939 and the City Corporation's Street Naming and Numbering Advice Note (2019).

### **Risk implications**

21. None.

### **Equalities implications**

22. None

### **Climate implications**

23. None.

### **Security implications**

24. None.

### **Conclusion**

25. The proposed Greyfriars Square meets the street naming and numbering guidance set out by the City Corporation. The proposal has received strong support within the public consultation and no issues were raised by statutory consultees.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: Drawing Reference

**Contact:**

Richard Tranter, Local Land and Property Gazetteer Custodian, Environment  
Department

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

## Appendix 1: Drawing Reference GREYSQ0001

