

The Riverside Sunderland Masterplan describes six functional/character areas:

- Riverside Park will be created in Galley's Gill and on both banks of the River Wear, a rich ecological asset, and a place for leisure and exercise linked by highand low-level bridges
- Vaux will be Riverside
 Sunderland's first residential
 neighbourhood and the
 site of Expo Sunderland. It
 occupies a promontory site
 on the south side of the river
 next to the high-level bridge
- The Heart of the City
 straddles St Mary's
 Boulevard and will include
 the central business district,
 City Hall, Culture House, the
 Eye Hospital and Keel Square
- Farringdon Row looks
 east across Galley's Gill
 towards the Wearmouth
 bridges; it will be the second
 residential neighbourhood
 in Riverside Sunderland.
- Sheepfolds will be a mixed use city district comprising housing, workspace, community facilities and HICSA, the construction skills academy
- Ayres Quay: the final phase of residential development, on a dramatically located site with views of the river and the Stadium of Light.