

NEWCASTLE CELEBRATES HALF A MILLION PREPAID CARDS WITH FLEX-E-VOUCHERS

Newcastle Card Solutions has today exceeded the half million mark for prepaid Maestro® Gift Cards issued alongside card programme manager Flex-e-Vouchers.

As its first card programme manager, Newcastle Card Solutions and Flex-e-Vouchers have been working in partnership since 2005 and now operate live card schemes within 49 different shopping centres across the UK; including the MetroCentre in Gateshead and Eldon Square in the heart of Newcastle town centre.

All of the cards issued by Newcastle Building Society are Maestro® branded and non-reloadable, with a maximum value of up to £1,000. Point-of-sale terminals and system infrastructure are supplied to the shopping centres by Flex-e-Vouchers who are a market leader in this area.

Colin Greaves, Operations Director of Newcastle Strategic Solutions Limited commented:

“We are delighted to have now issued over half a million cards with Flex-e-Vouchers. Our three year partnership has been very successful and with live schemes across 49 shopping centres in the UK our presence and position as the leading Maestro® Gift Cards issuer could not be stronger.”

Tony Kerr, Managing Director of Flex-e-Vouchers commented:

“Success achieved in issuing our prepaid gift cards has been overwhelming and has resulted from a strong relationship established with Newcastle Building Society. We have achieved dominance in this sector of the UK prepaid card

market, and look forward to the imminent rollout of our gift card scheme to many more prominent UK and European malls over the coming months.”

-ENDS-

For further information please contact:

Nicola Green

Emma Bowden

Newcastle Building Society

The Wriglesworth Consultancy

0191 244 2024

020 7427 1411

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 management of over £4.8bn we are certainly large enough to cope but small enough to care deeply about the needs of our members. We are committed to providing a range of innovative and attractive products and services. www.newcastle.co.uk

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.

Newcastle Card Solutions

Newcastle Building Society has over 60 live prepaid and debit card programmes including:

- Debit cards
- Retail gift cards, a replacement of paper gift token..
- Teen cards, for those aged 13 and over.
- Cards for the financially excluded.
- Travel cards, a safe, convenient alternative to travellers cheques.
- Corporate incentive cards, issued direct to employees as reward payments.
- Payroll and Payroll Plus cards, facilitating salary payments onto the card

The Society is a MasterCard® Principal Member, with the most MasterCard® approved prepaid programmes in the UK. We hold a SEPA licence and have live programmes in the UK, Ireland, Germany, Belgium and Italy.

About Flex-e-vouchers

In the UK, Flex-e-vouchers developed the shopping mall gift card market and are the clear market leader, operating gift card schemes at 49 leading UK malls. Our blue-chip client base includes:

- Capital Shopping Centres
- Land Securities
- Prudential

- Grosvenor
- The Mall Corporation
- Henderson Investors

Our market leading gift card scheme is implemented at many of the UK's leading shopping malls including

- Bullring
- Lakeside
- MetroCentre
- Eldon Square
- Braehead
- Silverburn
- The Mall at Cribbs Causeway
- Manchester Arndale
- Buchanan Galleries

Flex-vouchers provide an integrated programme management and card transaction processing service. Working with MasterCard and Newcastle Building Society we are focused on providing services to both European shopping malls and the wider prepaid card market. Flex-e-vouchers technology platform is proprietary, and our Company is wholly owned by its Directors and employees.