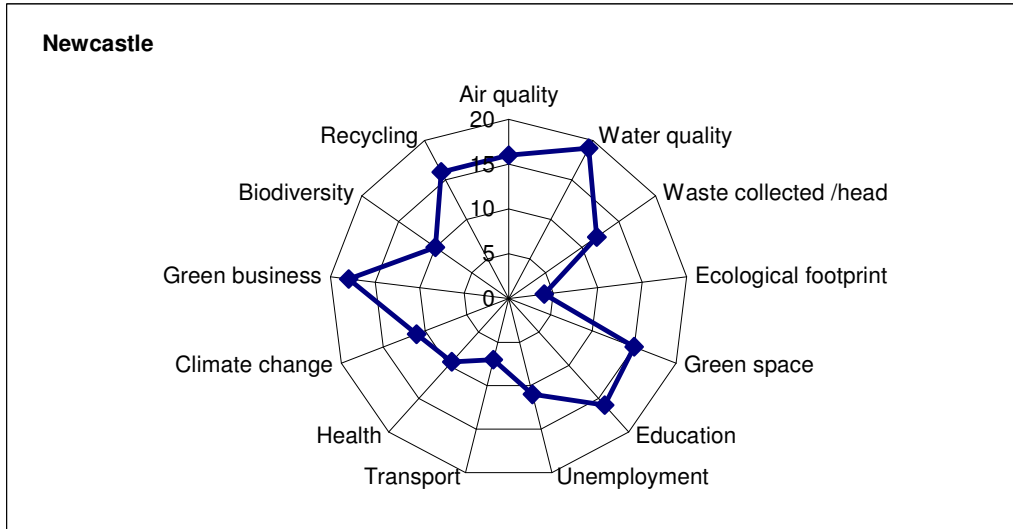


Newcastle

Overall ranking for 2008: 4

2007 ranking: 8



This spider chart shows positions for each indicator where 20 is the highest and one the lowest score, therefore points near the centre of the circle are lower positions and points near the outside are higher than other cities.

Indicators set

Environmental Basket

Overall environmental ranking – 6 (2007 – 6)

Indicators set	Air quality	Water quality	Household waste collected per head	Ecological footprint	Total basket score
Environmental Basket					
2008	16	19	12	4	51
2007	18	18.5	7	4	47.5

(where 20 = highest, 1 = lowest)

This basket's indicators provide an indication of the city's environmental performance:

- **Air quality** – A new indicator for the 2008 Index is the annual mean of Nitrogen Oxides as NO₂, therefore there is no comparison with 2007 levels which used PM₁₀, this change was at the request of several local authorities.
- **River water quality** – the percentage of rivers where biological and chemical qualities were deemed to be good or fair (2006 estimates).
- **Ecological footprint** – the impact of services, housing, transport and consumables on the environment (2003 estimates).
- **Household waste collected per head** (2006/7) – a partial proxy for the resource use per capita.

Overall comments on the environmental basket – Newcastle’s improved water quality and waste collection rates are balanced by a slightly lower air quality rank, keeping the city at 6th place for the second year running.

Quality of Life Basket

Overall quality of life ranking – 8 (2007 – 9)

Year	Employment	Transport	Education	Life expectancy	Green space	Total basket score
2008	11	7	16	9.5	15	58.5
2007	11	7	17	6	15	56

(where 20 = highest, 1 = lowest)

These indicators aim to provide data on what the city is like to live in and how it is performing on social sustainability.

- **Employment** – the number of benefit claimants as a percentage of the working age population (2008).
- **Education** – percentage of the working age population with NVQ2 or equivalent (2007).
- **Transport** – resident satisfaction with local bus service (2007).
- **Life expectancy from birth** – a measure of health and longevity (2004-6), this indicator has changed from 2007 where we used healthy life expectancy from 65, as this data is updated annually.
- **Resident satisfaction with green space** – percentage of residents who think that their local parks and open spaces have improved or stayed the same during the last three years (England 2003/4, Wales 2006).

Overall comments on the quality of life basket – Despite poorer ranks on transport and life expectancy, these are balance by improved positions on employment and education, moving Newcastle up the quality of life basket.

Future Proofing Basket

Overall future proofing ranking – 3 (2007 – 9)

Year	Climate change strategy	Biodiversity	Green business	Recycling	Total basket score
2008	11	10	18	16	55
2007	5	10	17	9	41

(where 20 = highest, 1 = lowest, except for climate change / recycling in 2007 which used different scoring systems)

The data in this basket reflect the preparedness of the city for the future and its readiness to respond to the challenge of sustainability.

- **Local authority commitments on climate change** – councils were scored on three areas; the existence of climate change strategy, ring-fenced resources for climate change mitigation or adaptation, and targets on CO₂ emissions reduction that exceed the Government’s target on 50% by 2050.
- **Biodiversity** – percentage of land deemed to favour biodiversity as an indicator of the robustness of the system (2006/7).

- **Green businesses per capita** – the number of green businesses listed on yell.com under the following categories; Environmental Consultants, Water Conservation and Management, Energy Saving Consultants, Conservation Groups and Pollution Control (July 2008).
- **Recycling** – percent of household waste recycled or composted (2006/7).

Overall comments on the future proofing basket – Newcastle's improved ranking is largely due to greater activity around climate change and an improvement in its position on recycling.