



North
Tyneside
Council

Working in partnership with

Capita

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement

Draft Northumberland Square
Conservation Area Management
Strategy Supplementary Planning
Document

North Tyneside Council
May 2023



Introduction

A Draft Northumberland Square Conservation Area Management Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared by North Tyneside Council, with the intention of being approved by North Tyneside Council's Cabinet.

The Council has a statutory duty in exercising its planning powers to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of conservation areas. It also has a duty, from time to time, to draw up and publish proposals for preservation and enhancement, and to consult local people on them¹. The SPD would help to fulfil this duty.

The SPD would support the delivery of the High Streets Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) scheme for the Northumberland Square conservation area. The HAZ scheme, funded by Historic England, aims to support physical improvements to the historic and built environment, which in turn would facilitate more varied and vibrant uses for the area, including cultural, leisure and tourism uses. A key focus is for community participation and for increased understanding of and involvement in the heritage and culture of the area.

The SPD would also form a basis for day-to-day decision-making and guidance for the management of the area in the future.

The SPD would supplement and provide further guidance on the implementation of North Tyneside Local Plan 2017 policies. The policies within the Local Plan that are most relevant are:

- S2.1 Economic Growth Strategy
- DM6.1 Design of Development
- DM6.2 Extending Existing Buildings
- DM6.3 Advertisements and Signage
- S6.4 Improving Image
- S6.5 Heritage Assets
- DM6.6 Protection, Preservation and Enhancement of Heritage Assets
- AS8.11 The North Shields Sub Area
- AS8.13 The Beacon Centre and Wider Regeneration of North Shields Town Centre
- AS8.14 North Shields Town Centre Public Realm

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to outline North Tyneside Council's consideration of whether the SPD should be subject to a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 ("the regulations").

¹ Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990, s72 and s71



Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination

The requirement for a SEA is set out in the government's practical guidance on applying European Directive 2001/42/EC ("the SEA Directive") and the regulations. These documents place an obligation on responsible authorities to undertake an SEA on any land use plan or programme that sets the framework for future development consent of projects.

North Tyneside Council's Local Plan was adopted in July 2017. The Local Plan was prepared in accordance with national guidance and the requirements of the SEA Directive and the regulations. The Local Plan was subject to an integrated Sustainability Assessment (SA) and SEA and an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).

The regulations exempt plans and programmes from assessment "when they determine the use of small areas at local level or are minor modifications to the above [existing] plans or programmes..." (Regulation 5(6)). This screening report assesses if the SPD would have significant environmental effects that have not already have been assessed during the preparation of the Local Plan.

The Screening Process

To assess whether an SEA is required the Responsible Authority (North Tyneside Council) must undertake a screening process based on a standard set of criteria. Where the Responsible Authority determines that the plan or programme is unlikely to have significant environmental effects, and therefore does not need to be subject to full SEA, it must prepare a statement showing the reasons for this determination.

This must be subject to consultation with Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. Following consultation, the results of the screening process must be detailed in a Screening Statement, which will be made available to the public.

Key to the screening decision is the determination of whether the SPD would be likely to have significant environmental effects, using the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive. These criteria can be used to determine the likely significance of effects and are set out in the following Figure 1, alongside North Tyneside Council's response in relation to the SPD.



Figure 1

SEA Directive Criteria	Would there be a significant effect?	Justification
<i>1) Characteristics of the Draft Northumberland Square Conservation Area SPD</i>		
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	No	The SPD would provide more detail to the policies established within the Local Plan, which has itself been subject to SA incorporating SEA and HRA. The SPD would set a framework for the preparation and determination of planning applications in the context of the adopted policies within the Local Plan. It sets out a potential range of relatively small-scale regeneration projects, all of which are in line with those already assessed as part of the Local Plan.
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	No	The SPD would be at the lower tier of the development plan hierarchy, as it sits below the Local Plan. The purpose of the SPD is to supplement the policies in the Local Plan.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	No	The SPD would provide further detail to the policies within the Local Plan. Conservation principles of retain, repair and recycle, which are supported in the SPD, are consistent with environmental sustainability.
d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	No	The SPD would not create or exacerbate any environmental problems. The effect would not differ significantly from that assessed as part of the SA/SEA of the Local Plan.
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	No	The SPD would not be directly relevant to implementation of Community (EC) legislation. The SPD would provide more detail to the policies established within the Local Plan, which complies with the legislation.



<i>2) Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected</i>		
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	No	The SPD would provide more detail to the policies established within the Local Plan, which has itself been subject to SA incorporating SEA and HRA. The anticipated effects would be the delivery of positive changes to the local environment. The SPD advocates good maintenance, management and partnership working, and so it is anticipated that the positive effects would be permanent.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects.	No	The impact of this SPD is likely to be positive, affecting a small area at local level, therefore it is anticipated that any cumulative impacts will tend to be positive.
(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects.	No	This SPD will cover a relatively small area at local level therefore it is unlikely to have any significant trans-boundary effects.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents).	No	There are no perceived risks to human health or the environment arising from the SPD.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	No	This SPD covers a small area and would only have local geographic impacts. The area has a residential population and a number of people either work in the area or visit it daily.
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use.	No	This SPD applies to the Northumberland Square conservation area and aims to preserve or enhance its historic and cultural characteristics. The SPD would provide more detail to the policies established within the Local Plan.
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national,	No	The SPD would not apply to landscapes of recognised national, community or international protection status.



Community or international protection status.		
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Statement of Reasons for Determination

On the basis of the screening process, it is North Tyneside Council's opinion that the impact of the SPD, through responses to the SEA Directive Criteria, would not result in any significant environmental effects beyond those already assessed as part of the preparation of the Local Plan.

The SPD would not be setting new policy; it would provide further guidance on policies contained within the Local Plan. Therefore, the SPD would not require a SEA.