

Newcastle Urban Observatory — UK's Largest Open Urban Sensor Network, with Real-Time Data Used in Lockdown Policy but Self-Reported Impact

City Innovation Library · Good practice · United Kingdom

Quality score: 57/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Since 2015 Newcastle University has run a city-scale open sensor network for Newcastle and Gateshead. Its data fed 2020 lockdown policy and a replicated 'How Busy is Toon' tool; impact claims are largely university-reported.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	2/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-10-25

[Newcastle University \(with Newcastle City Council and UKCRIC\)](#) — accessed 2026-10-25

[Newcastle University — Sense My Street](#) — accessed 2026-10-25

[Newcastle University — The impact of lockdown](#) — accessed 2026-10-25

[UK Government — Towards a digital twin for urban transport \(Economic Data Innovation Fund\)](#) — accessed 2026-10-25

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