

## **NEWCASTLE PREPAID CARDS LICENCED FOR EUROPE**

Newcastle Building Society has recently acquired a SEPA licence authorising the society to issue its prepaid cards throughout Europe.

A Single European Payments Area (SEPA) licence significantly extends the benefits Newcastle Building Society can offer its prepaid customers giving its multinational partners the ability to actively issue cards in over 25 countries.

Newcastle has a proven track record on Prepaid cards from within the UK and Ireland with over 40 card programmes already live. Through this new licence it will shortly commence approved programmes in Belgium, Germany, Spain, Malta and France. Further countries will follow in 2008 as the reach extends across all of Europe.

Dan Clappison, Head of Card Relations, Newcastle Building Society commented:

“The acquisition of this SEPA licence is exciting news for our card solutions business and represents a significant enhancement to our prepaid offering. Increasingly we have found our customers have international requirements and moving into a Europe wide agreement with MasterCard will assist in their ambitions. It is exciting to already have a range of programmes ready for launch with which to celebrate this new licence.

-ENDS-

**Notes to Editor:**

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**ABOUT NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY**

Newcastle Building Society is the biggest building society based in the North East and one of the strongest mutual building societies in the country. With assets under administration of over £4.4bn we are certainly large enough to compete but small enough to care deeply about the needs of our members. We are committed to providing a range of innovative and attractive products.

The Newcastle Building Society is committed to remaining mutual and by doing so we feel we are better placed to continue to provide our investors with the quality of service expected from one of the country's strongest building societies.