

## News Release

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## Your Council ... as seen on TV

The five Tyne and Wear Councils can now offer local services to the public at the touch of a button through interactive digital TV.

Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland councils and Nexus have worked together to launch one of the country's first regional channels of council services on interactive digital television.

Sky, Telewest and NTL viewers can now access council services for the Tyne and Wear region through their TV sets.

This is in addition to contacting the councils in person, through their websites and by the network of on-street information kiosks (known as i+ Points). It means that anyone in the UK with cable or satellite television has access to over 500 screens of council, transport and tourism information.




The Tyne & Wear service has been set up to see if Digital TV offers a useful platform for council services. It offers citizens real choice about how and when they would like to contact their council. It is co-ordinated by the Tyne and Wear ICT & e-Government Partnership (TWICT) as part of the Government's National Project for Digital TV, and will run until April next year when its success will be evaluated.

With nearly 40 per cent of households in the region already having access to satellite or cable TV, TWICT is inviting local people to try it for themselves and feedback what they think using the "Your Views" button within the Tyne and Wear service.

People are already using the service for:

- Finding out about local services;
- Reporting problems;
- Requesting forms;
- Finding out about major events in the region;
- Contacting their Council or Nexus;
- Telling us what they think of the digital TV service.

If you are a Sky, Telewest or NTL viewer and want to have a look, just follow the instructions below and tell TWICT what you think of the service using the "your views" option on the screen.

					
Press	Interactive	Select:	Interactive	Go To:	Interactive Menu
		Select 1:	TV Internet	Select:	News and Info
		Select 6:	Local Look-up	Select:	Your Council
		Select 7:	Government		
Select 8:	Directgov - Govt Info	Select 1:	Directgov	Select:	Directgov
Select 1:	Local Info	Select:	Local Info	Select 1:	Local Info
Select:	Your Area	Select:	Your Area	Select 1:	Your Area
		Key in:	Postcode, town or Village name	Key in:	Postcode, town or village name
Choose:	One of the listed sites offering services in your area <i>Sky subscribers pay a local call charge</i>	Choose:	One of the listed sites offering services in your area	Choose:	One of the listed sites offering services in your area

end



[www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk)



[www.newcastle.gov.uk](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk)



[www.northtyneside.gov.uk](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk)



[www.s-tyneside-abc.gov.uk](http://www.s-tyneside-abc.gov.uk)



[www.sunderland.gov.uk](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk)



[www.nexus.org.uk](http://www.nexus.org.uk)