

Defining cities

Unless otherwise stated, Centre for Cities uses data for Primary Urban Areas (PUA) in its analysis – a measure of the “built-up” area of a city, rather than individual local authority districts. PUAs are used in our analysis because they provide a consistent measure to compare concentrations of economic activity across the UK. This makes PUAs distinct from city region or combined authority geographies.

List of UK Primary Urban Areas

PUA	Local authorities in PUA
Aberdeen	Aberdeen
Aldershot	Rushmoor, Surrey Heath
Barnsley	Barnsley
Basildon	Basildon
Belfast	Belfast, Lisburn and Castlereagh
Birkenhead	Wirral
Birmingham	Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Wolverhampton
Blackburn	Blackburn with Darwen
Blackpool	Blackpool, Fylde
Bournemouth	Bournemouth, Christchurch, East Dorset, Poole
Bradford	Bradford
Brighton	Adur, Brighton and Hove
Bristol	City of Bristol, South Gloucestershire
Burnley	Burnley, Pendle
Cambridge	Cambridge
Cardiff	Cardiff
Chatham	Medway
Coventry	Coventry
Crawley	Crawley
Derby	Derby
Doncaster	Doncaster
Dundee	Dundee
Edinburgh	Edinburgh
Exeter	Exeter
Glasgow	East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow, Renfrewshire
Gloucester	Gloucester
Huddersfield	Kirklees
Hull	Kingston upon Hull
Ipswich	Ipswich
Leeds	Leeds
Leicester	Blaby, Leicester, Oadby and Wigston

PUA	Local authorities in PUA
Liverpool	Knowsley, Liverpool
London	Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Broxbourne, Camden, City of London, Croydon, Dartford, Ealing, Elmbridge, Enfield, Epping Forest, Epsom and Ewell, Gravesham, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hertsmere, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston upon Thames, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond upon Thames, Runnymede, Southwark, Spelthorne, Sutton, Three Rivers, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth, Watford, Westminster, Woking
Luton	Luton
Manchester	Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford
Mansfield	Ashfield, Mansfield
Middlesbrough	Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes
Newcastle	Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, South Tyneside
Newport	Newport, Torfaen
Northampton	Northampton
Norwich	Broadland, Norwich
Nottingham	Broxtowe, Erewash, Gedling, Nottingham
Oxford	Oxford
Peterborough	Peterborough
Plymouth	Plymouth
Portsmouth	Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport, Havant
Preston	Chorley, Preston, South Ribble
Reading	Reading, Wokingham
Sheffield	Rotherham, Sheffield
Slough	Slough
Southampton	Eastleigh, Southampton
Southend	Castlepoint, Southend-on-Sea, Rochford
Stoke	Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent
Sunderland	Sunderland
Swansea	Neath Port Talbot, Swansea
Swindon	Swindon
Telford	Telford and Wrekin
Wakefield	Wakefield
Warrington	Warrington
Wigan	Wigan
Worthing	Worthing
York	York

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