

**To:** City Executive Board  
**Date:** 18 December 2018  
**Report of:** Anita Bradley – Head of Law and Governance  
**Title of Report:** Naming of street at former Temple Cowley Pool site.

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To request a determination on the street name for the former Temple Cowley Pool site.
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Executive Board Member:</b>	Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council and Board Member for Economic Development and Partnership
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	None
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None
<b>Recommendation: That the City Executive Board resolves to:</b>	
Select a name from those listed in paragraph 8 being Cufas Lea Close, Matilda Close, Sher Afzal Close or Wycombe Close as the name of the new road on the site of the former Temple Cowley Pool.	

<b>Appendices</b>	
Appendix 1	Street Naming and Numbering Policy
Appendix 2	Temple Cowley Pool site plan
Appendix 3	Risk Register

## Introduction and background

1. The street at the former Temple Cowley Pool site requires a name following development.

2. The Council has a duty to name and number streets as they are developed under the section 13 of the Oxfordshire Act 1985.
3. This duty is delegated to officers, the administration of which is currently being undertaken within Customer Services. However the City Executive Board reserves to itself the right to decide on matters where there are unresolved objections following consultation (Constitution, section 4.5).
4. The Council's policy on street naming and numbering is attached as Appendix 1.
5. A site plan is attached as Appendix 2.

### **Current Situation**

6. Officers consulted on the name for the street on the new development at the former Temple Cowley Pool site which included suggestions of Matilda Close and Wycombe Way from the developer. There have been two parts of the consultation. First the following names were consulted on during a protracted first stage between 30<sup>th</sup> August and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018:

- Cufas Lea Way
- Matilda Close
- Wycombe Way

During this stage ward councillors suggested Stan Taylor Close and Sher Afzal Close. Further information regarding the two proposals was requested from Councillor Malik and information was only provided on the Sher Afzal proposal.

7. None of the original three suggestions were unanimously supported by consultees. Officers consider that Templars Way (originally suggested by the Developer (or Templars End, as suggested by the Old Temple Cowley Residents Association [OTCRA] after the first stage consultation had closed) and Knights Close contravene the Council's policy in that they are too similar to existing street names in Oxford and these were not consulted upon for that reason.
8. In view of the lack of agreement and the new suggestions made during stage 1 officers decided to launch a second, limited, phase of consultation on the following names:
  - Cufas Lea Way – Cufas Lea is the Anglo-Saxon name for this area of Oxford;
  - Matilda Close – after Empress Matilda, who had connections to the Knights Templar;

- Sher Afzal Way – a leader within the Pakistani community in Oxford for many decades who is now deceased; While Sher Afzal is a commonly used name there is currently no one else by this name on the electoral register in Oxford.
  - Wycombe Way – the Wycombe railway which once ran through the area;
9. Local ward councillors (Malik and Arshad) and the OTCRA were consulted and the second phase of consultation ended on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
  10. Royal Mail has not objected to any of the street names consulted upon and submitted to them at any stage.
  11. During the second phase of consultation, OTCRA vehemently opposed the suggestions and has asked for a further consultation, to exclude Wycombe Way and Matilda Close and include Templar Way. The point was also made in the consultation responses that in line with the Council's Policy paragraph 5.2.12 the suffix should not be Way as the street is not a thoroughfare. This is accepted by officers and informs the suggested suffix to the names put forward to the City Executive Board for decision.
  12. In respect of the suggestion of Sher Afzal Way evidence of community support for the recognition of a valued member of the community providing a sense of diversity and inclusion has been put forward including from the late Sher Afzal Khan's daughter.
  13. Sher Afzal Khan came to the United Kingdom from Pakistan in 1962 and was a Pakistani community leader in Oxford for more than three decades (1960s to early 1990s) representing, advising and supporting the Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Indian populations tirelessly in areas such as education, immigration, policing and improved rights for all ethnic minorities in Oxford. Sher Afzal Khan died on 27 May 1999 having dedicated his time on a voluntary basis to helping people. The Pakistani community in Oxford strongly believes that he should be recognised for his dedication and hard work for encouraging community integration and cohesion long before there were any national policies in place. Sher Afzal Khan was instrumental in the development of the Asian Cultural Centre, a 'City Wide Centre' in Oxford which is a place that serves the whole community, providing an insight into cultural arts and entertainment and bringing people together from diverse backgrounds. His achievement through his voluntary work in diverse communities fits closely with the values of Oxford City Council.
  14. The positive aspects set out above should be balanced in any decision against the possibility that naming a street after a person can cause confusion if more than one person by that name is well known.
  15. The least controversial suggestion has been Cufas Lea Way (save for the suffix of Way).

16. In view of the objections to the names considered so far the City Executive Board is asked to select a name for this road. In terms of the Council's policy and practice Cufas Lea Close/End, Matilda Close and Wycombe Close/End are acceptable. The following are not compliant with good practice Templars End/Close as it is too similar to other street names in Oxford/nearby and Knights End/ Road/ Close as again this is too similar to other street names in Oxford or nearby. Commentary on Sher Afzal Way is set out in paragraphs 12 and 13. However, the suggestion of this being a Close is put forward in the recommendation to Members

### **Financial issues**

17. None

### **Legal issues**

18. The Oxfordshire Act 1985 (s13) provides the authority for this Council to name new streets within Oxford city, and the Council's Constitution (section 4.5) reserves to the City Executive Board the right to name streets if there are unresolved objections after consultation. The City Executive Board therefore holds the authority to determine the name of this new street at the former Temple Cowley pool site.

### **Level of risk**

1. The Risk register is attached as Appendix 3

### **Equalities impact**

2. It is not believed that there is an impact on equalities in this case as it does not affect a change in Council policy but concerns a decision being made through an existing Policy.

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**Background Papers:** None