

A nighttime photograph of the Sunderland City waterfront. The River Wear flows through the center, reflecting the warm yellow and orange lights of the city buildings and street lamps. In the background, the iconic green arch of the Gateshead Millennium Bridge spans the river. To the left, a tall building under construction is visible with a crane on top. In the foreground, the dark hull of a boat is partially visible on the water. The sky is a deep twilight blue.

Welcome to Sunderland City



# Explore the Rich Heritage and Vibrant Culture

## Introduction

Sunderland is a port city in Tyne and Wear, England. It is a port at the mouth of the River Wear on the North Sea, approximately 10 miles south-east of Newcastle upon Tyne. The built-up area had a population of 168,277 at the 2021 census, making it the second largest settlement in North East England after Newcastle upon Tyne. Sunderland has a rich history dating back to the Roman times and has evolved into a vibrant and diverse city with a lot to offer. From its stunning coastline and beautiful beaches to its industrial heritage and modern amenities, Sunderland has something for everyone. Visitors can explore the city's museums, art galleries, and historic sites, or enjoy a stroll along the picturesque marina. With a thriving cultural scene, bustling shopping areas, and delicious local cuisine, Sunderland is a place that truly captures the essence of the North East. Whether you're interested in history, nature, or simply soaking up the local atmosphere, Sunderland is a destination worth exploring. Plan your trip and discover all that this dynamic city has to offer!

# History of Sunderland

Sunderland is a city of future living, but our community is proud of its past. From the foundations on which our city was built, to our ties to shipbuilding, collieries and the railway, Sunderland today is best known for its warm, welcoming people, its hard-working culture and its strive towards innovation and digital connectivity. Discover our roots and what shaped Sunderland to become the diverse, well-known North East city it is today that welcomes people from all across the world each year...

## Ancient History of Sunderland

Before Sunderland became a bustling city, it was one of three small settlements by the mouth of the River Wear on the North East coast of England. Excavations uncovered at St. Peter's Church in Monkwearmouth suggest that prior to these settlements, the earliest inhabitants of the region were Stone-Age hunter gatherers, and that Hastings Hill was a point of spiritual significance. Following the Roman invasion, a group known as the Brigantes lived in the area. In 2021 Roman artefacts were even uncovered from the River Wear, suggesting evidence of a Roman Dam or Port in the Wear.

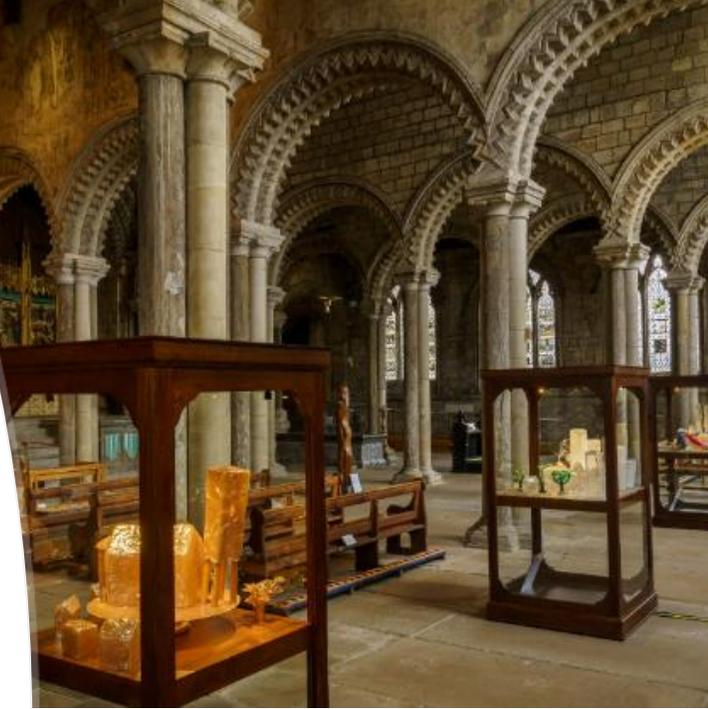
## What Sunderland like Today?

Sunderland has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past eight decades, emerging as a vibrant and dynamic city. Today, it serves as a hub for electronic, chemical, paper, and motor manufacturing industries, with Nissan's UK factory in Washington being a significant contributor. The regeneration of the Wear's banks in the 1990s brought about a revitalization, complemented by the establishment of the National Glass Centre and University of Sunderland, enriching the city's cultural landscape. Sunderland's football club, Sunderland A.F.C, remains a cherished part of its heritage, while notable figures like Bryan Ferry and Lauren Laverne contribute to its reputation for innovation and creativity. Awarded as the best city to live and work in 2018 and hailed as the Smart City of the Year in 2020, Sunderland is forward-thinking yet deeply rooted in its history. Historic landmarks such as Holy Trinity Church and Hylton Castle, along with remnants of its industrial past, offer glimpses into Sunderland's colorful history. Among intriguing facts, Sunderland houses the only Olympic-sized swimming pool between Leeds and Edinburgh and claims connections to the Titanic and Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland." As Sunderland's story unfolds, its rich history and ongoing growth continue to captivate residents and visitors alike. Explore the city's history firsthand through the Magical History Tour app and discover the essence of Sunderland for yourself.

# CULTURE

The culture of Sunderland, a city in northeast England, is a vibrant tapestry woven from its industrial past, maritime heritage, and strong sense of community. Historically known for shipbuilding and coal mining, Sunderland's identity is deeply rooted in its industrial legacy, reflected in its architecture and museums. The city's proximity to the River Wear has fostered a rich maritime culture, evident in its port history and maritime festivals. Sunderland embraces the arts with numerous galleries and theaters, celebrating local talent and creativity. Football holds a special place in the city's heart, with Sunderland AFC boasting a passionate fan base. Community spirit is palpable, driving various initiatives and events that bring people together. The local dialect adds a unique flavor to everyday life, further enriching Sunderland's cultural landscape. Through its diverse cuisine, festivals, and landmarks, Sunderland's culture is a dynamic blend of tradition, innovation, and resilience.

- 1. Industrial Heritage:** Sunderland was historically known for its shipbuilding and coal mining industries, which played a significant role in shaping the city's identity. Although these industries have declined, their legacy is still evident in the city's architecture and museums.
- 2. Maritime Influence:** Situated on the banks of the River Wear, Sunderland has a strong maritime heritage. The city's port has been crucial for trade and commerce throughout its history. The Sunderland Maritime Heritage Quarter celebrates this aspect of the city's culture.
- 3. Arts and Creativity:** Sunderland has a growing arts scene, with numerous galleries, theaters, and cultural venues. The Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art and the Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens are notable places to explore art and culture.
- 4. Music and Festivals:** The city hosts various music festivals and events throughout the year, showcasing local talent and attracting artists from across the region. The Sunderland International Airshow and the Sunderland Illuminations are popular annual events that draw visitors from far and wide.
- 5. Sporting Culture:** Football holds a special place in Sunderland's culture. The city is home to Sunderland AFC, a professional football club with a passionate fan base. The Stadium of Light, the club's home ground, is a focal point for sports enthusiasts.
- 6. Community Spirit:** Sunderland is known for its strong sense of community and resilience. Local initiatives and community events play a vital role in bringing people together and fostering a sense of belonging.
- 7. Dialect and Language:** Like many regions in the northeast of England, Sunderland has its own distinctive dialect and phrases. The local accent and colloquialisms contribute to the unique identity of the city.



# CUISINE

Sunderland's culinary scene is a delightful fusion of tradition, innovation, and multicultural influences, reflecting the city's rich heritage and diverse population. Nestled along the picturesque coastline of northeast England, Sunderland boasts a gastronomic landscape that celebrates its maritime roots and industrial legacy while embracing the flavors of cultures from around the globe.

At the heart of Sunderland's cuisine lies a cherished tradition: fish and chips. Freshly caught seafood, expertly battered and fried to golden perfection, is paired with chunky chips for a quintessentially British culinary experience. Alongside this seaside favorite, Sunderland's culinary offerings include regional specialties like the iconic stottie cake—a hearty bread perfect for filling with savory delights like pease pudding and bacon.

Beyond its traditional fare, Sunderland's dining scene reflects the city's cosmopolitan character. From fragrant Indian curries to succulent Italian pastas, visitors can embark on a culinary journey around the world without leaving the city limits. Locally-owned restaurants and eateries serve up authentic flavors and warm hospitality, showcasing the vibrant tapestry of Sunderland's multicultural community.

As the sun sets over the River Wear, Sunderland comes alive with the aromas of sizzling meats and spices. Whether indulging in a comforting saveloy dip or savoring the rich flavors of a Parmo, dining in Sunderland is a celebration of flavor, culture, and community. So come, take a seat at the table, and discover the diverse and delicious tastes of Sunderland.

**1. Fish and Chips:** As a coastal city, Sunderland is renowned for its fresh seafood, particularly its fish and chips. Whether enjoyed from a traditional fish and chip shop or a seaside restaurant, this classic British dish is a local favorite.

**2. Stottie Cake:** A regional specialty, the stottie cake is a thick, round bread with a dimpled surface. It's often filled with savory ingredients like ham, pease pudding, or bacon, making it a popular choice for a hearty sandwich.

**3. Saveloy Dip:** Another beloved dish in Sunderland is the saveloy dip. A saveloy, a type of seasoned sausage, is dipped in batter and fried, then served with pease pudding and gravy. It's a comforting and indulgent treat.

**4. Parmo:** While originally from the nearby Teesside area, the parmo has become increasingly popular in Sunderland. It consists of breaded and fried chicken or pork topped with béchamel sauce and melted cheese, often served with chips.

**5. Indian Cuisine:** Sunderland boasts a thriving Indian food scene, with numerous restaurants offering a wide range of flavorful dishes such as curries, tandoori meats, and biryanis. These establishments cater to diverse tastes and preferences.

**6. International Cuisine:** Sunderland's culinary landscape is also influenced by its multicultural population, with restaurants serving cuisine from around the world. Italian, Chinese, Turkish, and Middle Eastern eateries are among the many options available to diners.

**7. Local Brews:** Sunderland has a growing craft beer scene, with several breweries producing a variety of beers, ales, and ciders. Visitors can sample these locally brewed beverages at pubs and bars throughout the city.

**8. Afternoon Tea:** For a quintessentially British experience, afternoon tea is a popular choice in Sunderland. Indulge in a selection of sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, and delicate pastries, accompanied by a pot of tea.

Sunderland's culinary offerings celebrate both traditional English fare and the diverse flavors of international cuisine, making it a satisfying destination for food enthusiasts.



# NATURE

Nestled along the rugged coastline of northeast England, Sunderland is blessed with a diverse and stunning natural landscape that captivates visitors and locals alike. From golden sandy beaches to verdant parks and nature reserves, Sunderland offers a wealth of natural beauty waiting to be explored.

- 1. Coastline:** Sunderland's coastline stretches for miles along the North Sea, offering breathtaking views of dramatic cliffs, sandy beaches, and rugged coves. Seaburn Beach and Roker Beach are popular spots for leisurely strolls, picnics, and water sports, while the dramatic limestone cliffs of Whitburn Coastal Park provide a stunning backdrop for coastal walks.
- 2. Parks and Gardens:** Within the city, lush parks and gardens provide tranquil escapes from the urban hustle and bustle. Mowbray Park, one of the oldest municipal parks in the country, features landscaped gardens, ornamental lakes, and historic monuments. Herrington Country Park offers expansive green spaces, woodlands, and lakeside trails ideal for walking, cycling, and wildlife spotting.
- 3. Herrington Country Park:** Spanning over 400 acres, Herrington Country Park is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts, offering a wide range of recreational activities amidst picturesque surroundings. Visitors can enjoy walking and cycling trails, fishing lakes, and a variety of wildlife habitats, including wetlands and meadows.
- 4. River Wear:** The River Wear winds its way through Sunderland, providing a scenic backdrop for riverside walks and activities. The Sunderland Riverside Sculpture Trail offers an artistic exploration of the riverbank, featuring a series of contemporary sculptures by local and international artists.
- 5. Nature Reserves:** Surrounding Sunderland are several nature reserves that showcase the region's biodiversity and natural beauty. Washington Wildfowl Park is home to a diverse array of bird species, including swans, geese, and ducks, while the Hylton Dene Nature Reserve boasts ancient woodlands, wildflower meadows, and tranquil streams.
- 6. Sunset Views:** As the day draws to a close, Sunderland's coastline comes alive with vibrant hues as the sun sets over the North Sea. The golden hour paints the sky with a breathtaking palette of colors, casting a warm glow over the land and sea.
- 7. Wildlife Watching:** Nature enthusiasts can spot a variety of wildlife in and around Sunderland, including seabirds, seals, and even dolphins off the coast. The region's diverse habitats provide important feeding and breeding grounds for many species, making it a haven for birdwatching and wildlife photography.

With its stunning coastline, picturesque parks, and diverse wildlife, Sunderland offers a natural playground for outdoor adventurers and nature lovers alike. Whether exploring coastal cliffs, meandering along riverside trails, or simply enjoying a sunset stroll along the beach, Sunderland's natural beauty is sure to leave a lasting impression.



# TRANSPORTATION

Sunderland, situated in the northeast of England, benefits from a well-connected transportation network that facilitates easy access within the city and beyond. Here's a detailed overview of transportation options in Sunderland:

## 1. Public Transport:

**Metro:** Sunderland is served by the Tyne and Wear Metro system, providing efficient and convenient rail services connecting the city with neighboring towns and cities, including Newcastle upon Tyne, Gateshead, and South Shields.

**Buses:** The city has an extensive bus network operated by several companies, including Go North East and Stagecoach. Bus services connect Sunderland with surrounding areas and provide local transportation within the city.

**Park and Ride:** Sunderland offers Park and Ride facilities at strategic locations on the outskirts of the city, providing commuters with convenient access to public transportation and reducing congestion in the city center.

## 2. Rail Services:

Sunderland Railway Station is a major transportation hub, offering regular train services operated by Northern and Cross Country. These services connect Sunderland with major cities such as Newcastle, Durham, York, and beyond.

## 3. Road Network:

Sunderland is easily accessible by road, with major highways including the A19 and A1018 providing links to nearby cities and towns. The city center is well-connected by a network of roads, facilitating travel within Sunderland and to surrounding areas.

Car parking facilities are available throughout the city, including on-street parking, multi-storey car parks, and park and ride sites, catering to both residents and visitors.

## 4. Taxis and Ride-Sharing:

Taxis are readily available in Sunderland, providing on-demand transportation services for commuters and visitors. Additionally, ride-sharing services such as Uber operate in the city, offering convenient and flexible transportation options.

## 5. Ferry Services:

Sunderland is situated on the banks of the River Wear, and while there are no regular passenger ferry services, occasional river cruises and boat tours provide a unique perspective of the city from the water.

**6. Newcastle International Airport (NCL):** Located approximately 25 miles northwest of Sunderland, Newcastle International Airport is the closest major airport serving the region. It offers domestic and international flights to destinations across Europe, as well as connections to major hubs worldwide. Travelers can reach Sunderland from Newcastle Airport by various transportation options, including train, bus, taxi, or private car hire.

**7. Durham Tees Valley Airport (MME):** Situated around 30 miles south of Sunderland, Durham Tees Valley Airport offers domestic flights within the UK and limited international connections. While smaller in size compared to Newcastle Airport, it provides an alternative option for travelers flying to or from the Sunderland area.

**8. Manchester Airport (MAN):** Located approximately 150 miles south of Sunderland, Manchester Airport is one of the largest airports in the UK and offers extensive domestic and international flight options. While further away, it serves as a major hub for air travel, providing connections to destinations worldwide.

**9. Edinburgh Airport (EDI):** Situated around 120 miles north of Sunderland, Edinburgh Airport is another major airport serving the region. It offers a wide range of domestic and international flights, as well as connections to European and global destinations.

Overall, Sunderland's transportation infrastructure offers residents and visitors a range of convenient and efficient options for traveling within the city and accessing nearby destinations, contributing to the city's connectivity and accessibility.



# EDUCATION

- Sunderland boasts a rich educational landscape, offering opportunities for students of all ages and levels. The University of Sunderland, established in 1992, serves over 17,000 students across two campuses, known for their excellence in various disciplines. Sunderland College, with diverse courses across multiple campuses, educates over 14,000 students and achieves high exam results. St Peter's Sixth Form College, opened in 2008, provides additional educational pathways. The city is home to eighteen secondary schools, including St Robert of Newminster Catholic School known for its exceptional results, as well as single-sex Roman Catholic schools with strong academic records. In primary education, Sunderland features seventy-six schools, ensuring a comprehensive educational experience for its residents.



- Education in Sunderland remains a cornerstone of the city's development, with a robust network of educational institutions catering to students of all ages and backgrounds. The University of Sunderland stands out as a leading institution for higher education, offering diverse undergraduate and postgraduate programs while prioritizing student experience and research excellence. Sunderland College and St. Peter's Sixth Form College provide further education opportunities, focusing on skills development and preparing students for higher education or the workforce. Secondary and primary schools in Sunderland are committed to delivering high-quality education, emphasizing academic success and personal growth. Innovation and inclusion are key themes in Sunderland's educational landscape, with a focus on leveraging technology and personalized learning approaches to meet the diverse needs of students. Overall, education in Sunderland reflects a dedication to excellence, innovation, and inclusivity, ensuring that all students have access to quality education and support services to thrive in today's world.



# HOUSING

Sunderland City offers a diverse range of housing options catering to residents' needs and preferences. From apartments to detached houses, the city's neighborhoods boast various housing types, blending urban and suburban living. Affordability is a key feature, with Sunderland generally considered more budget-friendly compared to other UK cities. The City Council provides social housing for those in need, complementing the range of rental and buying options available. With its student population, Sunderland also offers student accommodation, including purpose-built facilities and shared houses. Recent regeneration projects have revitalized housing estates and repurposed former industrial sites, contributing to sustainable communities. Accessibility is enhanced by excellent transport links, including buses and the Tyne and Wear Metro. Overall, Sunderland's housing market offers a mix of affordability, diversity, and quality, making it an appealing choice for residents seeking comfortable and well-connected homes.

The provisional average house price in Sunderland in January 2024 was £136,000. This was lower than the average of £141,000 in January 2023 (revised), a 4.1% fall.

## Annual change in house prices in Sunderland

House price annual inflation, Sunderland, January 2005 to January 2024

Across the North East, the average house price in January 2024 was £155,000, which was less than a year earlier (£160,000).

Across Great Britain, a home sold for an average of £285,000 in January 2024, which was in line with the January 2023 average of £287,000.

In the year to January 2024, the average price for detached properties in Sunderland stayed around the same over the year, while the average price for flats decreased by 5.9%.

## Average private rents rose in Sunderland

The average monthly private rent in Sunderland was £608 in February 2024. This was an increase from £574 in February 2023, a 6.0% rise.

## Annual change in rents in Sunderland

Private rental price annual inflation, Sunderland, January 2016 to February 2024

Across the North East, the average monthly rent was £658, up from £622 a year earlier.

Across Great Britain, the average rent price in February 2024 was £1,238, which was up from £1,136 in February 2023.

In Sunderland, the average rent for semi-detached properties rose by 6.2%, while for terraced properties, it increased by 5.7%.

Average rent for one bed properties rose by 6.3%, while the average for four-or-more bed properties increased by 5.3%.

## Average house price for mortgage buyers fell in Sunderland

The average price of a home bought with a mortgage in Sunderland was £142,000 in January 2024 (provisional). This was lower than an average of £148,000 in January 2023 (revised).

Across the North East, the average price of a home bought with a mortgage was £162,000, down from £167,000 a year earlier.

Across Great Britain, the average price for buying with a mortgage in January 2024 was £293,000, which was in line with an average of £295,000 in January 2023.

For cash buyers in Sunderland, the average was £123,000 in January 2024 (provisional), which was down from a revised figure of £129,000 a year earlier.

In January 2024, the average was £142,000 in the North East and £267,000 in Great Britain.





# INVESTMENT

## **A GREAT PLACE TO INVEST**

Investment in Sunderland City spans diverse sectors, offering promising opportunities for growth and development. With its strategic location, skilled workforce, and supportive business environment, Sunderland attracts investment across industries like manufacturing, technology, and professional services. Enterprise zones provide incentives for businesses, while innovation hubs foster entrepreneurship in areas like software development and advanced manufacturing. Real estate development projects, particularly in regeneration areas, offer potential for commercial and residential ventures. Infrastructure and transport projects, education and skills initiatives, and tourism and leisure investments further contribute to Sunderland's economic vitality. Overall, Sunderland presents a compelling investment landscape with opportunities for investors to contribute to its ongoing growth and prosperity.

Sunderland is building itself a bright new future.

Sunderland is a city of ambition and more than £1.554 billion of private and public money will be invested in the city by 2024. This investment is funding renewal and resurgence across the region, from the seafront and the city centre to building locations of national strategic significance. Sunderland provides countless opportunities across manufacturing, business, retail and leisure industries, making it ripe for new investment.

The North East is renowned as a friendly, productive place for business, and our strength is down to welcoming the type of people that call Sunderland home. The 'can-do' and resilient attitude of our workforce is what makes us loyal and efficient, and attracts some of the world's biggest brands and talent.

We also have partnerships working across public and private sectors to transform our city into a sustainable, dynamic hub with first-class office space, attractive living areas and lifestyle opportunities for businesses in the leisure, retail and hospitality sectors.

# Regenerations

## CITY CENTRE REGENERATION

- Sunderland City Centre's regeneration focuses on environmental enhancements to attract residents and visitors, stimulate business, encourage investment, and increase customer spending. The Investment Corridors initiative directs funding towards key routes and destinations, fostering private sector development.
- Projects include:
  1. High Street West: Completed £2m improvements to High Street West and Bridge Street, along with enhancements to the public square in front of the former Dun Cow Fire Station.
  2. Minster Quarter: A £3m infrastructure project to develop the Minster Quarter into a cultural hub and city gateway. It includes public realm upgrades, a new access route, pedestrian crossings, and junction improvements. The relocation of the Dun Cow Street Substation is proposed.
- The Minster Quarter Masterplan is integral to the City Council's priority of revitalizing this area. It aims to create a cultural quarter and enhance the historic significance of the neighborhood, aligning with the city's urban design strategy. The Masterplan provides design guidance and influences all planning applications in the area, following a public consultation and adoption by the City Council in April 2017.

## SEAFRONT REGENERATION

- Strategy

In 2009, Sunderland conducted a citywide public consultation to gather input on the regeneration of its seafront. The aim was to understand the views of residents, workers, and visitors regarding the future vision for the area. The results of this consultation, outlined in the Seafront Consultation Findings Report, were used to shape the Seafront Regeneration Strategy. This strategy serves as a comprehensive guide for the development of Seaburn and Roker seafronts, aligning with the objectives outlined in the Sunderland Strategy (2008-2025). By 2025, Roker and Seaburn are envisioned to become significant cultural tourism destinations. The strategy identifies four main character areas: Ocean Park, Seaburn Promenade, Cliff Park and Recreation Park, and Marine Walk. A draft of the strategy was subject to public consultation between August 8th and September 18th, 2009.

- Seaburn Masterplan

A public consultation took place on the draft Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code between October 19 and November 29, 2010. Following this, the document was adjusted as needed and officially adopted by the City Council as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in July 2011. The Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code SPD aims to promote the development of a family-friendly resort in Seaburn, offering high-quality indoor and outdoor facilities for residents and visitors year-round. It provides essential planning principles and detailed development guidance for the area's redevelopment, serving as a reference for future decisions and planning applications.



# Regenerations

- Marine Walk Masterplan

The Marine Walk Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) seeks to rejuvenate Roker seafront's cultural heritage, drawing inspiration from its distinct built and natural surroundings. Proposed initiatives involve establishing new event spaces, enhancing lighting for key features, and expanding educational and retail facilities. The draft Masterplan underwent public consultation from August 8 to September 18, 2009. Following adjustments based on feedback, the document was adopted by the city council as planning guidance for Roker seafront in February 2010. The Marine Walk Masterplan SPD serves as a crucial factor in deciding planning applications within the area.

- Seafront Project

## Roker Pods

In July 2013, moveable Roker pods were introduced at Marine Walk to address the need for more facilities identified during public consultation. Inspired by the 'canon ball rocks' along Roker beachfront, these adaptable pods can serve various purposes and come equipped with sustainable power sources. One pod operates as a coffee/tea kiosk at Holey Rock Corner, while the other two are leased to the environmental charity CEED for community and educational activities. CEED also allows other community groups and schools in the city to use the pods through a booking system.

## Seaburn Promenade Improvements

Funding from the Council's capital programmed and from Coastal Communities Round 1 has funded £2.2m of highway and promenade improvements at Seaburn.

- Roker Promenade Improvements

Funding from the Council's capital programmed and from the Sea Change Fund has funded £2.5m of promenade improvements at Marine Walk, Roker. This includes the construction of a new public toilet facility that also includes a Changing Places facility (for visitors who can't access a standard disabled toilet).



# Regenerations

## SUNDERLAND STRATEGIC TRANSPORT CORRIDOR

- **The Sunderland strategic transport corridor is a planned continuous dual carriageway, linking land at the A19 to the city centre**
- Phase 1 - Improvements to transform St Mary's Way into St Mary's Boulevard. Work completed in May 2015
- [Phase 2](#) - Northern Spire and approach roads. Work completed in August 2018
- [Phase 3](#) - Dual-carriageway linking the south end of the Northern Spire bridge with St Mary's Way in the city centre
- Phases 4 and 5 - Improvements on Wessington Way, between A19 and north end of new bridge and improvements to routes into the Port (no planned start dates currently)
- The full route, including the Northern Spire, will bring significant economic, regeneration and transport benefits to Sunderland and the wider North East region.
- **Bishopwearmouth Townscape Heritage Bid**

In June 2018, Sunderland City Council secured £1.9 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Bishopwearmouth Townscape Heritage Scheme, slated to run until March 2024. This initiative aims to rejuvenate the Bishopwearmouth Conservation Area by offering grants for building restoration, enhancing public spaces like Town Park, and organizing public activities and educational programs. By addressing the area's heritage needs and supporting strategic investment, the scheme seeks to transform its economic prospects. Plans include revitalizing Town Park with new paving, planting, and lighting, alongside activities to promote awareness of the area's heritage. The council aims to strengthen historic integrity, enhance public realm use, and stimulate commercial and cultural activity, fostering long-term resilience and sustaining the investment's legacy through collaborative efforts with partners and stakeholders.



# Regenerations

- Northern Gateway

Work began on this project at the outset of 2018. The aim of the changes being implemented is to create a more direct route to the city via North Bridge Street, and improved access to the east by facilitating two-way traffic on Dame Dorothy Street.

## About The Project

"The Gateway" project focuses on converting North Bridge Street and Dame Dorothy Street into two-way traffic routes to enhance access in and out of the city center. The City Council secured additional funding through the National Productivity Investment Fund, allowing for more extensive improvements such as highway resurfacing and new paving. The project is divided into stages, pausing during events like the Tall Ships Event and Sunderland International Airshow. Key features include new signalized junctions, road widening, and adjustments to road layouts to facilitate smoother traffic flow. Benefits include shorter travel distances, reduced traffic on certain routes, improved traffic flow, minimal disruption to public transport, and enhanced access for residents and businesses. The project aligns with the Council's broader efforts to upgrade Sunderland's road network, including ongoing projects like the Northern Spire bridge and future phases of the Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor aimed at enhancing connectivity and facilitating development opportunities.

## Plans and Images

The following visuals illustrate how the completed project will look.

The Wheatsheaf Junction



Northbridge Street- Dame Dorothy Street



Northbridge Street- Northbound



Dame Dorothy St.-Church St North

Gateway



# Regenerations

- Project time scale and update

The monthly project updates for the Northern Gateway (North Bridge Street) scheme detail the ongoing and upcoming works. In July 2018, the project paused for the Tall Ships Races and Sunderland Airshow. Planned works included continued widening of North Bridge Street and utility diversion on Dame Dorothy Street. In May 2018, paving works were completed, and a temporary road closure was implemented on Church Street North. April 2018 saw the construction of a new traffic island and installation of block paving on North Bridge Street. March 2018 update highlighted completed paving works and commencement of works at the Church Street North / Dame Dorothy Street junction.

## Location

The Northern Spire is a new bridge spanning the River Wear, linking A1231 Wessington Way in Castletown on the north bank to B1405 European Way/Pallion New Road in Pallion on the south bank. It serves as a vital transport link, connecting the Port of Sunderland and Sunderland city center with the A19 and the wider Tyne and Wear region. Additionally, it enhances road transport, makes journeys quicker and more reliable, and facilitates access to employment and leisure opportunities across the region. The bridge also integrates with local road networks through improved junctions, including the Northern approach link, Riverside north link, and Southern approach link, Western link, Riverside south link, enhancing connectivity and accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles.

## Benefits

The Northern Spire project is expected to yield significant economic and regeneration benefits for Sunderland and the broader Tyne & Wear region. Economic studies project that every £1 invested will generate £4.80 in economic benefit. When integrated with the wider improvements planned for the road network under the Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor, the Northern Spire will serve as a key catalyst for growth in Sunderland over the next decade. It is anticipated to create 6,000 new jobs at various development sites along the riverside corridor, establish a strategic public transport corridor connecting key areas, alleviate congestion on existing bridges, contribute to the city center and Port of Sunderland's regeneration, reduce journey times, and enhance journey time reliability for all modes of transportation. Additionally, it will improve access to the Metro for residents and workers in the Castletown area and enhance journey times along the existing A1231 Wessington Way.

