

Strategic Environmental  
Assessment (SEA) Screening  
Report for Kenton Bank Foot Draft  
Masterplan

February 2016

## Introduction

The Kenton Bank Foot Draft Masterplan is currently being prepared by the developers and the Council, with the intention of being formally adopted by Newcastle City Council.

Kenton Bank Foot was identified as a Neighbourhood Growth Area in the recently adopted Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan (March 2015). Policy CS3 requires that the development of this area must be in accordance with an approved masterplan. The Masterplan will provide a framework it establishes key principles of the site and creates a vision for its future. It must show the overall development concept for 800 new homes, urban design, landscaping, infrastructure, service provision, and built form.

Once approved the Masterplan will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, within the Kingston Park / Kenton Bank Foot Neighbourhood Growth Area.

## Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document outlines the Council's consideration of whether the Kenton Bank Foot Draft Masterplan should be subject to a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

## Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination

The requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is set out in the ODPM's practical guidance on applying European Directive 2001/42/EC, and in the "Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004." These documents place an obligation on local planning authorities to undertake an SEA on any land use plan or programme "which sets the framework for future development consent of projects."

The Council's recently adopted Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan (March 2015) (CSUCP) which was prepared in accordance with national guidance and the requirements of the SEA Directive and the SEA Regulations. The CSUCP was subject to an integrated Sustainability Assessment (SA) and SEA and the requirements for a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and the Equalities Impact and Needs Assessment (EINA). This screening report assesses if the Draft Masterplan will have significant environmental effects that have not already been assessed during the preparation of the [Local Plan](#) (see [regulation 5\(6\) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#)).

## The Screening Process

To assess whether an SEA is required the Responsible Authority (Newcastle City 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 Strategic Environmental Assessment, 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 is required to be made available to the public.

Key to the screening decision is the determination of whether the draft Masterplan is 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 the Council's response in relation to the Draft Masterplan.

<b>Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004</b>	<b>Is there a significant effect?</b>	<b>Justification</b>
<i>Characteristics of the Draft Masterplan</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 Draft Masterplan provides more detail to the policies and principles established within the CSUCP (which has already been subject to SA incorporating SEA and HRA), particularly policies CS3 and NN3. The purpose of the Draft Masterplan is to set a framework for the preparation and determination of planning applications in the context of the adopted policies within the CSUCP.
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	No	The Draft Masterplan is at the lower tier of the development plan hierarchy, as it sits underneath the CSUCP (the Local Plan part 1). The purpose of the document is to supplement the

		policies in the CSUCP, to guide the preparation and determination of planning applications and coordinate and support the council's bid for funding and capital spending programme.
(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 Draft Masterplan provides more details to the policies within the CSUCP. Environmental and sustainability considerations underpin all the proposals within the Draft Masterplan, including how any development at Kingston Park/Kenton Bank Foot could achieve the sustainable development requirements set out in the CSUCP.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	No	The Draft Masterplan provides the context and framework for the preparation and determination of planning applications. The Draft Masterplan does not identify any environmental problems beyond those already recognised in the SA/SEA for the CSUCP. Any environmental problems will also be identified (and if required mitigated) as the more detailed proposals for each site are drawn up through the planning application process.
(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 seeks to provide further details to the policies within Newcastle Development plan. Both the CSUCP and SPD comply with the regulations.
<i>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 Draft Masterplan supplements the policies within the CSUCP and provides the

		context and framework for the preparation and determination of planning applications. The Draft Masterplan encourages further growth/development in a holistic way, which is more likely to encourage sustainable development than without a Draft Masterplan.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects.	No	Whilst the Draft Masterplan Kenton Bank Foot, the accumulation of the proposals both on their own and with other Draft Masterplans, are unlikely to result in significant environmental effects beyond those identified in the SA / SEA of the CSUCP.
(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects.	No	The only trans-boundary effects will be those with neighbouring authorities and are unlikely to result in significant environmental effects beyond those identified in the SA / SEA of the CSUCP
(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 Draft Masterplan. Also any risks to human health or environmental effects will be identified (and if required mitigated) as the more detailed proposals for each site are drawn up through the planning application process.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	No	The Draft Masterplan is for a Neighbourhood Growth Area allocated in the CSUCP for 800 new homes. The Draft Masterplan will encourage the comprehensive sustainable growth of the new community at Kenton Bank Foot.
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to	No	The Draft Masterplan does not contain any special nature

<p>(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;  (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or  (iii) intensive land-use.</p>		<p>conservation designations / significant habitats.</p> <p>The Draft Masterplan supplements the policies within the CSUCP and provides a framework to encourage sustainable development.</p>
<p>(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>As set out in (f) above, the Draft Masterplan area itself does not contain any special nature conservation designations / significant habitats. The CSUCP has been subject to SA (incorporating SEA) which concluded that there are two European sites outside of the plan area (Northumbria Coast SPA and North Pennine Moors SPA) and having assessed potential impacts concluded that any potential effects on Natura 2000 sites from the Plan policies are in all indirect and not considered to be significant or pose a threat to any European sites.</p>

Figure 1 Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects

## Statement of Reasons for Determination

On the basis of the screening process, it is the Council's opinion that the impact of the draft Masterplan, through responses to the SEA Directive Criteria, will not result in any significant environmental effects beyond those already assessed as part of the examination into the CSUCP.

The Draft Masterplan is not setting new policy; it is providing further guidance on existing policies contained within the Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan and the UDP. Therefore the draft Masterplan does not require a Strategic Environmental Appraisal.

As individual detailed proposals / planning applications come forward they will be subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations<sup>4</sup> and Habitats Regulations Assessment, and may require the submission of an environmental impact assessment and HRA.