

A new bridge for Sunderland

Edition 2 March 2010

Message from the Leader

As expected there's a lot of interest in the plans for the new bridge. The planning application has been submitted and we've been receiving comments from residents and organisations.

Councillors and council staff often get asked for more details on what the bridge looks like, its size and where exactly it will be. We've commissioned three different models to help give residents more idea of the scale and location of the bridge and roads.

One will be a model of the bridge, one of the bridge in the wider location of the city and river corridor, and one will be a virtual fly-through film which we'll show online.

Over the coming months we're hoping to take the models out and about in our local communities and further afield to talk to organisations, schools, community groups and residents in more detail about the plans for the bridge.



Councillor Paul Watson

Leader, Sunderland City Council



Councillor Watson with bridge designer, Stephen Spence

Planning application

A planning application for the new bridge project was submitted in December 2009. This application contained more than 15 separate reports and over 400 pages of plans, drawings and assessments.

The application requests permission to build a new highway bridge with two towers (of maximum height of 190m and 140m), and associated highways, connecting Wessington Way in Castletown and European Way in Pallion.

One way of building the bridge might be with a temporary bridge and causeway across the river. Ultimately the construction method may depend on the contractor.

As part of the planning process, organisations such as English Heritage, Natural England, Northumbrian Water, Northumbria Police, Nexus and ONE North East are all consulted and asked for their comments.

All documents relating to the planning application can be found via www.sunderland.gov.uk/newbridge

The project team is currently working towards obtaining all powers and permissions. The application has been considered by the City Council's South and North development control (planning) committees and a final decision will be made by the City Council's Planning and Highways Committee. Once permissions are granted a contractor for the main works can be appointed in 2011.

Construction is scheduled to commence in 2012 and be completed by the end of 2014.

Work on site

Topographical survey works started in February, to gather further detailed information on the natural and man-made features of the land at the project site. The results of the survey will be used to confirm the final bridge and road design requirements.

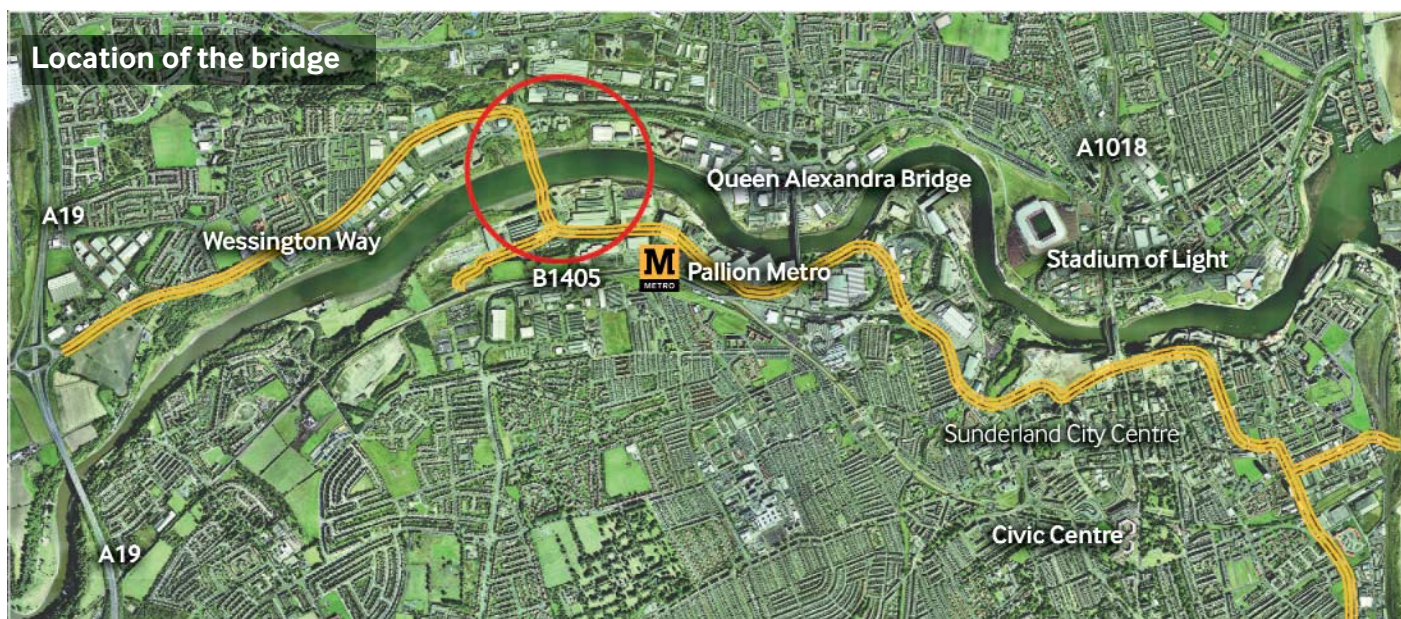
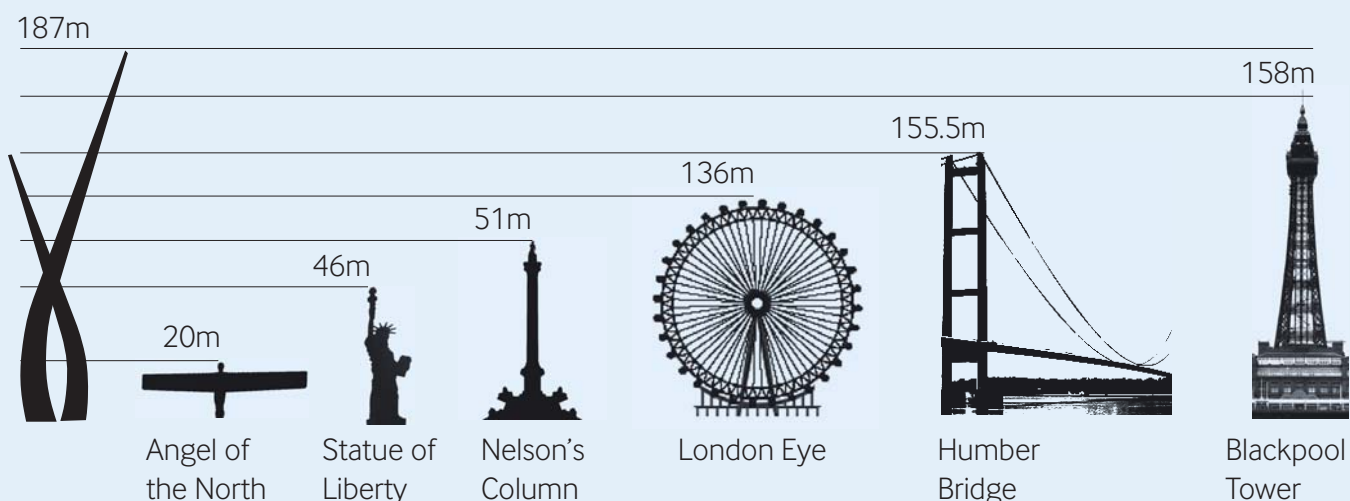
A consulting engineering firm has been appointed to undertake the detailed highway design for the scheme. The design will take approximately 9-12 months to complete and involves the design of the road across the new bridge, a new traffic signal junction on the A1231, Wessington Way, and the associated bridge approach roads.

What's next?

- The planning application is due to be considered by the Planning and Highways Committee in April.
- Subject to receiving all the necessary permissions, we will then be looking at a name for the new bridge, which members of the public can vote on.
- We're also working on developing a new website for the project. You'll soon be able to find all the information you need to know about the bridge at www.newsunderlandbridge.com

Fact file - How high?

The tallest (western) mast of the new Wear bridge will be 187m high.



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