

# Agenda

## Cabinet

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Date: Wednesday, 16 December 2020

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Committee Room 1 - Civic Centre

To: Councillors Councillor J Mudd (Chair), Councillor R Jeavons, P Cockeram, G Giles, D Harvey, D Mayer, Councillor R Truman, D Davies and M Rahman

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Item	Wards Affected
1	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>
2	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>
3	<u>Draft Minutes from November Cabinet</u> (Pages 3 - 16)
4	<u>Treasury Management Monitoring Report</u> (Pages 17 - 32)
5	<u>Quarter 2 Corporate Risk Register Update</u> (Pages 33 - 86)
6	<u>Audit Wales - Audit of Newport City Council's Assessment of 2019-20 performance (Certificate of Compliance 2)</u> (Pages 87 - 94)
7	<u>Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report</u> (Pages 95 - 100)
8	<u>Director of Social Services Annual Report</u> (Pages 101 - 152)
9	<u>Endorsement of RR DA Recommendation for Consultation</u> (Pages 153 - 162)
10	<u>Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill Consultation</u> (Pages 163 - 184)
11	<u>COVID-19 Recovery - Update</u> (Pages 185 - 206)
12	<u>Brexit Update Report</u> (Pages 207 - 214)
13	<u>City Centre Leisure and Learning</u> (Pages 215 - 230)

Contact: Tracy Richards , Cabinet Office Manager, Cabinet@newport.gov.uk  
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Date of Issue: Date Not Specified

- 14      Cabinet Work Programme *(Pages 231 - 238)*
- 15      Exclusion of the Press and Public  
            To consider whether to exclude the press and public during consideration of the following item on the grounds that its consideration involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 and the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.
- 16      Pension Arrangements Newport Transport Limited *(Pages 239 - 248)*
- 17      Live Event  
            To view webcast, click on link below:  
  
            <https://youtu.be/TJlimnrMSvI>

Date of Next Meeting: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 2 pm

# Minutes



## Cabinet

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Date: 11 November 2020

Time: 4.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Jane Mudd (Chair); P Cockeram, D Davies, G Giles, D Harvey, R Jeavons; D Mayer, M Rahman, R Truman

In attendance: Mrs B Owen, Mr M Rushworth, Mr R Cornwall, Mr O James, Mr R Thomas, Mrs J Evans.

### Part 1

The Leader opened the meeting and asked everyone to bear in mind the significance of today being Armistice Day and to remember those that have given their lives in conflict; she thanked all those that had attended the Remembrance Service at the Civic Centre this morning.

#### 1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

#### 2 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### 3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2020 were confirmed as a true record.

#### 4 September Revenue Monitoring Report

The Leader presented the report that provided Cabinet with the September revenue monitoring position which shows an under-spend of nearly £1.7m; the under-spend includes £1.4m of uncommitted contingency which if required will reduce the overall under-spend. The Leader reported that the contingency may be required as progress is made through the remainder of the financial year, with the impact of the Covid-19 second wave being unknown. Therefore, expenditure the Council may need to pick up may be over and above that available to the Council from the Welsh Government Hardship Fund.

The reported under-spend at this stage of the year is a positive position for the Council and is an improvement on the previous position reported to Cabinet for July. The September Monitoring report reflects the clarification of funding that has been made available by Welsh Government in relation to Covid-19 related loss of income and increased expenditure.

Another positive reported is that there has been an improvement in the service areas' forecasts, including a £400k improvement in the projected delivery of savings.

The following key budget issues were identified which Heads of Service have been asked to review and put in place mitigating actions to resolve:

- In spite of the improvement previously reported, there is still £1.1m of savings which are yet to be delivered. This is largely due to the Covid pandemic which has delayed the implementation of the savings, but as the pandemic continues there is a risk that the delay in delivering these savings may continue into the next financial year. Therefore Heads of Service need to agree actions to mitigate these delays if savings continue to be undelivered.
- As reported in previous months there is increased demand reported in a number of areas of social care including Children's Independent Fostering Agency spend showing a forecast overspend of £450k and Emergency Placements in the current circumstances projecting an overspend of £354k.
- Schools' position has changed since the previous forecast and is showing an in-year over-spend of £1.3m, which will mean them going into an overall deficit balance position of £186k. This highlights a very challenging position, and it is recognised that schools are delivering through unprecedented and uncertain times. However, as the year progresses, with Welsh Government confirming increased costs of cleaning and cover for staffing which is Covid-19 related being reimbursed through the hardship fund, there is still the potential for this position to improve.

The Leader confirmed the over-spend highlighted is offset by savings across service areas, including significant staffing savings and also reflects a saving on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme budget of £900k. However, this is offset somewhat by a £500k overspend on Council Tax income collection, which has seen a significant decrease in collection since the start of the pandemic, and an amount will have to be set aside at year end for the possibility that this may not be collected. It is important to note that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme position reflects that Welsh Government have funded the increase in demand for the scheme resulting from the pandemic. The Leader was pleased to see such very positive support from Welsh Government in relation to this.

The Leader summed up by confirming that overall, whilst this monitoring report is showing an overall under-spend position, this is in the backdrop of uncertainty surrounding the pandemic for the remainder of the financial year, and will be monitored closely and updated in future reports.

Cabinet was asked to:

- note the overall budget forecast position and the significant overspending areas which is predominately resulting from undelivered MTFP savings impacted by the on-going pandemic, the risks associated with this and recommend that HoS continue to focus on implementation of agreed savings as soon as is possible;
- note the planning assumptions within the forecast position and in particular, the uncertainty around (i) the ongoing impact that Covid will have upon service areas and (ii) funding support available from Welsh Government (WG) for the remainder of the financial year;
- note the forecast movements in reserves;
- note the significant financial challenges facing schools and the serious impact it will likely have on the Councils other revenue budgets and reserves and that further work is in progress to review forecasts.

#### **Decision:**

Cabinet voted and unanimously agreed the report and for the Corporate Management Team to take a targeted approach to reducing spend across service areas whilst ensuring management of key budgets and risks.

## **5 Capital Programme Monitoring and Additions Report**

The Leader presented the report that provides an update to Cabinet on the capital monitoring position as at the end of September and the changes to the programme since the last report. The report also provides an update on the available capital resources and capital receipts.

The Leader reported that in terms of updates to the programme since the last report to Cabinet in August, Newport has an extensive capital programme investing in a variety of important schemes across Newport from investment in schools, regeneration activities, heritage and energy efficiency schemes. Following additions of over £2.4m the overall capital programme is now £206.7m.

Additions to the programme include: further investment in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Band B schools, including utilisation of secured Section 106 monies and a number of secured Welsh Government grants, including investment into electric powered refuse collection vehicles and support for businesses through the Covid-19 pandemic.

The monitoring position for 2020/21 shows further slippage into future years of £3.8m, this reflects the profile of the delivery of schemes for the remainder of the year. There is also a small underspend on completed projects of £470,000 mainly within City Services.

The available capital resources (headroom) shows a similar position to that previously reported at c£21m. However, the Leader confirmed that as the Council approaches the back end of this five year programme and looks to the Medium Term Financial Plan, there is a need to reflect the revenue impact of this headroom over the MTFP and look at the parameters in which the next capital programme will be delivered. This will form part of the capital strategy, which is reviewed and updated annually and will look at the long-term capital strategy for the Council. This will be discussed by Cabinet, alongside the Medium Term Financial Plan, in February.

With regard to capital receipts, the report requested Cabinet to approve the use of £2.03 million of capital receipts in order to pay off loan premiums which were payable when loans were repaid early in 2015/16. Whilst this gave a net saving at the time, there was a premium payable of c£500,000 per annum. There is just over £2 million left to be paid, and capital receipts can be utilised to pay this off and enable a saving to be put into the MTFP in 2021/22 of £507,000, leaving a balance of £3.1m of uncommitted receipts, including £1.1m relating to Welsh Government Joint Venture receipts.

Cabinet was asked to:

- note the monitoring position and approve the additions and slippage included in the report;
- note the available capital resources, reflecting that this will be updated as part of the upcoming capital strategy; and,
- approve the use of capital receipts and note the balance of remaining capital receipts

The Leader invited Cabinet colleagues to comment:

Councillor Giles commended the excellent work contained in the Band B Programme for Schools and the continuing work associated with this. She congratulated the education service and schools for their continued hard work.

Councillor Cockeram referred to page 48 of the agenda - Children and Young People Services – and queried the reference to the project being funded via an Integrated Children's fund allocation from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. He believed this information was incorrect and the project was being funded by the RPB Board. The Leader asked the Chief Executive to pick this up outside the meeting and to clarify the position with regard to the source of funding.

Councillor Harvey was pleased to confirm the stage 2 applications had been submitted for the work to the Transporter Bridge. She also passed on thanks from the small businesses along Chepstow Road for the help and assistance they have received from the Council during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Councillor Jeavons referred to active travel and applauded the 20 km of roads that have been made suitable for this purpose; over 27,500 counts of people had been recorded in May using the cycle-ways. Leader concurred with his comments and was pleased to be witness to how well the routes are maintained by the Council.

Cabinet was asked to:

1. approve the additions and amendments to the Capital Programme requested in the report (Appendix A);
2. approve slippage of £3,808k into 2021/22;
3. note the available remaining capital resources (headroom) until 2022/23;
4. note the capital expenditure forecast position as at September 2020;
5. note the balance of and approve the allocation of in-year capital receipts including the use of £2.030m receipts for to reduction of payments for loan premiums.

#### **Decision:**

Cabinet voted and unanimously approved:

- i. the changes to the Capital Programme and noted the monitoring position as set out in the report, including the use of capital receipts, and,
- ii. agreed to prioritise capital expenditure to maintain spend within the current affordability envelope, recognising that the revenue pressures from future borrowing are part of the overall MTFP budget gap.

## **6 Audit Wales Financial Sustainability Report**

The Leader presented the report which outlined Audit Wales' findings from its Financial Sustainability report, the Council's response and implementation of actions. The Leader asked Cabinet to note that the review was carried out in 2019, taking into account the balance sheet as at March 2019, and prior to any impact of Covid-19. Therefore the report needs to be taken in that context, albeit a number of findings and recommendations are still appropriate.

The report provides a wide overview of the financial sustainability of the Council giving a number of findings and recommendations. In summary the review and findings conclude that: ***“the Council has a relatively strong financial position, but has recently recognised the need to develop a more strategic and sustainable approach to consolidate the position”***. The Leader confirmed that this point is recognised and that the recently appointed Chief Executive will work alongside Business Change and Finance colleagues to develop a more strategic approach with the Council's Strategic and Corporate Management Teams. The Leader recognised that this will be challenging due to the lack of certainty of funding from Welsh Government, further exacerbated in the current Covid-19 pandemic. Welsh Government's announcement of the financial settlement has already been delayed.

The report confirms the Council has a good track record in delivering its activities within budget and strong delivery of savings. However, the Leader acknowledged that this will become more challenging as the savings put forward are more complex and challenging to deliver.

The report recognised that the Council has a high level of useable reserves, and whilst that does give some financial resilience, the vast majority of the reserves are committed for specific projects and is somewhat distorted in that c50% of reserves relate to funding future costs of the Council's PFIs. It was noted that if reserves are used to fund short-term issues, these will need to be replenished. In summary there are no easy, impact free solutions through reserves but they do ultimately provide some capacity in the last resort.

The report noted that detailed findings of the report are attached at Appendix 1 (Welsh) and Appendix 2 (English).

The Leader was pleased that Audit Wales had recorded such positive comments about the management of the Council's finances.

Cabinet was asked to note the outcome of the review, the Council's response and implementing the necessary actions raised.

#### **Decision:**

Cabinet voted and unanimously agreed:

- i) to note the outcomes of the report and,
- ii) that officers would provide regular updates on the progress of their service area implementing the necessary management actions.

## **7 Audit Wales Certificate of Compliance**

The Leader introduced the report and confirmed the certificate of compliance is issued by Audit Wales following their audit of the Council's 2019/20 performance.

The Leader confirmed Audit Wales are the Council's external auditors and have a duty to ensure that public bodies, such as Newport Council, have the necessary arrangements in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources to deliver Council services.

The work completed by Audit Wales also supports the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 by ensuring that public bodies are undertaking sustainable developments to meet the needs of future generations and adhering to the five ways of working principle.

The report asked Cabinet to note the Auditor General for Wales' comments in the certificate attached to the report ***'to confirm that the Council has discharged its duties under section 15(6) to (9) of the Measure and has acted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance sufficiently to discharge its duties'***.

Cabinet was asked to:

- i) note the positive outcome of the Certificate of Compliance in relation to meeting its statutory duty under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

#### **Decision:**

Cabinet voted and unanimously agreed the report and noted that the Certificate of Compliance is positive and confirms that the Council has discharged its duties under the Local Government Measure 2009 with regards to Improvement Planning.

## 8 Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2019/20

The Leader presented the report that confirmed that under the Equality Act (2010), the Council is required to report annually on the progress it has made against the strategic equality objectives contained within its Strategic Equality Plan. The Equality Act also requires local authorities to publish staff equalities data, details of which are contained in the report

The Leader confirmed this is the fourth and final Annual Report on progress set out in the Strategic Equality Plan 2016/2020 that was approved by Council in 2016. The Council's new Strategic Equality Plan was received by Cabinet and agreed at the July meeting and is now published on the Council's website.

The Leader explained that since implementing the previous Strategic Equality Plan in 2016, the Council has built on its strong commitment to partnership working and has engaged with staff, consulted with external stakeholders and increased its community engagement. The measures put in place through the nine Equality Objectives were used to indicate successes as well as identifying room for improvement. The Leader was pleased to confirm that changes made and the path ahead are encouraging; and by reflecting on the learnings from this strategy, the Council is able to move forward with purpose.

The report contained highlights from the past year which include:

- The Apprenticeship Scheme was rolled out successfully and NCC were finalists in the ACT Training Employer of the Year award 2019;
- 'EU Citizens Meeting' was established and the Council worked in partnership with third sector organisations as well as local EU communities to develop its work in this area;
- The successful implementation of the B.A.M.E. Network, which continues to be built on and improve to ensure Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic voices are heard in decision making;
- The 'Work Based Learning Academy' has created job clubs, training courses and bespoke 13-week training provisions to support young people seeking employment;
- Participation in Oxford University's 'Inclusive Cities Programme' – a knowledge exchange in relation to migrant communities;
- The Lighthouse 55+ scheme for older people celebrated its first anniversary and supported over 250 people in the year ;
- A further nine families (40 people) have been resettled, under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme;
- Preparatory work in 2019/20 for the new supported housing scheme for six young homeless people, paved the way for the scheme to open in early 2020/21. This was only possible due to the excellent partnership working from teams and partners such as Newport City Homes and Llamau;
- The Council completed its statutory consultation on the Schools' Accessibility Strategy, which aims to improve and upgrade the physical access to schools in Newport;
- Development in the work to promote the Welsh language within minority communities across Newport has increased, thanks to a dedicated Policy Officer and the recruitment of a Welsh Language Promotion Officer;
- The Council has continued with its commitment to developing Elected Member Champions, with leads for Race, LGBTQ+, Disability and Impairment, and Welsh Language, raising the profile of equality work throughout the year across the Council.

The Leader confirmed the Annual Report was reviewed recently by Scrutiny and the Committee's comments are included in the report. One of the issues they raised was the analysis of the data for the Council's workforce, which highlights key areas for improvement. This will be addressed in the Strategic Equality Plan 2020/2024 alongside work continuing on the commitment to a representative workforce and the recruitment and retention of under-represented groups.



The Leader invited the Cabinet Member for Community and Resources to comment who reiterated the Leader's comments and confirmed this work is not done just to tick boxes but shows the Council's commitment to a workplace culture and approach to service delivery that values inclusion and diversity.

#### The Leader invited Cabinet colleagues to comment

Councillor Rahman said that the Council is one of the few local authorities taking an active approach in dealing with systemic racism and echoed the point that this is an ongoing process with work still to do on improving issues such as poverty and inclusion.

Cllr Davies reiterated the previous comments but also noted the socio economic duty that has to be implemented by 2021 and that every decision has to take into account the impact on residents; this work will ensure the Council can deliver on that duty,

Cabinet was asked to:

- i) approve the report and,
- ii) agree to publish it on the Council's website

#### **Decision:**

Cabinet voted and unanimously approved the report and agreed to its publication on the Council's website in order to ensure that the Council remains compliant with its statutory obligations.

## **9 Future Generations Commissioner for Wales' Report and Newport City Council Progress**

The Leader introduced the report that briefed Cabinet on the Future Generations Commissioner's report and provides recommendations for the Council in light of the report.

The report details the Commissioner's assessment of the improvements public bodies should make to achieve the well-being goals and embed the sustainable development principle into the way they work.

Included in the Cabinet report were the following points:

- A reminder of the main duties of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;
- The eight areas of focus and high level recommendations contained in the Commissioner's report; and,
- A summary of the progress the Council has made in implementing the Act along with the next steps.

The Leader confirmed that one of the duties of the Commissioner is to publish the Future Generations Report, which contains the Commissioner's assessment of the improvements public bodies should make to achieve the well-being goals.

The Commissioner's report sets out a number of areas of focus for public bodies:

- Leadership and Change
- Land Use, Planning and Place Making
- Transport
- Housing
- Decarbonisation and Climate Change
- Skills for the Future
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Health and Wellness System

In terms of Newport's position, the Commissioner acknowledges embedding the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 into an organisation is a journey. The Leader confirmed the report evidences the Council has made steady progress towards implementing the Act over the last four years

both internally and working with the PSB. However, there are areas where progress is still necessary and the next steps have been set out in the report under each of the areas of focus.

The Leader was pleased to see the progress made over the last four years and was particularly pleased to report that the Council is expanding the number of supported housing units to respond to the increasing need due to Covid-19, and as such ensuring the most vulnerable in the city are able to improve their housing and wellbeing. In addition, the Council is moving towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030 through a whole range of projects including a collaborative community renewable energy project, which will increase the amount of roof mounted solar in the city by 25%.

The Leader emphasised the Council's commitment to implementing a sustainable approach and had appointed a Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development whose portfolio will take this legislation forward.

The Leader invited the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development to comment. The Cabinet Member thanked officers for the work undertaken to develop the Cabinet report from the information contained in the detailed report by the Commissioner, and which clearly defines the next steps for the Council. In the last five years the Council has made steady progress, the Cabinet Member was particularly pleased with the reduction made so far in Newport's carbon footprint and is looking forward to seeing further progress in that regard. She confirmed that as the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Future Generations Agenda she will be requesting regular updates to ensure appropriate actions are taken forward in relation to that Act.

The Leader invited Cabinet colleagues to comment:

Councillor Rahman was pleased to work collaboratively with the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development and welcomed the progress made with installing solar panels on Council buildings. He also referred to community asset transfers and mentioned Maindee Unlimited and the successful transfer of Maindee library and the work being taken forward to transfer other assets within the Maindee triangle.

Cabinet was asked to:

- i) note the progress made as set out in the annual report and,
- ii) endorse the Areas of Focus and Recommendations to enable the Council to move to the next stage of implementing the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

#### **NOTE:**

**At this point in proceedings, the meeting suffered IT Technical issues and Cabinet was suspended. The meeting reconvened at 1728 hours and the Leader apologised for the disruption caused.**

#### **Decision:**

Cabinet voted and unanimously agreed the report which will enable the Council, working alongside its partners and communities, to improve the overall well-being of current and future generations.

## **10 Annual Compliments, Comments and Complaints Management Report 2019/20**

The Leader introduced the report that confirmed that all Public Services in Wales are required to record and respond to feedback from residents in accordance with the guidance and legislation issued by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (Ombudsman). There are additional statutory requirements that must be met for complaints about Social Care. The report focusses on the overall performance regarding compliments, comments and complaints, and corporate performance in more detail.

Feedback on the above is recorded in the My Newport platform. The report summarises the complaints received in 2019/2020 and makes recommendations for actions that will improve the service provided by the Council.

The report noted that the Ombudsman requires public bodies to listen to feedback from the public and use that feedback to shape services and drive continuous improvement. This includes having systems in place to record, analyse and report on the feedback received from residents.

The Ombudsman passed new legislation last year (The Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019), and has very recently published new model policies and guidance underpinning this. The structure and content of the annual report reflects the changes.

The Council receives many compliments from residents about the services provided and this was the first full year that residents were able to use customer accounts, webforms and an app to record these quickly and easily. It was noted that the majority of compliments recorded are for City Services, as the most visible service with the most daily interactions with residents. Whilst the Ombudsman requires the Council to record compliments, he does not require data on these numbers, however, the report acknowledges that compliments received are a positive reflection on the services provided to residents.

Comments are also a way of recording the feedback from customers who are unhappy with policies and decisions made by the Council. City Services received the most recorded comments about policies for the same reasons it receives the most complaints. It should be noted that this was also a year when policy changes that impacted every household were implemented. Changes such as the introduction of smaller bins in order to meet recycling targets and the transfer of responsibilities for Civil Parking Enforcement to the Council generated much higher levels of feedback than usual. This, combined with the simple and easy way that residents can submit their feedback has contributed to the increase in numbers year on year. The report confirmed that it will not be possible to make a fair comparison until 2021, when there will be two full years' worth of data recorded on the new system.

The number of complaints received by the Council account for 1.84% of the total customer contacts recorded by Customer Services last year. There were more complaints recorded this year, however, this did not result in an increase in formal reviews or cases being referred to the Ombudsman.

The Leader was pleased to report that increasing numbers of complaints this year is not necessarily a cause for concern, as the Ombudsman expects Local Authorities to receive feedback in the form of complaints, and to make it easy for residents to complain. The low numbers of formal Stage 2 reviews and Ombudsman referrals are reflective of service areas handling complaints appropriately when they are raised. City Services received the most complaints, reflecting the nature of their work and direct interface with residents.

The report noted that 25.5% of complaints were upheld or partially upheld which is broadly in line with performance in previous years.

The improved methods of submitting feedback, including complaints, also supports social services complaints. The volume of complaints received for social care services has increased slightly year on year, but fewer complaints have resulted in Independent Investigations and Ombudsman referrals. This indicates that complaints are being well handled at the first stage and resolved to the complainant's satisfaction.

The number of complaints referred to the Ombudsman's office is below the national average for Local Authorities in Wales. 38 cases were referred to the Ombudsman during this time, and four of those required Ombudsman intervention where an 'early resolution' was agreed with the Council and complainants.

The Leader confirmed the Council is committed to developing the service in focussing further on ensuring the feedback from residents is used to improve service provision and outcomes.

The report provides examples of improvements that have been identified and implemented in the 12 months as a result of resident feedback. This is in line with the Ombudsman's requirement to focus on 'lessons learnt' under the new legislation and guidance.

The report noted that the Council will review the existing policies and procedures to reflect the new legislation and guidance issued by the Ombudsman. Further guidance, training and support will be provided to Officers to improve how complaints are dealt with and to embed a culture of continuous improvement based on the feedback received.

The Leader thanked the Cabinet Member for Community and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Social Services for the help and support they have given in driving forward continuous improvement.

The Cabinet Member of Community and Resources was pleased to report the Council has a very good relationship with the Ombudsman and the Council's developed technology to assist with capturing data has resulted in less complaints being referred to the Ombudsman.

The Cabinet Member for Social Services referred to the many wonderful compliments received with regard to the service provided by social care which don't appear to be recorded in the graph contained in the report. He asked if the Chief Executive could write to officers to encourage them to record compliments more robustly. Overall he was pleased with the content of the Ombudsman's report.

In response to Cllr Cockeram's comments on compliments received, the Leader confirmed the Council does record compliments but the Ombudsman does not require them to be reported.

Councillor Jeavons was pleased to note that most complaints are dealt with at Stage 1.

The Leader thanked all officers for their commitment to public service which has ensured that the Council has continued to provide services to the citizens of Newport during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cabinet was asked to:

- i) consider the volume, nature and themes regarding compliments and complaints received, and the Council's performance regarding complaint management in 2019/2020;
- ii) note the content of the Ombudsman's letter;
- iii) comment on any issues arising from the report or letter; and,
- iv) endorse the recommendations for improvement set out within the report, which ensure that the Council complies with its obligations under the new Public Service Ombudsman for Wales Act 2019

#### **Decision:**

Cabinet voted and unanimously agreed the report.

## **11 Local Toilet Strategy**

The Leader introduced the report that confirmed the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017(the Act) binds Local Authorities to think strategically about toilet facilities that are available to the public and invited the Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulation to comment further.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that each local authority in Wales is required to adopt and implement a Local Toilet Strategy, as required by the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017; although the duty to prepare a Strategy does not require local authorities to provide and maintain public toilets directly.

The Strategy was presented to Scrutiny Committee in November 2019 and the feedback from that committee was considered, and where necessary incorporated into the Strategy, but no significant amendments were made. The Cabinet Member confirmed the Corporate Heads of Service have been consulted on the Strategy prior to presentation to Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member commended the Strategy and the associated Action Plan to Cabinet for approval.

Cabinet was asked to formally approve and adopt the Local Toilet Strategy and Action Plan.

**Decision:**

Cabinet voted and unanimously approved and adopted the strategy and action plan.

## **12 Covid-19 Recovery Update Report**

In presenting this report the Leader firstly gave heartfelt thanks to the people of Newport on behalf of the Council for everything they have done since March 2020 and also during the recent Covid-19 firebreak in order to keep everyone safe and to limit the spread of the disease. The Leader hopes to see an improvement of the Covid figures which will be a good result for the hard work undertaken by all and is hopeful that we can all move forward together as a city.

The report provided an update on the progress made by Newport Council and its partners to support the city to comply with the localised lockdown measures and supporting Newport's communities as part of the Council's Strategic Recovery Aims.

The Leader confirmed that in June, Cabinet endorsed four Strategic Recovery Aims that support the delivery of the Council's Wellbeing Objectives but also ensure the Council's services can return safely and manage future outbreaks.

Since the last report to Cabinet in October, Welsh Government put in place a 'firebreak' from 23<sup>rd</sup> October lasting 17 days. This resulted in all non-essential businesses (including pubs, bars and restaurants) closing; all households being advised to stay at home and to work from home (where possible); and only Primary school, year 7 and 8 pupils returning back to school.

For Newport Council and its partners this meant the closure of Community Regeneration settings (excluding flying Start), Schools (for selected year groups), Newport Live facilities and the Household Waste site

England has now imposed a national lockdown for four weeks until 2<sup>nd</sup> December and residents in Wales have been asked not to travel to and from England (unless there is a reasonable excuse) to help them minimise the spread of Covid.

The period to Christmas remains precarious for all parts of Wales, including Newport, as attempts are made to minimise the spread of Covid-19 and ensure all of the City's vital services e.g. Hospitals, GP surgeries, schools, Council services and businesses remain open and are able to operate safely within the requirements set by the Welsh Government. This is why it is important for residents and businesses to comply with the new rules set by Welsh. Newport Council continues to work closely with its partners, community groups and third sector partners to communicate these rules to residents and businesses and to support the most vulnerable in our communities.

The Leader took the opportunity to stress to everyone the importance of following the rules. She appealed to the public that, if contacted by the TTP service the importance of following up on that contact, as you will have been in touch with someone who has tested positive for covid-19. The service is confidential and people will not be judged, but it is an important step in trying to stop this disease.

The Leader thanked all staff, partners and councillors for supporting communities and services.

The Leader promised a further update on the Council's progress at the next Cabinet meeting.

### The Leader invited Cabinet colleagues to comment

Councillor Truman commended the whole workforce for their work in dealing with this situation and reminded people to stick to the rules; he also commended the people of Newport for their assistance with this.

Cabinet was asked to consider the contents of the report and note the progress made to date and the

risks that are still faced by the Council.

**Decision:**

Cabinet noted the contents of the report and agreed for Cabinet/Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.

### **13 Brexit Update Report**

The Leader presented the report to Cabinet that set out Newport Council's ongoing preparations for a post 31<sup>st</sup> December trade arrangements and an update on the Brexit Trade Negotiations between the UK Government and the European Union (EU).

As highlighted in the Covid-19 Cabinet Report, the primary focus for the UK and Newport Council has been on responding to the Covid-19 crisis. However, during this period of time, the UK Government has continued with its negotiations with the EU.

Since the last update, the Council's Brexit Task & Finish officer Group has continued to monitor the UK position closely and preparing as much as possible for whatever agreement is made. This also includes collaborative working with Welsh Government and local authorities as part of the Council's role in the Gwent Local Resilience Forum which also informs the Council's own preparations. However, the longer these negotiations continue, it becomes more challenging for Council services (including partners) and businesses in Newport to effectively plan.

Since the last report the Council has been:

- Supporting businesses and encouraging businesses to prepare through the Economic Development Team and signposting businesses to Welsh Government pages.
- Monitoring and understanding through its key suppliers and partners all supply chain risks, supply availability and cost implications including tariff and VAT implications.
- Awaiting all of the necessary Welsh Government and UK government regulatory requirements (Leader stressed how much pressure this is putting on council staff already stretched by the Covid-19 pandemic)
- As part of the Council's Covid-19 response and support to Food Banks in the City, a working group has been established to improve engagement and identify pressures in communities that are being impacted by Covid-19 and potentially any new arrangements.
- Continued support and encouragement with the Council's partners and community groups to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme e.g. radio adverts. To date Newport has seen over 6,630 applications being made and more targeted work is being undertaken to encourage communities to apply.

The table in Appendix 1 of the report provides full details across the areas covered by the Task & Finish Group.

The Leader was clear that this is an ongoing situation with no resolution in sight, and with no guidance given by UK Government for local authorities to be better prepared.

Councillor Truman voiced concern that Newport is a significant port authority yet council officers are still awaiting guidance on monitoring and checking import standards post-Brexit. He was pleased to report that Welsh Government has provided funding for the training for officers to undertake this work, however, training cannot begin until exact requirements are known.

Cabinet was asked to consider the contents of the report and note the Council's Brexit preparations.

**Decision:**

Cabinet noted the contents of the report and agreed for Cabinet/Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.

#### **14 Cabinet Work Programme**

The Leader presented the Cabinet Work Programme.

##### **Decision:**

Cabinet agreed the updated programme.

In closing the meeting the Leader apologised for the technical issues and the disruption caused earlier in the meeting, and thanked everyone for their time and patience whilst this was rectified.

The meeting concluded at 1800 hours.

#### **15 Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 16 December 2020 at 4pm.

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# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: 16 December 2020

**Subject** Report on Treasury Management for the period to 30 September 2020

**Purpose** This report is to inform the Cabinet of treasury activities undertaken during the period to 30 September 2020 and confirms that all treasury and prudential indicators have been adhered to in the first half of the financial year.

**Author** Head of Finance / Assistant Head of Finance

**Ward** All

**Summary** In line with the agreed Treasury Management Strategy, the Council continues to be both a short-term investor of cash and borrower to manage day-to-day cash flows. Current forecasts indicate that in the future, temporary borrowing will continue to be required to fund normal day-to-day cash flow activities and longer-term borrowing will increase to fund new commitments in the current capital programme as well as the impact of reduced capacity for 'internal borrowing'.

During the first half of the financial year the Council's net borrowing decreased by £17.1m from £166.3m at 31 March 2020 to £149.2m at 30 September 2020.

All borrowing and investments undertaken during the first half of the year was expected and within the Council's agreed limits

**Proposal** To note the report on treasury management activities for the period to 30 September 2020 and provide comments to Council. Note the comments from Audit Committee on the report.

**Action by** Head of Finance / Assistant Head of Finance

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Treasury Advisors
- Head of Finance

**Signed**

## Background

1. In June 2009 the Authority adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2011 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management annual report after the end of each financial year.
2. Treasury risk management at the Authority is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year and, as a minimum, a semi-annual and annual treasury outturn report. This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation to have regard to the CIPFA Code.
3. The Authority has borrowed substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk are therefore central to the Authority's treasury management strategy.
4. The 2020/21 Treasury Management Strategy was approved by the Council as part of the Capital Strategy in February 2020 and can be viewed via the following link

<https://democracy.newport.gov.uk/documents/s17728/06%20Council%20Report%20Capital%20Strategy%20and%20Treasury%20Strategy%202020.pdf?LLL=0>

5. This report presents the following information:
  - details of capital financing, borrowing, debt rescheduling and investment transactions
  - reports on the risk implications of treasury decisions and transactions
  - details the half year monitoring position on treasury management transactions in
  - confirms compliance with treasury limits set and Prudential code

## BORROWING STRATEGY / ACTIVITY

### Short and Long Term Borrowing

1. Whilst the Council has significant long-term borrowing requirements, the Council's current strategy of funding capital expenditure is through reducing investments ('internal borrowing') rather than undertaking new borrowing where it can i.e. we defer taking out new long term borrowing and fund capital expenditure from the Council's own cash resources – which it has because of its 'cash-backed' reserves and, to a lesser extent, day to day positive cash-flows, for as long as we can. The Council may undertake borrowing early if, there is the need for future borrowing and it feels it can minimise risk of future interest rate rises while providing value for money, this will be in line with advice from our treasury advisors.

By using this strategy the Council can also minimise cash holding at a time when counterparty risk remains relatively high, especially with the current economic implications during Covid-19. The interest rates achievable on the Council's investments are also significantly lower than the current rates payable on long-term borrowing and this remains the main reason for our current 'internally borrowed' strategy.

At 31 March 2020, the level of internal borrowing was about £87m, mainly in relation to the Council's level of cash backed reserves. At current rates, this saves about £2.6m in interest costs annually compared to physically borrowing this level of cash. As the Council spends its reserves over the medium to long term (PFI reserves, Capital reserves, Invest to Save reserves in particular), then the

internal borrowing will have to be replaced with actual external borrowing and this interest cost will be incurred.

2. Whilst the strategy minimises investment counterparty risk, the risk of interest rate exposure is increased as the current low longer term borrowing rates may rise in the future. The market position is being constantly monitored in order to minimise this risk.
3. As shown in Appendix B, as at 30 September 2020 the level of borrowing has decreased by £17.1m to £149.2m. This decrease is in relation to the short term borrowing the Council undertook at the end of March to support the cash flow of providing grants to businesses in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This was reimbursed by Welsh Government and subsequently the borrowing was repaid in June 2020.

The level of investments has increased by £15.7m to £28.8, (including £18.2m held on very short-term periods), meaning a decrease in net borrowing of £32.7m during the first half of financial year to £121.1m. Therefore, no new long-term borrowing was required to be taken out in the first half of the financial year. However, it is anticipated that the Council will need to undertake additional borrowing on a short term basis for the remainder of the year in order to cover normal day to day cash flow activity. With current estimates there is the potential that a small amount of additional long-term borrowing will be required in this financial year. This includes small amount of new long term borrowing from Salix of £0.6m which is interest free and linked to specific energy efficiency projects.

4. In regards to LOBOs, no loans were called during the period. All £30m outstanding is subject to potential change of interest rates by the lender (which would automatically trigger a right to the Council to repay these loans) prior to the end of this financial year. Should a change of interest rate be requested, then it will be considered in detail and a decision on how we proceed will be made in conjunction with our treasury advisors.
5. Audit Committee requested that its previous comments on limits placed on future borrowing were reflected in the upcoming Capital Strategy. This will be prepared over the next couple of months in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan and approved at Council alongside the budget report.

## **INVESTMENTS ACTIVITY / POSITION**

6. The Council's strategies in this area of Treasury Management are (i) to be a short term and relatively low value investor, consistent with the pursuit of an 'internal borrowing strategy' and (ii) investment priorities should follow the priorities of security, liquidity and yield, in that order.

Included within the investment figure of £28.2m on the 30 September 2020, is £18.2m held on very short-term. Due to the pandemic the Authority kept more cash available at very short notice than is normal to cover any unexpected calls on cash flow. Currently there is not much demand for very short term borrowing within the market place, and in September rates on deposits below 14 days with the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF) dropped below zero percent. The Authority has its investment with LA of £20m with an average rate of 0.3%. But it is anticipated that investments will reduce during 2020/21 until we reach the balance of £10m, which will be invested for compliance with MiFIDII.

7. All investments are currently placed on a temporary basis and are placed in high security institutions, in line with our other strategy in this area, dealing with our investing priorities of (i) security (ii) liquidity and (iii) yield, in that order. At the 30 September 2020 £20m was placed with various local authorities. The maximum maturity date of any of these investments held was 14 October 2020.
8. January 2018 saw the implementation in the UK of the second Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II), where firms will be obliged to treat all local authorities as retail clients unless they opt up to professional client status and meet certain criteria. These criteria include holding a minimum of £10m investment balance and employing knowledgeable and experienced staff to carry out

investment transactions. It is anticipated that our investment balances will remain at or above the minimum £10m.

9. To retain its classification as 'professional clients', the Council currently invests its funds over short-term, low-risk instruments such as other local authorities and central government and because of the low risk nature of these – income from these are also very low. As part of the 2020/21 Medium Term Financial Plan and the Capital and Treasury Management Strategy it was approved that the Council could undertake larger, long-term investments in riskier financial instruments such as pooled funds, and other instruments. Essentially, investments in stock market and property funds to generate additional interest receivable income. However, due to Covid 19, investment in approved Property Funds was suspended. Due to the financial risk and the impact the ongoing pandemic could have on the economic global market, the Council will not be pursuing this strategy in 2020/21.
10. The Authority is currently undertaking the process of applying to be able to invest in Money Market Funds. This will enable the Authority to invest in short term funds if required, which has a higher rate of return but which is still deemed low risk due to its very short term nature. The use of these funds is already approved within the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.
11. The Council does not hold any long-term (more than 364 days) treasury investments as at 30 September 2020.

## **IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

12. Since the early days of the pandemic the Council has been monitoring the impact on cash flow closely. As highlighted within the borrowing figures, the Council undertook some additional borrowing at the end of the 2019/20 financial year to enable the delivery of business grants prior to the cash being received by WG, this was subsequently reimbursed and the borrowing repaid. In addition to the business grants, the Council has seen an increase in covid related expenditure, a reduction in income across services, and a decrease in the collection of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) and the Council has also implemented the NDR Relief Scheme for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses who receive 100% relief.
13. All of the above would have had a significant impact on cash flow, however aside from the beginning of the year when the additional short-term borrowing was required, WG have mitigated the impact by reimbursing increased expenditure through the hardship fund and through loss of income claims. WG have also repaid the business grants in a timely manner, and front-loaded a significant portion of the Revenue Support Grant payments to the Council into April, as well as providing a grant to support the cash flow of the 100% rate reliefs. Up to this point this has certainly assisted with cash flow and the Council has not required to undertake additional borrowing in the first half of the year.
14. As we continue through the remainder of the financial year and continue to see a reduction in Council Tax and NDR income, we anticipate that we will require to undertake some borrowing, but this is not substantially different to where we were expecting to be at this stage of the year and is in line with the limits set by Council in the capital strategy.

## **NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS**

15. The definition of investments in CIPFA's revised Treasury Management Code now covers all the financial assets of the Authority as well as other non-financial assets which the Authority holds primarily for financial return. This is replicated in the Investment Guidance issued by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) and Welsh Government, in which the definition of investments is further broadened to also include all such assets held partially for financial return.

The Authority also held such investments in:

- directly owned property such as office and commercial units of £10.8m
- loans to local businesses and landlords £4.4m
- shareholding in subsidiaries £0.3m

These investments generated £0.7m of investment income for the Authority after taking account of direct costs. The outbreak of Covid-19 has impacted global financial markets and as at the valuation date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, less weight can be attached to previous market evidence to inform opinions of value. There is an unprecedented set of circumstances on which to base a judgement. Valuations were therefore reported on the basis of 'material valuation uncertainty' as per the RICS Red Book Global.

## OTHER MID YEAR TREASURY MATTERS

### Economic background and Counter Party Update

- Appendix A outlines the underlying economic environment during the first half of the financial year, as provided by the Council's Treasury Management Advisors Arlingclose.
- As discussed previously in this report the Council does not have any long-term treasury investments, and the investments that it currently undertakes is mainly with other local authorities which are deemed very secure, therefore the risk is currently 'low'. At the end of September 2020 there have been no changes to the names on the counterparty list, but our Treasury Management Advisors now advise that where strategies permit, bank deposits should only be made for periods up to 35 days. The long-term rating of Santander UK, the Council's bankers, remains at A+; above the Council's minimum level of A-.

### Compliance with Prudential Indicators approved by Council

- The Authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using various indicators which can be found in Appendix B. The Authority has complied with the Prudential Indicators for 2020/21, set in February 2020 as part of the Treasury Management Strategy. Details of treasury-related Prudential Indicators can be found in Appendix B.

### PWLB future lending terms

- Members will be aware that the PWLB increased interest rates on loans in the autumn of 2019 following concerns about the level of Local Government debt, in particular for commercial activities.

A consultation was held this year, closing on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020, on the proposed changes in their lending criteria, which Newport City Council responded to. It contained proposals to allow authorities that are not involved in "debt for yield" activity to borrow at lower rates as well as stopping local authorities using PWLB loans to buy commercial assets primarily for yield. The consultation also broaches the possibility of slowing, or stopping, individual authorities from borrowing large sums in specific circumstances. The announcement of the new lending terms is expected at the end of this calendar year or early next year.

## Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Investment counterparty not repaying investments	High but depending on	Low	The Council only invests with Institutions with very high credit scores. It employs advisors to monitor money	Members, Head of Finance, Treasury

	investment value		market movements and changes to credit scores and acts immediately should things change adversely. The lower levels of funds available for investment will also alleviate the risk.	staff, based on advice from treasury advisors
Interest Rates moving adversely against expectations	Low	Low	Future expectations for higher short term rates are subdued. The Treasury strategy approved allows for the use of short term borrowing once investment funds are exhausted to take advantage of these low rates.	Head of Finance, Treasury staff, treasury advisors

\* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

### **Links to Council Policies and Priorities**

It is the Council's policy to ensure that the security of the capital sums invested is fully recognised and has absolute priority. The Council follows the advice of the Welsh Governments that any investment decisions take account of security, liquidity and yield in that order.

### **Options Available and considered**

The Prudential Code and statute requires that, during and at the end of each financial year, reports on these matters are presented to Council for approval. Thus the only option available is consider the report and provide comments to the Council.

### **Preferred Option and Why**

Note the contents of the report in relation to Treasury activities and all Treasury Indicators met for the first half of the 2020/21 financial year.

Provide any comments necessary to Council on the contents of the report.

### **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

Decisions made on treasury matters will be made with a view to comply with the Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators, taking advice, where needed, from our Treasury Advisers.

### **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

There are no legal implications. The in year and annual treasury management report is consistent with relevant Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Guidance, Treasury Management principles and the Council's investment Strategy.

### **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

There are no direct HR implications associated with the report.

The Council is required to approve a treasury management annual report at the end of each financial year. The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires public bodies to balance short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs. As stated in this report, the Council continues to be both a short-term investor of cash and borrower to manage day-to-day cash flows but current forecasts indicate that in future temporary borrowing will continue to be required and longer-term

borrowing will increase to fund the capital programme. This annual report fits in with the well-being goal of a Prosperous Wales.

## **Comments of Cabinet Member**

N/A

## **Local issues**

N/A

## **Scrutiny Committees**

N/A

## **Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010**

The Equality Act 2010 contains a Public Sector Equality Duty which came into force on 06 April 2011. The Act identifies a number of 'protected characteristics', namely age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; marriage and civil partnership. The new single duty aims to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the regular business of public authorities. Compliance with the duty is a legal obligation and is intended to result in better informed decision-making and policy development and services that are more effective for users. In exercising its functions, the Council must have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The Act is not overly prescriptive about the approach a public authority should take to ensure due regard, although it does set out that due regard to advancing equality involves: removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics; taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these differ from the need of other people; and encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

## **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

N/A

## **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

This report is a backwards looking report of the treasury management activities of the Council. It shows that we followed the treasury management strategy and the compliance with prudential code and treasury management indicators. This links into the long-term objectives of the authorities and ensures that the council's activities are carried out in an affordable, prudent and sustainable manner.

## **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

## **Consultation**

N/A

## **Background Papers**

Report to Council February 2020: Capital Strategy and Treasury Strategy.

Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## APPENDIX A

### External Context

**Economic background:** The spread of the coronavirus pandemic dominated during the period as countries around the world tried to manage the delicate balancing act of containing transmission of the virus while easing lockdown measures and getting their populations and economies working again. After a relatively quiet few months of Brexit news it was back in the headlines towards the end of the period as agreement between the UK and EU on a trade deal was looking difficult and the government came under fire, both at home and abroad, as it tried to pass the Internal Market Bill which could override the agreed Brexit deal, potentially breaking international law.

The Bank of England (BoE) maintained Bank Rate at 0.1% and its Quantitative Easing programme at £745 billion. The potential use of negative interest rates was not ruled in or out by BoE policymakers, but then a comment in the September Monetary Policy Committee meeting minutes that the central bank was having a harder look at its potential impact than was previously suggested took financial markets by surprise.

Government initiatives continued to support the economy, with the furlough (Coronavirus Job Retention) scheme keeping almost 10 million workers in jobs, grants and loans to businesses and 100 million discounted meals being claimed during the 'Eat Out to Help Out' (EOHO) offer.

GDP growth contracted by a massive 19.8% (revised from first estimate -20.4%) in Q2 2020 (Apr-Jun) according to the Office for National Statistics, pushing the annual growth rate down to -21.5% (first estimate -21.7%). Construction output fell by 35% over the quarter, services output by almost 20% and production by 16%. Recent monthly estimates of GDP have shown growth recovering, with the latest rise of almost 7% in July, but even with the two previous monthly gains this still only makes up half of the lost output.

The headline rate of UK Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) fell to 0.2% year/year in August, further below the Bank of England's 2% target, with the largest downward contribution coming from restaurants and hotels influenced by the EOHO scheme. The Office for National Statistics' preferred measure of CPIH which includes owner-occupied housing was 0.5% y/y.

In the three months to July, labour market data showed the unemployment rate increased from 3.9% to 4.1% while wages fell 1% for total pay in nominal terms (0.2% regular pay) and was down 1.8% in real terms (-0.7% regular pay). Despite only a modest rise in unemployment over the period, the rate is expected to pick up sharply in the coming months as the furlough scheme ends in October. On the back of this, the BoE has forecast unemployment could hit a peak of between 8% and 9%.

The US economy contracted at an annualised rate of 31.7% in Q2 2020 (Apr-Jun). The Federal Reserve maintained the Fed Funds rate at between 0% and 0.25% but announced a change to its inflation targeting regime. The move is to a more flexible form of average targeting which will allow the central bank to maintain interest rates at low levels for an extended period to support the economy even when inflation is 'moderately' above the 2% average target, particularly given it has been below target for most of the last decade.

The European Central Bank maintained its base rate at 0% and deposit rate at -0.5%.

**Financial markets:** Equity markets continued their recovery, with the Dow Jones climbing to not far off its pre-crisis peak, albeit that performance being driven by a handful of technology stocks including Apple and Microsoft, with the former up 75% in 2020. The FTSE 100 and 250 have made up around half of their losses at the height of the pandemic in March. Central bank and government stimulus packages continue to support asset prices, but volatility remains.

Ultra-low interest rates and the flight to quality continued, keeping gilts yields low but volatile over the period with the yield on some short-dated UK government bonds remaining negative. The 5-year UK benchmark gilt yield started and ended the June-September period at -0.06% (with much volatility in between). The 10-year gilt yield also bounced around, starting at 0.21% and ending at 0.23% over the same period, while the 20-year rose from



0.56% to 0.74%. 1-month, 3-month and 12-month bid rates averaged 0.02%, 0.06% and 0.23% respectively over the period.

At the end of September, the yield on 2-year US treasuries was around 0.13% while that on 10-year treasuries was 0.69%. German bund yields remain negative across most maturities.

**Credit review:** Credit default swap spreads eased over most of the period but then started to tick up again through September. In the UK, the spreads between ringfenced and non-ringfenced entities remains, except for retail bank Santander UK whose CDS spread remained elevated and the highest of those we monitor at 85bps while Standard Chartered was the lowest at 41bps. The ringfenced banks are currently trading between 45 and 50bps.

After a busy second quarter of the calendar year, the subsequent period has been relatively quiet for credit changes for the names on our counterparty list. Fitch assigned a AA- deposit rating to Netherlands lender Rabobank with a negative outlook and prior to that, while not related to our counterparty list but quite significant, revised the outlook on the US economy to Negative from Stable while also affirming its AAA rating.

There continues to remain much uncertainty around the extent of the losses banks and building societies will suffer due to the impact from the coronavirus pandemic and for the UK institutions on our list there is the added complication of the end of the Brexit transition period on 31<sup>st</sup> December and what a trade deal may or may not look like. The institutions on Arlingclose's counterparty list and recommended duration remain under constant review, but at the end of the period no changes had been made to the names on the list or the recommended maximum duration of 35 days.

## Appendix B

### Local Context

On 31st March 2020, the Authority had net borrowing of £121.1m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary

	<b>31.3.20 Actual £m</b>
General Fund CFR	280
Less: *Other debt liabilities	43
<b>Borrowing CFR</b>	<b>237</b>
Less: Usable reserves	(87)
Less: Working capital inc. non-treasury investments	4
<b>Net borrowing</b>	<b>154</b>

\* finance leases, PFI liabilities and transferred debt that form part of the Authority's total debt

The Authority pursued its strategy of keeping borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and keep interest costs low.

The treasury management position at 30 September 2020 and the change during the year is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

	<b>31.3.20 Balance £m</b>	<b>Movement £m</b>	<b>30.9.20 Balance £m</b>	<b>30.9.20 Rate %</b>
Long-term borrowing	150.6	(1.4)	149.2	3.7
Short-term borrowing	-	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents	15.7	(15.7)	-	-
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>166.3</b>	<b>(17.1)</b>	<b>149.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Long-term investments	0	-	-	-
Short-term investments	0	(10.0)	(10.0)	0.1
Cash and cash equivalents	(12.5)	(5.7)	(18.2)	0.2
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>(12.5)</b>	<b>(15.7)</b>	<b>(28.2)</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Net borrowing</b>	<b>153.8</b>	<b>(32.7)</b>	<b>121.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>

The table above shows significant movement in both the borrowing and investment levels of the Council, however overall the NET borrowing position for the Council has decreased by £32.7m.

### Borrowing Update

On 9th October 2019 the PWLB raised the cost of certainty rate borrowing to 1.8% above UK gilt yields making it relatively expensive. Market alternatives are available, however the financial strength of individual authorities will be scrutinised by investors and commercial lenders.

The Chancellor's March 2020 Budget statement included significant changes to Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) policy and launched a wide-ranging consultation on the PWLB's future direction. Announcements included a reduction in the margin on new Housing Revenue Account (HRA) loans to 0.80% above equivalent gilt yields (if the Authority has an HRA, then include: the value of this discount is 1% below the rate at which the authority usually borrows from the PWLB). £1.15bn of additional "infrastructure rate" funding at gilt yields plus 0.60% has been made available to support specific local authority infrastructure projects for England, Scotland and Wales for which there is a bidding process.

The consultation titled "Future Lending Terms" allows stakeholders to contribute to developing a system whereby PWLB loans can be made available at improved margins to support qualifying projects. It contains proposals to allow authorities that are not involved in "debt for yield" activity to borrow at lower rates as well as stopping local authorities using PWLB loans to buy commercial assets primarily for yield. The consultation also broaches the possibility of slowing, or stopping, individual authorities from borrowing large sums in specific circumstances.

The consultation closed on 31st July 2020 with the announcement and implementation of the revised lending terms expected in the latter part of this calendar year or early next year

**Municipal Bonds Agency (MBA):** The MBA revised its standard loan terms and framework agreement. Guarantees for the debt of other borrowers are now proportional and limited and a requirement to make contribution loans in the event of a default by a borrower has been introduced. The agency has issued 5-year floating rate and 40-year fixed rate bonds in 2020, in both instances Lancashire County Council is the sole borrower and guarantor.

If the Authority intends future borrowing through the MBA, it will first ensure that it has thoroughly scrutinised the legal terms and conditions of the arrangement and is satisfied with them.

#### **Borrowing Strategy during the year**

At 30th September 2020 the Authority held £149.2m of loans, a decrease of £17.1m 31st March 2020, as part of its strategy for funding previous and current years' capital programmes. Outstanding loans on 30th September are summarised in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Borrowing Position**

	<b>31.3.20</b>	<b>Net Movement</b>	<b>30.9.20</b>	<b>30.9.20</b>	<b>30.9.20</b>
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>Weighted</b>
	<b>£m</b>		<b>£m</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Average</b>
				<b>%</b>	<b>Maturity</b>
					<b>(years)</b>
Public Works Loan Board	105.7	(1.4)	104.3	3.8	19.3
Banks (LOBO)	30.0	-	30.0	4.4	33.7
Banks (fixed-term)	5.0	-	5.0	3.8	57.4
Local authorities (long-term)	-	-	-	-	-
Local authorities (short-term)	15.0	(15.0)	-	-	-
Other inc. WG loans	9.9	(0.0)	9.9	-	7.8
Accrued interest	0.7	(0.7)	-		
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>166.3</b>	<b>(17.1)</b>	<b>149.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>22.7</b>

The Authority's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change being a secondary objective.

In keeping with these objectives, no new borrowing was undertaken. This strategy enabled the Authority to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk.

With short-term interest rates remaining much lower than long-term rates and temporary investments earning Bank Rate or lower, the Authority considered it to be more cost effective in the near term to use internal resources or borrowed rolling temporary / short-term loans instead, as per our Treasury Management Strategy. The net movement in temporary / short-term loans is shown in table 3 above.

LOBO loans: The Authority continues to hold £30m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate as set dates, following which the Authority has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. No banks exercised their option during the year.

### **Other Debt Activity**

After £0.8m repayment of prior years' Private Finance Initiative and finance leases liabilities, total debt other than borrowing stood at £42.4m on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, taking total debt to £208.7m.

### **Treasury Investment Activity**

The Authority holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During the year, the Authority's investment balances ranged between £28.1m and £65.8 million due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The investment position is shown in table 4 below.

**Table 4: Treasury Investment Position**

	<b>31.3.20</b>		<b>30.09.20</b>	<b>30.09.20</b>	<b>30.09.20</b>
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Movement</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Income Return</b>	<b>Weighted average maturity</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Years</b>
Banks & building societies (unsecured)	-	8.2	8.2	0.14	-
Government (incl. local authorities)	12.5	7.5	20.0	0.31	-
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>-</b>

Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

Continued downward pressure on short-dated cash rate brought net returns on sterling low volatility net asset value money market funds (LVNAV MMFs) close to zero even after some managers have temporarily lowered their fees. At this stage net negative returns are not the central case of most MMF managers over the short-term, and fee waivers should maintain positive net yields, but the possibility cannot be ruled out.

On 25th September the overnight, 1- and 2-week deposit rates on Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF) deposits dropped below zero percent to -0.03%, the rate was 0% for 3-week deposits and 0.01% for longer maturities.

The return on Money Market Funds net of fees also fell over the six months and for many funds net returns range between 0% and 0.1%. In many instances, the fund management companies have temporarily lowered or waived fees to maintain a positive net return.

In the light of the pandemic crisis and the likelihood of unexpected calls on cash flow, the Authority kept more cash available at very short notice than is normal. Liquid cash was diversified over several counterparties and/or Money Market Funds to manage both credit and liquidity risks.

In the Treasury Management Strategy it was agreed that the Authority will move into higher risk/higher yield investments such as pooled funds. However, this has been delayed while the Authority reviewed its risk appetite. While an increased income target has been included in the 2020/21 budget, due to the current economic uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, the Authority has invested into secure institutions such as local authorities and Central Government.

In November 2019 the Welsh Government published new Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments to be effective from the 2020/21 financial year. This involves a complete re-write along the lines of the guidance issued last year by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for local authorities in England.

The definition of investments is widened to include “all of the financial and non-financial assets a local authority has invested money into primarily or partially for the purpose of generating a surplus including investment property” providing it has been made using the power to invest contained in the Local Government Act 2003. In addition, loans to wholly-owned companies or associates, to a joint venture, or to a third party count as investments, irrespective of the purpose or legal power used.

### **Non-Treasury Investments**

The definition of investments in CIPFA’s revised Treasury Management Code now covers all the financial assets of the Authority as well as other non-financial assets which the Authority holds primarily for financial return. For English and Welsh Authorities: This is replicated in the Investment Guidance issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Welsh Government, in which the definition of investments is further broadened to also include all such assets held partially for financial return.

The Authority also held such investments in:

- directly owned property such as office and commercial units of £10.8m
- loans to local businesses and landlords £4.4m
- shareholding in subsidiaries £0.3m

These investments generated £0.7m of investment income for the Authority after taking account of direct costs in the first half of the year. As stated above, Covid is likely to have an impact on the income which is generated this financial year.

### **Compliance**

The Head of Finance reports that all treasury management activities undertaken during the year complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Authority’s approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in table 7 below.

Compliance with the authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt is demonstrated in table 5 below.

**Table 5: Debt Limits**

	H1 Maximum	30.9.20 Actual	2020/20 Operational Boundary	2020/21 Authorised Limit	Complied? Yes/No
Borrowing	192.8	149.2	230	240	✓
PFI and Finance Leases	42	42	43	43	✓
<b>Total debt</b>	<b>234.8</b>	<b>208.3</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>283</b>	✓

**Table 6: Investment Limits**

	Cash limit
Any single organisation, except the UK Central Government	£10m each
UK Central Government	unlimited
Any group of organisations under the same ownership	£10m per group
Any group of pooled funds under the same management	£10m per manager
Negotiable instruments held in a broker's nominee account	£5m per broker
Foreign countries	£2m per country
Registered providers and registered social landlords	£5m in total
Unsecured investments with building societies	£5m in total
Money market funds	£10m in total
Real estate investment trusts	£10m in total

*Above table only shows limits where the Council have invested money in during the year, excluding the UK Central Government.*

### **Treasury Management Indicators**

The Authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

**Interest Rate Exposures:** This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interests was:

Interest rate risk indicator	Limit	Complied
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	£200,000	✓
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	£100,000	✓

**Maturity Structure of Borrowing:** This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of all borrowing were:

	30.9.19 Actual	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Complied
Under 12 months	1%	60%	0%	✓
12 months and within 24 months	3%	40%	0%	✓
24 months and within 5 years	20%	40%	0%	✓
5 years and within 10 years	7%	40%	0%	✓
10 years and within 20 years	19%	30%	0%	✓
20 years and within 30 years	15%	20%	0%	✓
30 years and within 40 years	20%	20%	0%	✓
40 years and within 50 years	8%	20%	0%	✓
50 years and above	7%	20%	0%	✓

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

**Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than a year:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end were:

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Actual principal invested beyond year end	0	0	0
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	10	10	10
Complied?	✓	✓	✓

## Other

**IFRS 16:** CIPFA/LASAAC has proposed delaying the implementation of the new IFRS 16 Leases accounting standard for a further year to 2021/22.

## Arlingclose's Outlook for the remainder of 2020/21

	Dec-20	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Arlingclose Central Case	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Downside risk	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50

The medium-term global economic outlook is weak. While the strict initial lockdown restrictions have eased, coronavirus has not been suppressed and second waves have prompted more restrictive measures on a regional and national basis. This ebb and flow of restrictions on normal activity will continue for the foreseeable future, at least until an effective vaccine is produced and importantly, distributed.

The global central bank and government responses have been significant and are in many cases on-going, maintaining more stable financial, economic and social conditions than otherwise. This has supported a sizeable economic recovery in Q3.

However, the scale of the economic shock to demand, on-going social distancing measures, regional lock downs and reduced fiscal support will mean that the subsequent pace of recovery is limited. Early signs of this are already evident in UK monthly GDP and PMI data, even before the latest restrictions.

This situation will result in central banks maintaining low interest rates for the medium term. In the UK, Brexit is a further complication. Bank Rate is therefore likely to remain at low levels for a very long time, with a distinct possibility of being cut to zero. Money markets have priced in a chance of negative Bank Rate.

Longer-term yields will also remain depressed, anchored by low central bank policy rates, expectations for potentially even lower rates and insipid inflation expectations. There is a chance yields may follow a slightly different path in the medium term, depending on investor perceptions of growth and inflation, or if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Arlingclose expects Bank Rate to remain at the current 0.10% level and additional monetary loosening in the future most likely through further financial asset purchases (QE). While Arlingclose's central case for Bank Rate is no change from the current level of 0.1%, further cuts to Bank Rate to zero or even into negative territory cannot be completely ruled out.

Gilt yields are expected to remain very low in the medium term. Shorter-term gilt yields are currently negative and will remain around zero or below until either the Bank of England expressly rules out negative Bank Rate or growth/inflation prospects improve.

Downside risks remain in the near term, as the government dials down its fiscal support measures, reacts to the risk of a further escalation in infection rates and the Brexit transition period comes to an end.



# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

**Date:** 16 December 2020

**Subject** **Quarter 2 2020/21 Corporate Risk Register Update**

**Purpose** To present the Council's Corporate Risk Register for the end of quarter 2 (30<sup>th</sup> September 2020).

**Author** Head of People and Business Change

**Ward** All

**Summary** The Council's Corporate Risk Register monitors those risks that may prevent the Council from achieving its Corporate Plan or delivering services to its communities and service users in Newport.

At the end of quarter 2, there were 19 risks recorded in the Corporate Risk Register that are considered to have a significant impact on the achievement of the Council's objectives and legal obligations. At the end of quarter two, there were no new or escalated risks from service area risk registers; and no risks were closed / de-escalated. Overall, there are 11 Severe risks (risk scores 15 to 25); 6 Major risks (risk scores 7 to 14) and 2 Moderate risks (risk scores 4 to 6) that are outlined in the report.

**Proposal** Cabinet is asked to consider the contents of the quarter one update of the Corporate Risk Register.

**Action by** Corporate Management Team and Heads of Service

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Corporate Management Team

**Signed**

## Background

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, requires Newport City Council to set Well-being Objectives in its Corporate Plan 2017-22. In the delivery of the Corporate Plan and Council services there will be risks that may prevent, disrupt or impact on the Council's objectives. The Council's Risk Management Policy and Corporate Risk Register enables the Council to identify, manage and monitor those risks to ensure effective mitigation action is taken to minimise or prevent the risk from impacting on services, communities and citizens. The new Risk Management Policy was approved in July 2020.

Following the Covid-19 outbreak, service areas were asked to review their service plans and consider any new and/or emerging risks that could impact on the delivery of their services. Additionally as part of the Council's quarterly monitoring process, service areas have reviewed their risks considering the impact of Covid-19.

In accordance with the Council's Risk Management Policy, any new, escalated / de-escalated and closed risks in the Corporate Risk Register are presented to the Council's Chief Executive and Corporate Management Team for decision.

## Summary of risks in this report

At the end of quarter two, across the Council's eight service areas there were 56 risks recorded in their risk registers. The Council's Corporate Risk Register includes 19 of the 56 risks that are considered to pose the most risk to the delivery of Council services and achievement of its Corporate Objectives. The 19 Corporate Risks consisted of:

- 11 Severe risks (15 to 25);
- 6 Major Risks (7 to 14); and
- 2 Moderate Risks (4 to 6).

In comparison to the quarter one (2020/21) risk register (presented to Cabinet in October 2020), there were no new risks or risks escalated risks from service area risk registers. There were also no risks closed or de-escalated back into service area registers for monitoring. At the end of quarter 2, there was one risk that had increased, four had decreased, and fourteen risks that had remained the same as quarter one.

### Change in direction of risk score (Quarter Two)

- **Brexit (Increase from 12 to 16)** – Risk score has increased to 16 in quarter 2 as the rhetoric from UKG and EU is that there are gaps in the trade negotiations and there is an increased probability of the UK leaving without a deal in place. Further examination of this risk will need to be undertaken pending the outcomes of the final negotiations. For the Council, it is increasingly difficult to effectively prepare until the final outcomes are known and the Council's Brexit Task and Finish group is monitoring this process closely with monthly reports to the Council's Cabinet.
- **Pressure on Housing Service (Reduction from 16 to 12)** - Since Quarter 1 this risk has reduced from a 16 to 12. This reflects that while pressures remain with the demand for housing and homelessness, additional support has been received through the Welsh Government funding and continuous strengthening of our partnership working with Registered Social Landlords, Council teams and third sector to provide accommodation and support to the most vulnerable.
- **Educational Out of County Placements (Reduction from 16 to 12)** – Due to the increase of demand for additional specialist placements the LA has developed a ten place specialist ASD Learning Resource Base in a mainstream primary school and is piloting an ASD Outreach service from Ysgol Bryn Derw. There has also been a need to commission additional placements with Newport Live and Catch 22 to reduce the need for out of county placements.
- **Demand for ALN and SEN support (Reduction from 16 to 12)** – During the lock down there has been an increase of requests for Formal Assessment for pupils who may require specialist placements or additional support. The budget for 2020/21 include the new Additional Learning Needs funding formula agreed with head teachers which reduces the immediate risk.

- **In Year Financial Management (Reduction from 9 to 6)** - The latest monitoring report taken to Cabinet showed a small in-year overspend. While this would not be a significant issue for the Council to deal with due to reserves it has set aside. There is still a risk that the position could worsen over the rest of the period depending on the impact of a second wave of the pandemic and the actions that are required to be put in place. To date this has been funded by Welsh Government, but there could be a finite amount of money on which to call upon which may ultimately impact on the Council's budget.

**Appendix 1** - Quarter 2 Corporate Risk Heat Map and Risk Profile

**Appendix 2** – Newport Council's Corporate Risk Register for Quarter 2.

### Financial Summary

There are no direct costs associated with this report.

### Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
The Council does not achieve its objectives as corporate level risks are not adequately managed and monitored.	M	L	Risk Management Strategy has been adopted and mechanisms are in place to identify, manage and escalate emerging and new risks / mitigation strategies.  Audit Committee oversight of risk management process.	Directors, Heads of Service and Performance Team

\* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

### Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Corporate Plan 2017-22

Service Plans 2020/21

### Options Available and considered

1. To consider the contents of the Corporate Risk Register and to continue monitoring progress of actions taken to address the risks identified in the report.
2. To request further information or reject the contents of the risk register

### Preferred Option and Why

To consider the contents of the Corporate Risk Register and monitor the progress of actions taken to address the risks identified in the report. This will give the Cabinet sufficient assurance and oversight of the main overarching risks that the council faces in delivering the objectives of the Corporate Plan.

### **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The corporate risk register forms an important part of the governance and budget setting arrangements for the council and the risk register is used to guide the internal audit plan. Risks that result in financial pressures will be reflected in established ongoing monitoring arrangements.

### **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

There are no specific legal issues arising from the report. As part of the Council's risk management strategy, the corporate risk register identifies those high-level risks that could impact upon the Council's ability to deliver its corporate plan objectives and essential public services. Although Audit Committee are responsible for reviewing and assessing the Council's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements, the identification of corporate risks within the risk register and monitoring the effectiveness of the mitigation measures are matters for Cabinet.

No new corporate risks have been included for the second quarter and no additional corporate risks have been escalated from service area risk registers. No corporate risks have been closed or de-escalated back into service areas or monitoring. Therefore, there are no changes to the corporate risks, although some of the individual risk scores have changed since the last quarter.

### **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

Risk Management in the Council is a key area to implementing Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. Effective monitoring and reporting against the Council's Corporate Risk Register is essential in minimising and preventing the likelihood and impact of risks against our objectives. The recent changes made to our risk management processes and system will ensure officers at all levels of the organisation have greater control and oversight of their risks taking the necessary action to mitigate their impact and escalate where necessary to senior management.

### **Comments of Cabinet Member**

The Chair of Cabinet is consulted on the corporate risk register and has agreed that this report goes forward to Cabinet for consideration.

### **Local issues**

None.

### **Scrutiny Committees – Audit Committee**

The Council's Audit Committee received an update on the Council's Quarter 1 Corporate Risk Register in October 2020. The Audit Committee welcomed the report and acknowledged the impact that the pandemic has had on the delivery of Council services and has been reflected in the report. The Committee have asked for future reports to include the mitigating actions which have been incorporated into this report.

The Corporate Risk Register for quarter two will be presented to the Council's Audit Committee for information and comment in January 2021.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

Not applicable.

### **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

Not applicable.

## **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

Under the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 and its 5 ways of working principles this report supports:

Long Term – Having effective risk management arrangements will ensure that the opportunities and risks that will emerge consider the long term impact on service users and communities.

Preventative – Identifying opportunities and risks will ensure the Council is able to implement necessary mitigations to prevent or minimise their impact on Council services and service users.

Collaborative – The management of risk is undertaken throughout the Council and officers collaborate together within service areas, Corporate Management Team and the Council's Cabinet to ensure decisions are made in a timely manner and are evidence based.

Involvement – The Council's Risk Management process involves officers across the Council's service areas and Cabinet Members.

Integration – Risk Management is being integrated throughout the Council and supports the integrated Planning, Performance and Risk Management Framework. The Framework ensures that planning activities consider the opportunities and risks to their implementation and overall supports the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and legislative duties.

## **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Not applicable.

## **Consultation**

As above, the Risk Register is also considered by Audit Committee.

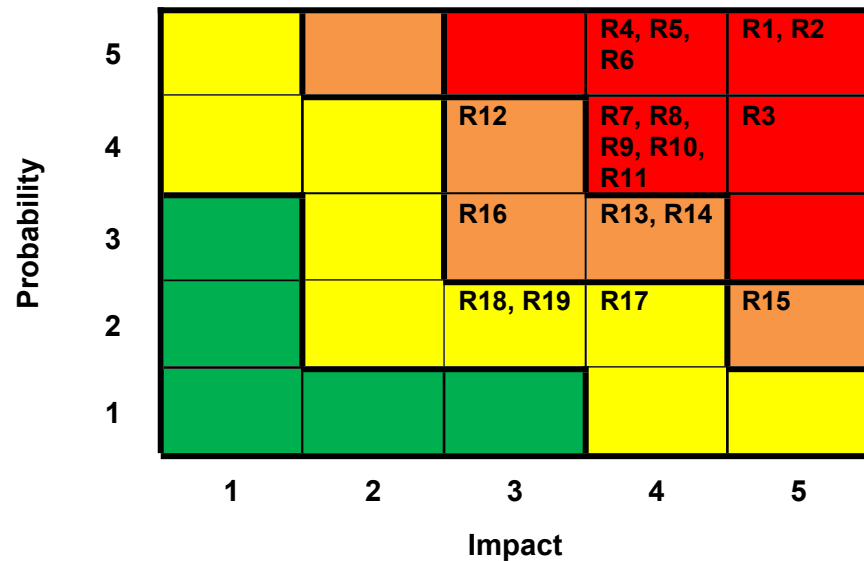
## **Background Papers**

Corporate Risk Register, Cabinet 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020

Risk Management Policy 2020-22

Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Appendix 1 - Quarter 2 Corporate Risk Heat Map



Corporate Risk Heat Map Key (Quarter 1 2020/21)	
R1 – Covid-19 Outbreak	R11 – Brexit – Trade Agreement
R2 – Stability of Social Services Providers	R12 – Pressure on Housing Service
R3 – Highways Network	R13 – Educational Out of County Placements
R4 – Pressure on Adult & Community Services	R14 – Demand for ALN and SEN support
R5 – Ash Die Back Disease	R15 – City Centre Security and Safety
R6 – Pressure on the delivery of Children Services	R16 – Climate Change
R7 – Balancing the Council's Medium Term Budget	R17 – Newport Council's Property Estate
R8 – Schools Finance / Cost Pressures	R18 – In year financial management
R9 – Cyber Security	R19 – Safeguarding
R10 – Pressure on Homelessness Service	

## Risk Score Profile between Quarter 3 2019/20 and Quarter 2 2020/21

\* Information on Cabinet portfolios added to the report to improve alignment with portfolios.

Risk Reference	Risk	Lead Cabinet Member(s) *	Risk Score Quarter 3 2019/20	Risk Score Quarter 4 2019/20	Risk Score Quarter 1 2020/21	(Current) Risk Score Quarter 2 2020/21	Target Risk Score
R1	COVID-19 Pandemic Outbreak	Leader of the Council /Cabinet	-	20	25	25	6
R2	Stability of Social Services Providers	Cabinet Member for Social Services	20	25	25	25	6
R3	Highways Network	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for City Services and Member Development	20	20	20	20	9
R4	Pressure on Adult & Community Services	Cabinet Member for Social Services	16	16	20	20	10
R5	Ash Die Back Disease	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for City Services & Member Development	-	-	20	20	6
R6	Pressure on the delivery of Children Services	Cabinet Member for Social Services	16	16	20	20	6
R7	Balancing the Council's Medium Term budget	Leader of the Council / Cabinet	20	15	16	16	10
R8	Schools Finance / Cost Pressures	Leader of the Council /Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	20	16	16	16	6
R9	Cyber Security	Cabinet Member for Community & Resources	12	12	16	16	10
R10	Pressure on Homelessness Service	Leader of the Council	12	12	16	16	6
R11	Brexit – Trade Agreement	Leader of the Council / Cabinet	12	12	12	16	10
R12	Pressure on Housing Service	Leader of the Council	12	12	16	12	5
R13	Educational Out of County Placements	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	16	16	16	12	5

Risk Reference	Risk	Lead Cabinet Member(s) *	Risk Score Quarter 3 2019/20	Risk Score Quarter 4 2019/20	Risk Score Quarter 1 2020/21	(Current) Risk Score Quarter 2 2020/21	Target Risk Score
R14	<b>Demand for ALN and SEN support</b>	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	20	16	16	12	6
R15	<b>City Centre Security and Safety</b>	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for City Services and Member Development	15	15	10	10	8
R16	<b>Climate Change</b>	Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development	12	12	9	9	10
R17	<b>Newport Council's Property Estate</b>	Cabinet Member for Assets	12	12	8	8	9
R18	<b>In year financial management</b>	Leader of the Council / Cabinet	12	3	9	6	6
R19	<b>Safeguarding</b>	Cabinet Member for Social Services	6	6	6	6	4



## **Glossary**

This document provides an explanation of terminology used in this report and supporting documents.

**Risk Appetite** – the amount of risk that Newport City Council is willing to seek or accept in the pursuit of the Council's long term objectives.

**Inherent Risk Score** – The level of risk in the absence of any existing controls and management action taken to alter the risk's impact or probability of occurring.

**Residual Risk Score** – The level of risk where risk responses i.e. existing controls or risk mitigation actions have been taken to manage the risk's impact and probability.

**Target Risk Score** – The level of risk (risk score) that Newport City Council is willing to accept / tolerate in managing the risk. This is set in line with the Council's overall risk appetite.

**Risk Mitigation Action** – Actions identified by the Risk Owner to respond to the risk and reduce the impact and probability of the risk of occurring.

**Risk Mitigation Action (Red Progress Score)** – Significant issue(s) have been identified with the action which could impact on the ability of the action meeting its completion date. Immediate action / response is required resolve its status.

**Risk Mitigation Action (Amber Progress Score)** – issue(s) have been identified that could have a negative impact on the action achieving its completion date. Appropriate line manager(s) should be informed and where necessary action taken.

**Risk Mitigation Action (Green Progress Score)** – The action is on course for delivering to the agreed completion date and within the agreed tolerances.

### **How the Council Assesses Risk**

An assessment of the likelihood and impact of risk is important to measure, compare and monitor risks to ensure efficient use of resources and effective decision making. This assessment is carried out using the risk matrix as described below.

### **Risk Assessment Matrix**

A Corporate Risk Register will contain the high level risks for the whole authority. In order to differentiate between these high level risks a 5x5 risk assessment matrix will be applied. The matrix is shown below and further detail is included in appendix 3.

Risks are scored using the scoring system for probability and impact and assigned a rating based on the tolerances set out in the matrix below

Score	Description	Impact Measures						
		Strategic / Policy	Operational / Business Continuity	Financial	Governance / Legal / Regulatory	Health & Safety	Reputational	Project Delivery / Savings / Benefits
5	Severe	Failure of a key strategic objective	<p>Serious organisational / service failure that has direct impact on stakeholders including vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Service disruption over 5+ days.</p>	<p><b>Corporate / Project</b></p> <p>Unplanned and/or additional expenditure disturbance.</p> <p>Capital &gt; £1M Revenue &gt;£1M</p>	<p>Legislative / Regulatory breach resulting in multiple litigation / legal action taken on the Council (linked to Financial / Reputational Impacts).</p>	<p>Multiple major irreversible injuries or deaths of staff, students or members of public.</p> <p>(Linked to Financial / Reputational Impacts)</p>	<p>Severe and persistent National media coverage. Adverse central government response, involving (threat of) removal of delegated powers. Officer(s) and / or Members forced to Resign.</p>	<p>Project status is over 12 months from anticipated implementation date.</p> <p>Project(s) do not deliver the major benefits / savings identified in business case.</p> <p>This is linked to Financial / Strategic / Reputational Impacts</p>
4	Major	Severe constraint on achievement of a key strategic objective	<p>Loss of an important service(s) for a short period that could impact on stakeholders.</p> <p>Service disruption between 3-5 days.</p>	<p><b>Corporate / Project</b></p> <p>Unplanned and/or additional expenditure disturbance.</p> <p>Capital &gt; £0.5M - £1.0M Revenue &gt;£0.5M-£1M</p>	<p>Serious legislative breach resulting in intervention, sanctions and legal action. (Linked to Financial / Reputational Impacts)</p>	<p>Major irreversible injury or death of staff, student or member of public. (Linked to Financial / Reputational Impacts)</p>	<p>Adverse publicity in professional / municipal press, affecting perception / standing in professional /local government community</p> <p>Adverse local and social media publicity of a significant and persistent nature.</p>	<p>Project status is 6 to 12 months over from anticipated implementation date.</p> <p>Project(s) do not deliver major benefits / savings identified in business case.</p> <p>This is linked to Financial / Strategic / Reputational Impacts</p>
3	Moderate	Noticeable constraint on achievement of a key strategic objective /	Loss and/or intermittent disruption of a service between 2-3 days.	<p><b>Corporate / Project</b></p> <p>Unplanned and/or additional</p>	<p>Significant legislative breach resulting in investigation. (Linked to Financial /</p>	<p>Major reversible injury to staff, student or member of</p>	<p>Adverse local publicity / local public opinion including social media.</p>	<p>Project status is 1 to 6 months over from anticipated implementation date.</p>

Score	Description	Impact Measures						
		Strategic / Policy	Operational / Business Continuity	Financial	Governance / Legal / Regulatory	Health & Safety	Reputational	Project Delivery / Savings / Benefits
		Service Plan objective.		expenditure disturbance.  Capital = £0.25M - £0.5M Revenue = £0.25M to £0.5M Revenue = £0.25M to £0.5M	Reputational Impacts)	public. Not life threatening.  (Linked to Financial / Reputational Impacts)	Statutory prosecution of a non-serious nature.	There is significant reduction on delivery of benefits / savings identified in business case.  This is linked to Financial / Strategic / Reputational impacts.
Page 43	Low	Constraint on achievement of Service Plan objective that does not impact on Corporate Strategy	Brief disruption of service that has a minor impact on the delivery of a service.  Service disruption 1 day.	<u>Corporate / Project</u>  Unplanned and/or additional expenditure disturbance.  Capital = £0.1M - £0.25M Revenue = £0.1M – £0.25M	Moderate impact leading to warning and recommendations.	Some minor reversible injuries.  (Linked to Financial / Reputational Impacts)	Contained within Directorate Complaint from individual / small group, of arguable merit	Project status is 1 to 4 weeks over from anticipated implementation date.  There is minor reduction on delivery of benefits / savings identified in business case.  This is linked to Financial / Strategic / Reputational impacts.
1	Very Low	Constraint on achievement of Service / Team Plan objective	Minor disruption of a non-critical service.	<u>Corporate / Project</u>  Unplanned and/or additional expenditure disturbance.  Capital < £100k Revenue <£100k	No reprimand, sanction or legal action.	Some superficial injuries.  (Linked to Financial / Reputational Impacts)	Isolated complaint(s) that are managed through the corporate complaints process and service area.	Project status is 1 week over from anticipated implementation date.  There is insignificant / no impact on delivery of benefits / savings identified in business case.

Score	Description	Impact Measures						
		Strategic / Policy	Operational / Business Continuity	Financial	Governance / Legal / Regulatory	Health & Safety	Reputational	Project Delivery / Savings / Benefits
								This is linked to Financial / Strategic / Reputational impacts.

Score	Probability	Criteria
5	<b>Very likely</b> 75% +	<p><b>Systematic Risks</b> – Local evidence indicating <b>very high</b> probability of occurrence if no action / controls are in place. Risk is highly likely to occur daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly.</p> <p><b>Emerging Risks</b> – National and Global evidence indicating <b>very high</b> probability of occurrence on local communities if no action / controls are taken. Risks are highly likely to occur within the next 5 years.</p>
4	<b>Likely</b> 51-75%	<p><b>Systematic Risks</b> – Local evidence indicating <b>high</b> probability occur in most circumstances with near misses regularly encountered e.g. once or twice a year.</p> <p><b>Emerging Risks</b> – National and Global evidence indicating <b>high</b> probability of occurrence on local communities if no action / controls are taken. Risks are likely to occur within the next 5-10 years.</p>
3	<b>Possible</b> 26-50%	<p><b>Systematic Risks</b> – Local evidence indicating <b>distinct</b> possibility with circumstances regularly encountered and near misses experienced every 1-3 years.</p> <p><b>Emerging Risks</b> – National and Global evidence indicating <b>distinct</b> probability of occurrence on local communities if no action / controls are taken. Risks are likely to occur within the next 10-15 years.</p>
2	<b>Unlikely</b> 6-25%	<p><b>Systematic Risks</b> – Local evidence indicating <b>low</b> to infrequent near misses experienced every 3 + years.</p> <p><b>Emerging Risks</b> – National evidence indicating <b>low</b> probability of occurrence on local communities if no action / controls are taken. Risks are likely to occur within the next 16-25 years.</p>
1	<b>Very Unlikely</b>	<p><b>Systematic Risks</b> – Local evidence indicating risk has rarely / never happened or in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p><b>Emerging Risks</b> – National evidence indicating very low probability of occurrence on local communities if no action / controls are taken. Risks are likely to occur within the next 16-25 years.</p>

**Systematic Risks** – Risks that are known or are becoming part of social, cultural, economic and environmental systems that govern our lives.

**Emerging Risks** – Risks that are further away, less defined and early stage of being known about.

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# Corporate Risk Register

## 2020/21 Quarter 2 Update



# Ash Die Back Disease

Short Description	Ash Die back disease will affect tree population in Newport. The disease has already been identified in Newport and could kill the majority of Ash trees in the authority. The impact of no action will be significant numbers of tree failures that could see an increase in the number of people harmed by trees and property claims.
Risk Owner	Joanne Gossage
Overseeing Officer	Head of Streetscene and City Services
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for City Services & Member Development
Linked Theme	Theme : Thriving City
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 2. Economic Growth &amp; Regeneration</li> <li>WBO 4. Cohesive &amp; Sustainable Communities</li> </ul>

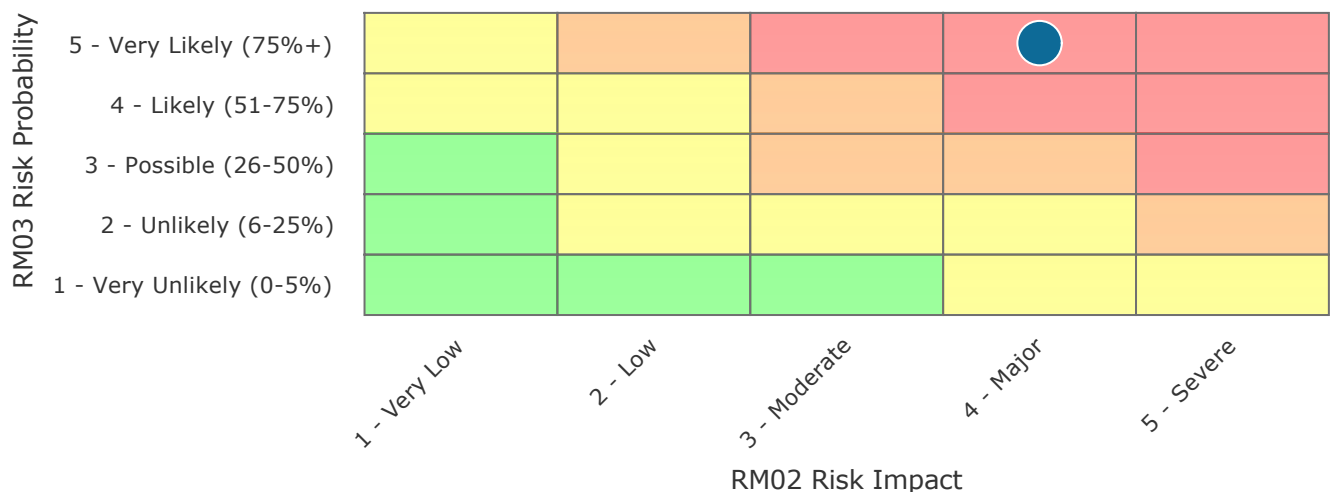


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Inherent Risk Score

Target Risk Score





Direction of Risk		
	DoR	Comment
Ash Die Back Disease	➡	No change to risk score for quarter 2.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve Green & Open Spaces for Amenity & Leisure	Improvement to community green and open spaces for amenity and leisure.	51%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase & Improve Newport's Urban Tree Coverage	Increase and improve Newport's urban tree coverage.	25%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undertake works removing Ash trees owned by NCC	To undertake works removing Ash trees that are owned by NCC.	17%	★

# Balancing the Council's Medium Term Budget

Short Description	To meet the Council's requirement of reducing the gap between Council spend and Budget allocation over the next 3-5 years
Risk Owner	Owen James
Overseeing Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Executive</li> <li>Head of Finance</li> </ul>
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Economic Growth & Investment
Linked Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theme : Aspirational People</li> <li>Theme : Modernised Council</li> <li>Theme : Thriving City</li> <li>Theme: Resilient Communities (Community)</li> <li>Theme: Resilient Communities (Social Care)</li> </ul>
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 1. Skills, Education &amp; Employment</li> <li>WBO 2. Economic Growth &amp; Regeneration</li> <li>WBO 3. Healthy, Independent &amp; Resilient</li> <li>WBO 4. Cohesive &amp; Sustainable Communities</li> </ul>

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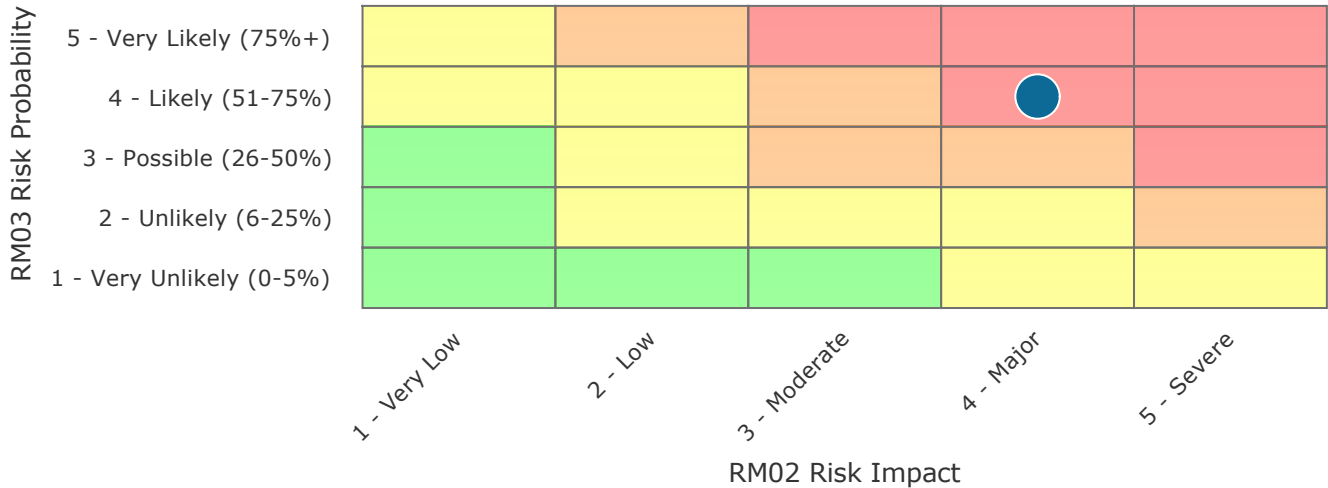
Balancing the Council's Medium Term Budget

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Inherent Risk Score
Target Risk Score



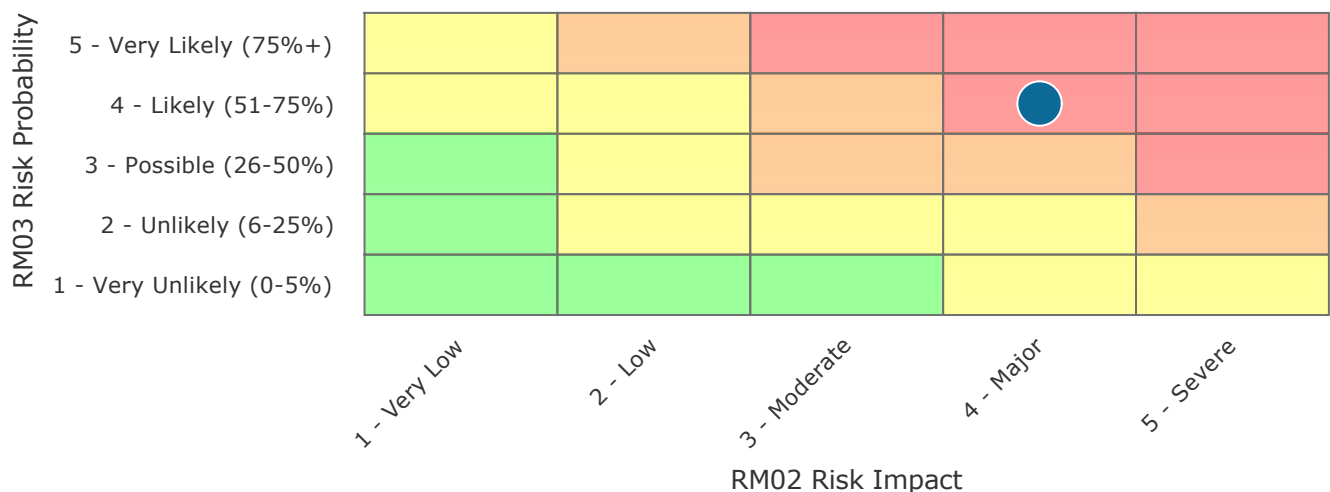
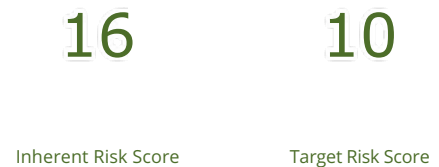
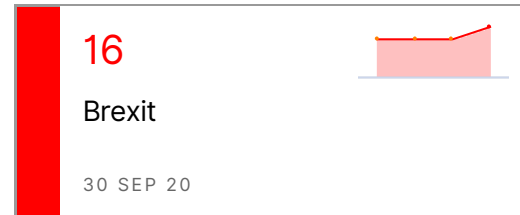
## Direction of Risk

	DoR	Comment
Balancing the Council's Medium Term Budget	➡	No change to the direction of risk. There is still a budget gap that needs to be dealt with. There are ongoing actions being taken to identify savings to reduce the gap and will be taken forward with Cabinet in the coming months. There is an issue of planning within a void due to lack of clarification on the level of funding that will be provided by Welsh Government until late December.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree the Service Areas finance Response & Recovery to Covid-19 Impact	Meet with Heads of Service to agree the impact on the individual service areas on the impact of their response and recovery of the Covid-19 impact, alongside the "business as usual" forecasts to be including within monitoring.	100%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Balancing the 2021-22 budget gap	The Council are required to set a balanced budget in each year. Currently there is a budget gap for 2021-22 that needs to be balanced.	25%	▲
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLT and CMT to identify savings to reduce the budget gap over the medium term	Senior Leadership Team and Corporate Management Team to identify savings to reduce the budget gap circa £30million over the medium term.	20%	▲







# Brexit

Short Description	The UK Government (UKG) and EU have now entered into the transition phase to negotiate a trade agreement by 31st December 2020. Should the UKG fail to secure a deal, the UK will fall back onto World Trade Organisation (WTO) arrangements which could impact on the cost and supply of goods / services and could impact on the economy and business arrangements. Also concerns around EU citizens living in the UK.
Risk Owner	Rhys Cornwall
Overseeing Officer	Chief Executive
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Economic Growth & Investment
Linked Theme	
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ SRA 2. Supporting the Environment &amp; the Economy</li> <li>■ WBO 1. Skills, Education &amp; Employment</li> <li>■ WBO 2. Economic Growth &amp; Regeneration</li> <li>■ WBO 3. Healthy, Independent &amp; Resilient</li> <li>■ WBO 4. Cohesive &amp; Sustainable Communities</li> </ul>



## Direction of Risk

	DoR	Comment
Brexit		Risk score has increased to 16 in quarter 2 as the rhetoric from UK Government and EU is that there are gaps in the trade negotiations and there is an increased probability of the UK leaving without a deal in place. Further examination of this risk will need to be undertaken pending the outcomes of the final negotiations. For the Council, it is increasingly difficult to effectively prepare until the final outcomes are known and the Council's Brexit Task and Finish group is monitoring this process closely with monthly reports to the Council's Cabinet.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Contingencies - Arrangements to escalate and report on Brexit	Civil Contingencies - To provide regular updates to the Council and Brexit Task & Finish Group on Regional and National wide Brexit preparations. Regular updates from the Gwent Local Resilience Forum which includes local authorities, Police, Fire, Health as well as Welsh Government, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and other strategic group updates will be included as part of this process.	80%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contribute towards Welsh Government's Nation of Sanctuary Plan.	To develop an Integration Strategy for Newport, focusing on our approach to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants and contributing to Welsh Government's Nation of Sanctuary Plan.	50%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure Resources are Utilised for Increase in Import & Export Regulatory Duties Due to Brexit	Ensure that available resources are utilised to prepare the Service for increased export and import regulatory duties as a result of Brexit.	50%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance - Forecasting and monitoring of finance impact on service areas 2020/21.	To monitor the Council's finances (revenue and capital) in relation to any impacts on service areas from the Brexit Trade arrangements in 2020/21.	10%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance - Monitoring of impact on Finance and Supplies & Services	Finance - The Council will closely monitor its financial position as part of its annual budget setting process and Medium Term Financial Planning. For Council activities and services which are European Union (EU) funded there is ongoing discussions with the Welsh Government to put in arrangements after 2021. The Council will be liaising with its strategic partners (Newport Norse / Shared Resource Service (SRS) / Newport Live) to assess the impact on its supplies and services. Also across the Council, service areas are being asked to identify their high risk / key contracts and to obtain the necessary assurances of any Brexit impact which could affect the availability and cost of supplies or services. "	100%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support the Council's Brexit Task and Finish Group	Support the Council's Brexit Task and Finish Group in making preparations for post European Union arrangements for the Council and Newport.	50%	

# City Centre Security & Safety

Short Description	Significant incidents of deliberate acts that pose hazards to people in surrounding areas; structural damage; business continuity; damage/disruption to infrastructure and utilities; and reputational and economic impact.
Risk Owner	Rhys Cornwall
Overseeing Officer	Strategic Director - Place
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for City Services & Member Development
Linked Theme	Theme : Thriving City
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 2. Economic Growth &amp; Regeneration</li> <li>SRA 2. Supporting the Environment &amp; the Economy</li> </ul>

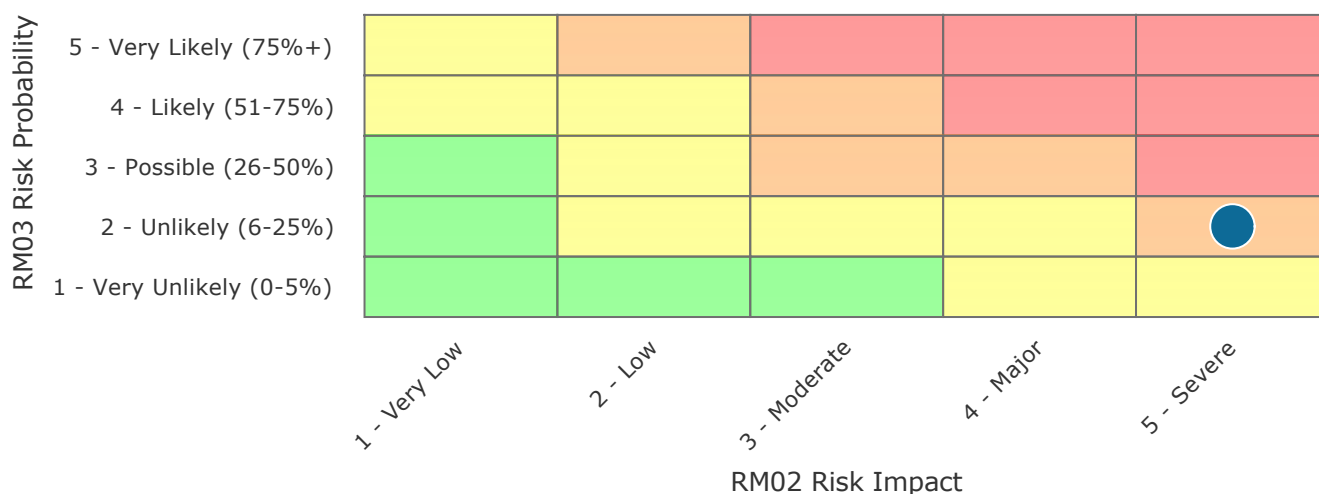


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Inherent Risk Score

Target Risk Score



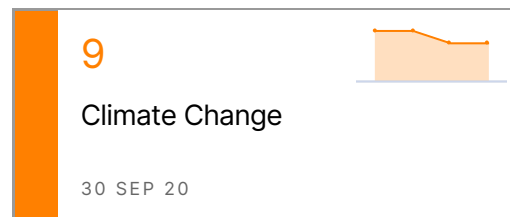
## Direction of Risk

	DoR	Comment
City Centre Security & Safety	➡	Has been put forward as a 'shovel ready' scheme to Welsh Government. Risk currently mitigated due to Covid 19 - road closures in place, plus lower footfall.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Centre Training to Businesses	Training for those businesses operating within the city centre that may be affected by significant incidents – Gwent Police will lead on the training with the use of NCC channels to promote and raise initial awareness of the scheme.	20%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Co-ordinated evac arrangements	Co-ordinated evacuation arrangements for the city centre – NCC will be working with all partner organisations such as the emergency services and private business within the city centre to construct a co-ordinated evacuation system.	0%	▲
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identify Funding Source for Hostile Vehicle Mitigation	Identify funding source to deliver the required Hostile Vehicle Mitigation.	0%	▲
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommence Vehicle Mitigation Project	Recommence project following temporary cessation due to funding uncertainties and COVID 19 impact.	0%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secure Vehicle / Pedestrian Separation	Secure vehicle access and pedestrian separation. – City Services are currently working on a plan to identify what mitigation measures can be put in place around the city centre to protect densely populated areas.	22%	●

# Climate Change

Short Description	Scientific evidence indicates that the global climate is warming and is changing the environment that we live in Wales and in Newport. The cause of this change is through emissions produced by industry, vehicles, households and businesses. Newport has 11 Air Quality Management Areas which monitor air quality and since they were in place we have been in breach.
Risk Owner	Ben Hanks
Overseeing Officer	Chief Executive
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development
Linked Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theme : Modernised Council</li> <li>Theme: Resilient Communities (Community)</li> <li>Theme : Thriving City</li> </ul>
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 2. Economic Growth &amp; Regeneration</li> <li>WBO 3. Healthy, Independent &amp; Resilient</li> </ul>

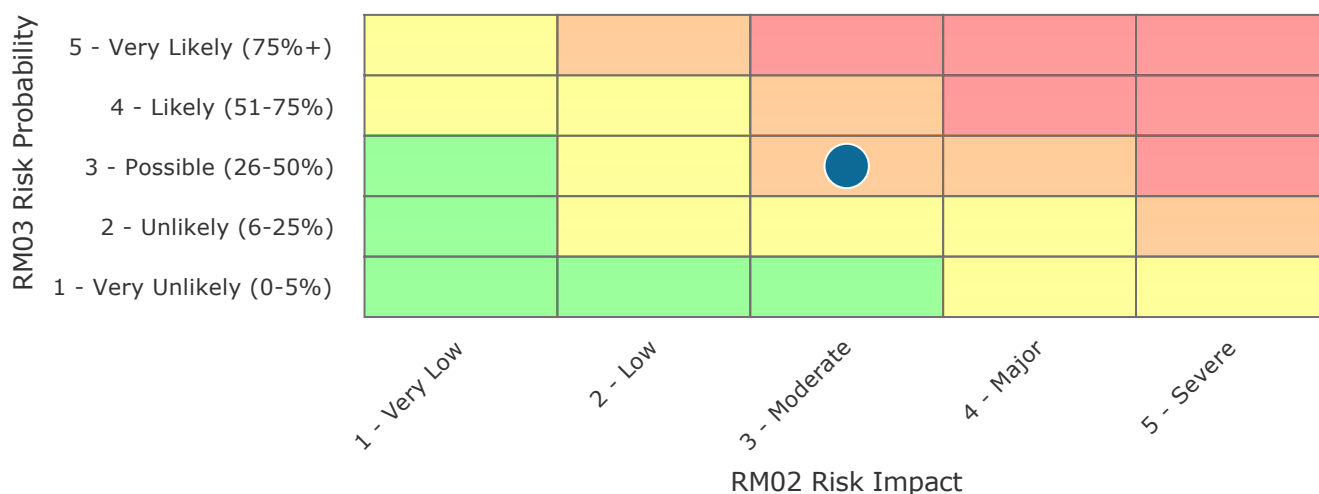


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Inherent Risk Score

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Target Risk Score



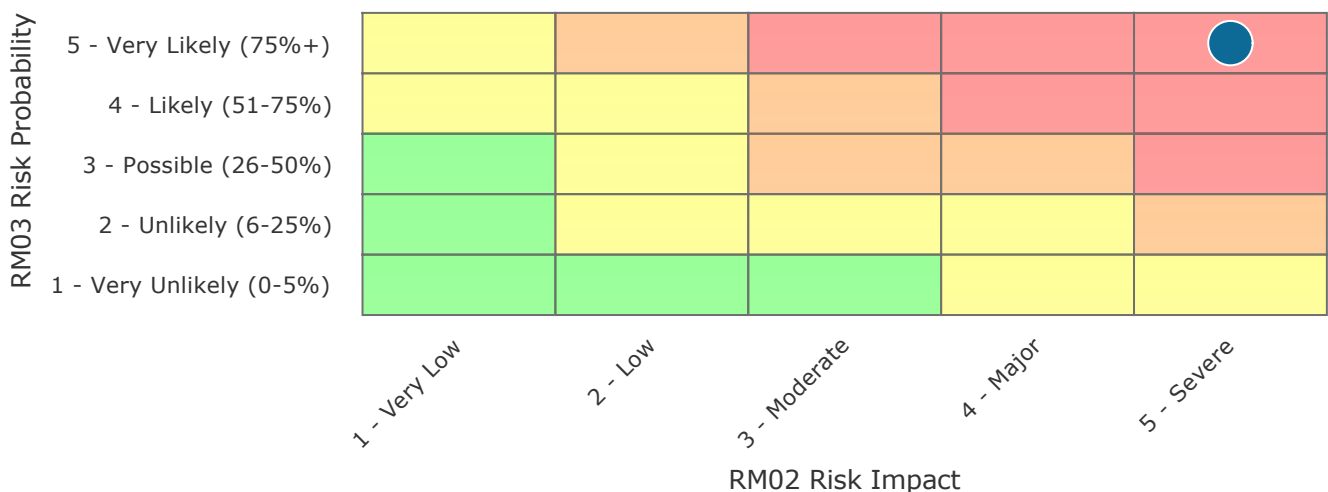
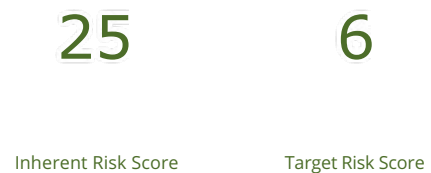
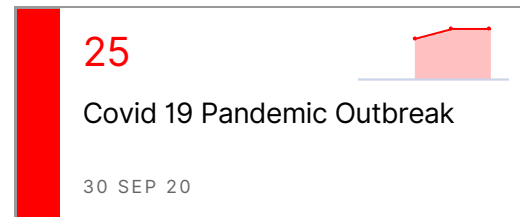


Direction of Risk		
	DoR	Comment
Climate Change	➡	No change to the risk score in quarter 2.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Begin to use zero emission vehicles and active travel to deliver services	Begin to use zero emission vehicles and active travel to deliver services	15%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaborate with Partners to Develop Carbon Reduction Opportunities	Collaborate with external partners to develop internal and external carbon reduction opportunities	10%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop & Promote the Installation of Community Energy	Continue to develop and promote the installation of community energy in the city	90%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop a Climate Strategy	Develop a Climate Strategy for Newport City Council.	10%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop a Long Term Fleet Strategy	Development of a long term Fleet Strategy that will support the Council's Carbon Management Plan to be net carbon neutral.	50%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop Localised Air Quality Management Plans	Local Air Quality Management - develop localised plans under the Council's Sustainable Travel Strategy to meet statutory requirements for Action Plans. Actions to be generated by the Sustainable Travel Group.	0%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve the Energy Efficiency of the Estate	Develop a programme to improve the energy efficiency of the estate.	50%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Investigate Opportunities to Improve Domestic Energy Efficiency and Relieve Fuel Poverty	Investigate opportunities to improve domestic energy efficiency and relieve fuel poverty in Newport.	15%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review Carbon Management Plan	Undertake the first Carbon Management Plan review.	50%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review Public Transport Access for Proposed Housing Developments	Review proposed housing developments for access to public transport.	100%	✔
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undertake & Deliver Active Travel Projects	Undertake and deliver Active Travel projects across Newport agreed as part of the local transport fund allocation.	61%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undertake actions to discharge duties under Active Travel Act	Undertake actions to discharge duties placed on local authorities under the Active Travel Act including publishing and promoting the integrated network map.	61%	★

# Covid 19 Pandemic Outbreak

Short Description	The Corona Virus (COVID 19) pandemic has put at risk the operational ability of the Council to deliver its services, support vulnerable people across Newport and the economic impact to the local and wider economy. Potential mitigations carried out in line with the Chief Medical Officer's advice and Welsh/UK Government guidance.
Risk Owner	Rhys Cornwall
Overseeing Officer	Chief Executive
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Economic Growth & Investment
Linked Theme	
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 1. Skills, Education &amp; Employment</li> <li>WBO 2. Economic Growth &amp; Regeneration</li> <li>WBO 3. Healthy, Independent &amp; Resilient</li> <li>WBO 4. Cohesive &amp; Sustainable Communities</li> <li>SRA 1. Supporting Education and Employment</li> <li>SRA 2. Supporting the Environment &amp; the Economy</li> <li>SRA 3. Supporting Health &amp; Well-being of Citizens</li> <li>SRA 4. Supporting Citizens post Covid-19</li> </ul>

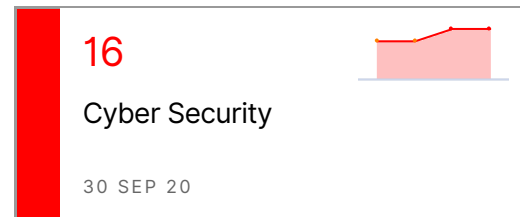


Direction of Risk		
	DoR	Comment
Covid 19 Pandemic Outbreak	➡	No change to the risk score for quarter 2.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Covid 19 Business Continuity Arrangements (Platinum and Gold)	Implementation and maintaining Business continuity (Platinum / Gold) arrangements for the Council.	100%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop a Community Impact Assessment	Develop a community impact assessment to understand the impact that Covid 19 pandemic and resultant lockdown has had on Newport's Communities	90%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & Safety Arrangements for front line staff	Health & Safety / protection activities are increased to prevent the spread of the virus across Council assets and buildings, staff and citizens.	80%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation of Covid 19 Human Resources procedures	Implementation of Human Resource procedures to support staff, agency / contractors and volunteers.	80%	★

# Cyber Security

Short Description	Management and security of the Council's ICT systems to protect personal and sensitive data from theft and loss whilst also maintaining business continuity and integrity of our systems.
Risk Owner	Rhys Cornwall
Overseeing Officer	Chief Executive
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet Member for Community and Resources
Linked Theme	Theme : Modernised Council
Linked Corporate Objective	

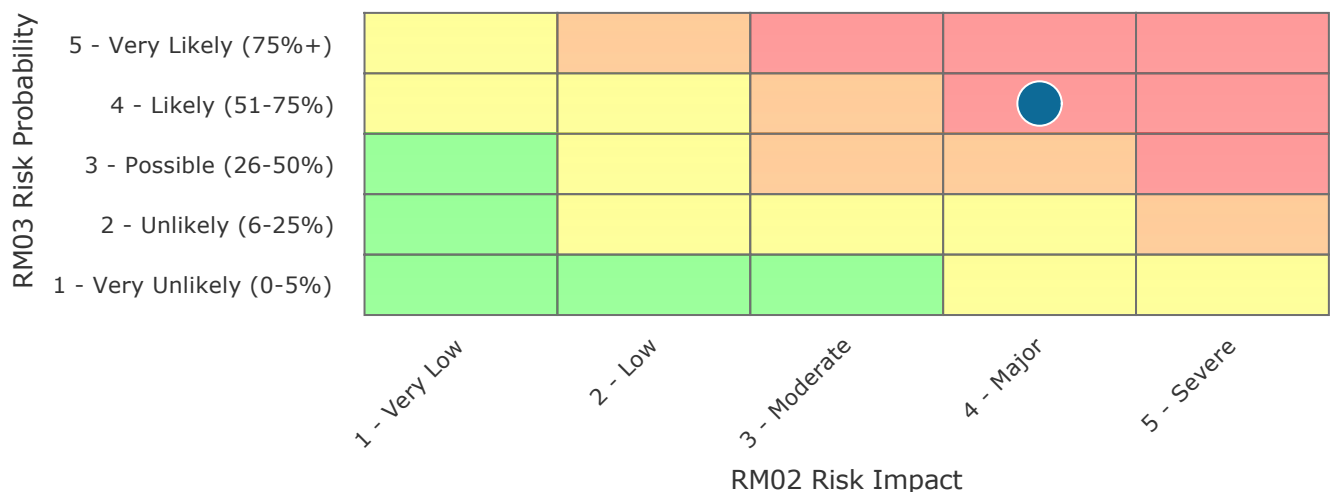


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Inherent Risk Score

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Target Risk Score



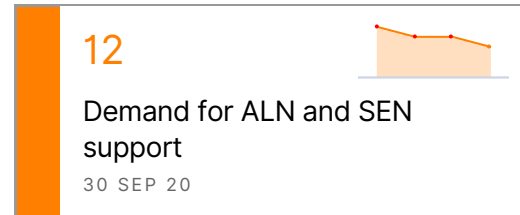
## Direction of Risk

	DoR	Comment
Cyber Security	➡	No change to risk score for quarter 2.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cyber Security awareness and communications	Deliver regular cyber security updates and communications to staff through the staff Intranet and fortnightly / monthly newsletters.	50%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation of a Policy Management System	To explore and purchase a Policy Management System that will ensure staff across the business undertake necessary training before being able to access IT systems.	30%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation of Ransomware software	To explore and purchase Ransomware software to mitigate against potential ransomware attacks by preventing mass encryption of IT systems.	75%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SRS / NCC Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery	Disaster Recovery and business continuity processes between the Council and SRS will be reviewed and updated. These processes will be subject to regular testing with findings and recommendations fed back to the Council's Information Governance Group to ensure the necessary action(s) are completed.	30%	●

# Demand for ALN and SEN support

Short Description	Funding to cover Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Special Education Needs (SEN) provision across the city is insufficient and does not meet the demand of increasing need.
Risk Owner	Katy Rees
Overseeing Officer	Chief Education Officer
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Linked Theme	Theme : Aspirational People
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 1. Skills, Education &amp; Employment</li> <li>WBO 3. Healthy, Independent &amp; Resilient</li> <li>SRA 1. Supporting Education and Employment</li> </ul>

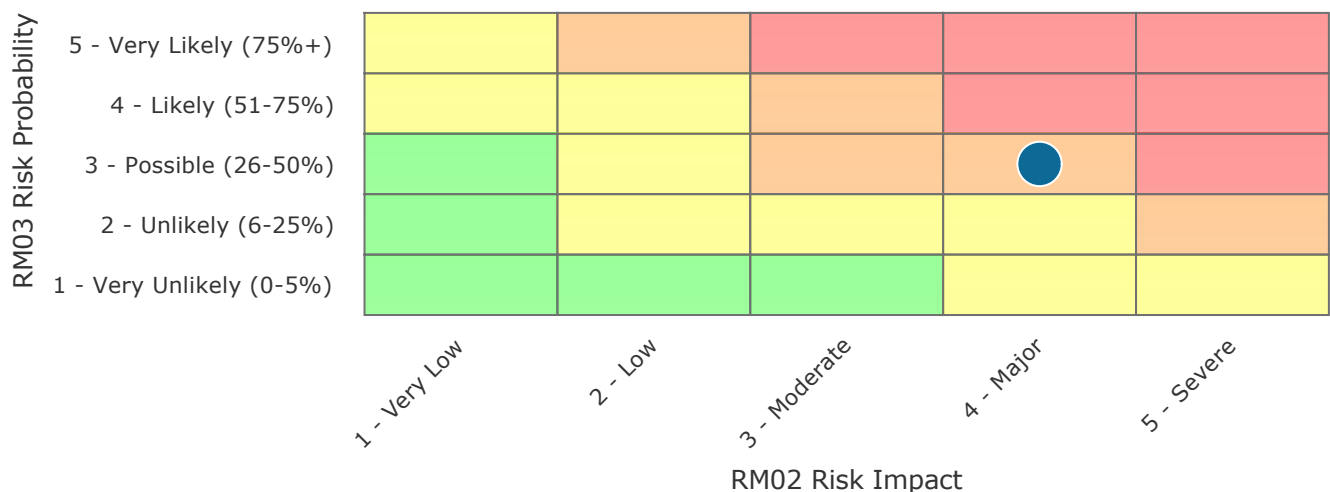


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Inherent Risk Score

Target Risk Score



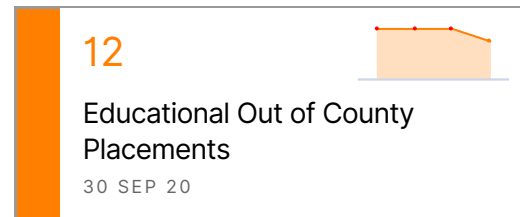
## Direction of Risk

	DoR	Comment
Demand for ALN and SEN support		The SEN Department received a considerable increase in Formal Assessment requests during the lockdown period and at the end of the summer term. A number of these referrals have resulted in requests for Learning Resource Base provision and/or additional school based support. This increases the demand for ALN/SEN support and provision.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create a sustainable model of delivery for children with ALN provided with timely intervention	In liaison with finance, partners and schools create a sustainable model of delivery to ensure children with ALN are provided with timely intervention within a prescribed budget without year on year fluctuation.	0%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop and implement a joint ALN and Admissions process	To develop and implement a joint ALN and Admissions process regarding allocation of school placements based on parental preference to safeguard and minimise appeals processes.	55%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estyn Rec 5 - Ensure Appropriate Welsh Medium Provision is in Place for ALN Pupils	(Estyn Rec 5) Ensure that Welsh Medium (WM) provision is established to support pupils with Additional Learning Needs	70%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Educational Tribunal Act 2018.	To further the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Educational Tribunal Act 2018.	50%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review availability of provision for all pupils with Additional Learning Needs.	Review with relevant regional partners what provision is available and required to ensure all pupils with ALN have the opportunities to return to study up to age 25.	0%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review the staffing resources to implement the demands of ALN & Educational Tribunal Act.	To review the staffing resources needed to implement the demands of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Educational Tribunal Act 2018.	20%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work with partners to embed Learn Well Plan	(Estyn Rec 2) Work with partners to embed the priorities of the Learn Well Plan which focuses on improving the attainment of vulnerable groups.	25%	★

# Educational Out of County Placements

Short Description	Limited access to Newport City Council (NCC) provision for pupils who require complex and specialist placements which results on a reliance on Out of County (OOC) placements both day and residential.
Risk Owner	Katy Rees
Overseeing Officer	Chief Education Officer
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Linked Theme	Theme : Aspirational People
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 1. Skills, Education &amp; Employment</li> <li>SRA 1. Supporting Education and Employment</li> </ul>

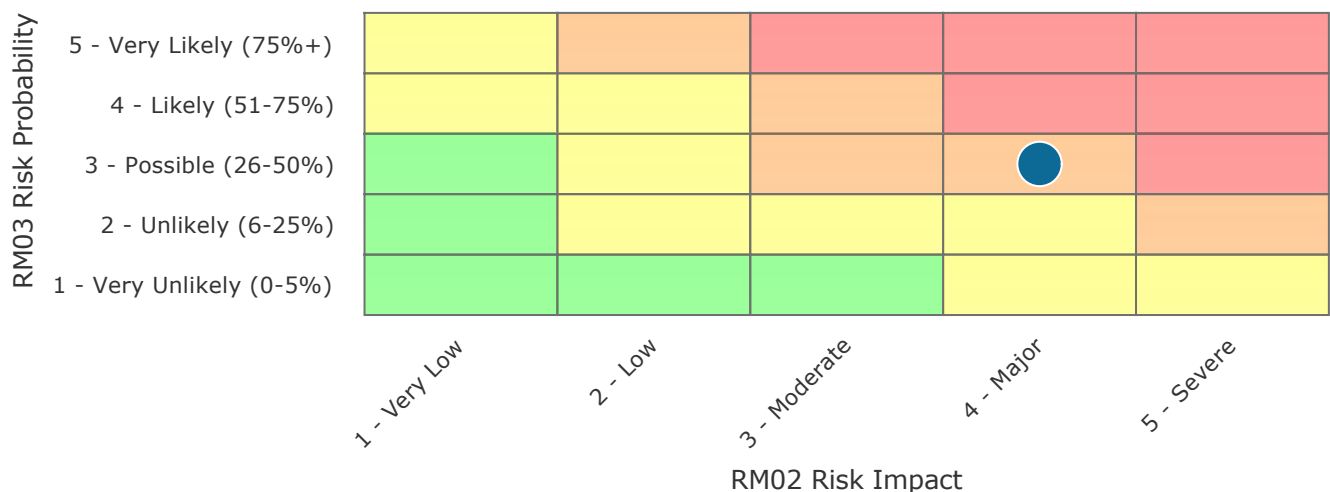


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Inherent Risk Score


Target Risk Score





## Direction of Risk

	DoR	Comment
Educational Out of County Placements		Due to the increase of demand for additional specialist placements the LA has developed a 10 place specialist ASD Learning Resource Base in a mainstream primary school and is piloting an ASD Outreach service from Ysgol Bryn Derw. There has also been a need to commission additional placements with Newport Live and Catch 22 to reduce the need for out of county placements.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create a sustainable model of delivery for children with ALN provided with timely intervention	In liaison with finance, partners and schools create a sustainable model of delivery to ensure children with ALN are provided with timely intervention within a prescribed budget without year on year fluctuation.	0%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Redevelop and extend provision within the city to accommodate a greater range of needs	To continue to redevelop and extend provision within the city to accommodate a greater range of needs, ensuring that pupils are placed where their learning is best supported which will reduce the need for Out of County placements.	40%	

# Highways Networks

Short Description	Failure to recognise current levels of under investment in the whole life of the city's highway network assets in the medium to long term will continue to compound existing maintenance backlog figures.
Risk Owner	Paul Jones
Overseeing Officer	Chief Executive
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for City Services & Member Development
Linked Theme	Theme : Thriving City
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 2. Economic Growth &amp; Regeneration</li> <li>WBO 3. Healthy, Independent &amp; Resilient</li> <li>SRA 2. Supporting the Environment &amp; the Economy</li> <li>SRA 3. Supporting Health &amp; Well-being of Citizens</li> </ul>

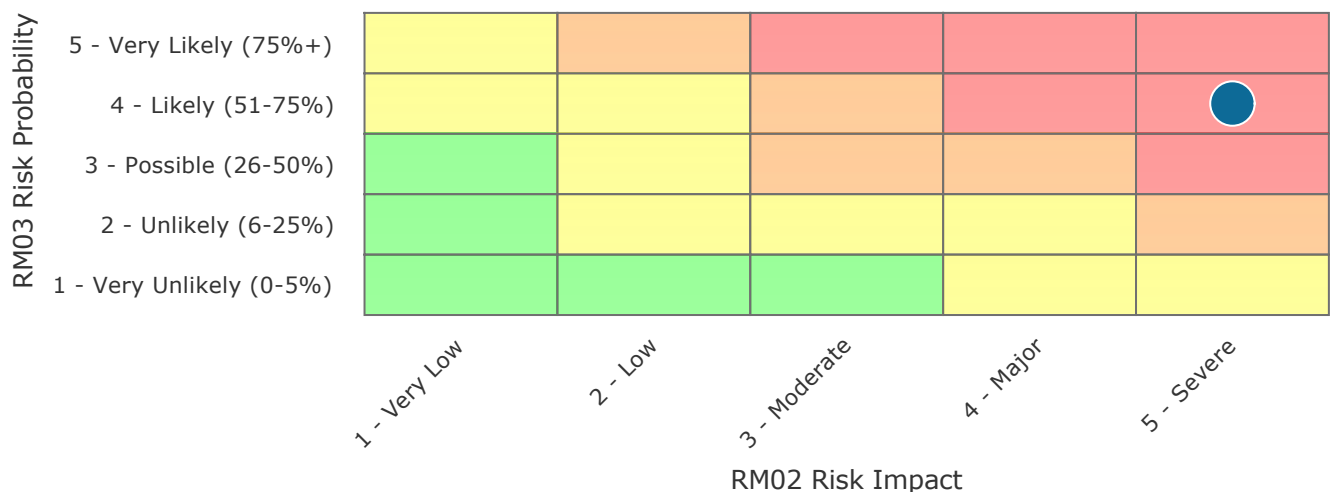


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Inherent Risk Score

Target Risk Score

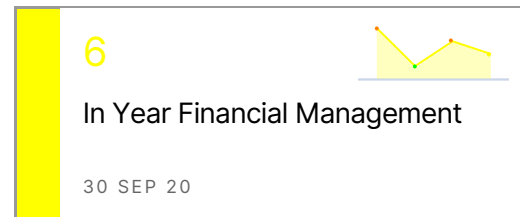


Direction of Risk		
	DoR	Comment
Highways Networks	➡	No change to risk score for quarter 2.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active lobbying to WG, WLGA, and CSS(W) to recognise funding gap to address backlog	We have identified that there is a maintenance backlog of approximately £90m for Newport. But the level of funding to maintain these assets is not sufficient to meet this. The under investment is not unique to Newport and other authorities in Wales are facing the same issues. Therefore, we (alongside other local authorities) are lobbying the Welsh Government, Welsh Local Government Association and County Surveyors Society Wales CSS(W) to increase and/or make more capital funding available to decrease this gap. This action will be ongoing and will not result in direct action completion.	59%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop and implement the Council's Highways Asset Management Strategy / Plan	The Council is developing the Highways Asset Management Strategy and Highways Asset Management Plan. This plan will be implemented in 2019/20 and will enable the Council to actively manage its highways infrastructure. Implementation of the plan will enable the Council to undertake: risk based assessment and management of its infrastructure; calculating future funding requirements to maintain agreed levels of service; risk based evidence to identify and deliver improvements to assets identified below required standards.	100%	✔

# In Year Financial Management

Short Description	This relates to the in year management of budgets and risk profiling of service areas / activities that are forecasting end of year overspends.
Risk Owner	Owen James
Overseeing Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Executive</li> <li>Head of Finance</li> </ul>
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Economic Growth & Investment
Linked Theme	
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 1. Skills, Education &amp; Employment</li> <li>WBO 2. Economic Growth &amp; Regeneration</li> <li>WBO 3. Healthy, Independent &amp; Resilient</li> <li>WBO 4. Cohesive &amp; Sustainable Communities</li> </ul>

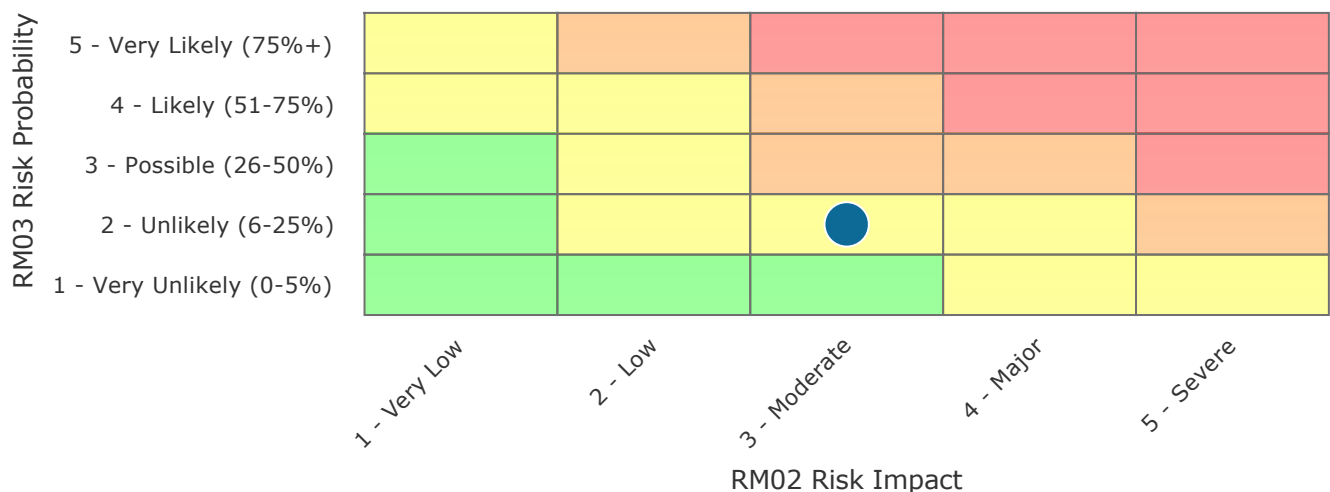


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Inherent Risk Score

Target Risk Score



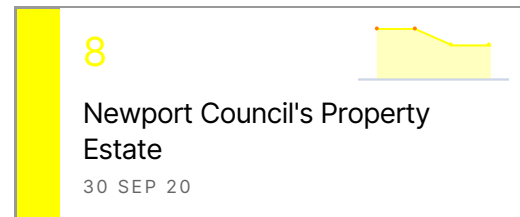
## Direction of Risk

	DoR	Comment
In Year Financial Management		The latest monitoring report taken to Cabinet showed a small in-year underspend. While this would not be a significant issue for the Council to deal with due to reserves it has set aside. There is still a risk that the position could worsen over the rest of the period depending on the impact of a second wave of the pandemic and the actions that are required to be put in place. To date this has been funded by Welsh Government, but there could be a finite amount of money on which to call upon which may ultimately impact on the Council's budget.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree the Service Areas finance Response & Recovery to Covid-19 Impact	Meet with Heads of Service to agree the impact on the individual service areas on the impact of their response and recovery of the Covid-19 impact, alongside the "business as usual" forecasts to be including within monitoring.	100%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All service areas to maintain robust financial management	All service areas to maintain robust financial management and understand the risks associated delivery of savings and achievability of the savings.	100%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabinet Member and Senior Officers to manage / mitigate any projects not achieving savings	There are currently £1.2m of undelivered savings for the 2020/21 and prior financial years. These are largely delayed due to covid-19 pandemic, however until they are delivered they will have an impact on the financial outturn and if ongoing a concern for the future years. Therefore focus needs to remain on delivering the savings.	84%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabinet Member and Senior Officers to reduce overspending in Social Care	There continue to be overspends reported in Social Care in 2020/21, Cabinet Members and Senior Officers to address these.	50%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carry Out Capital Budget Workshop with Senior Officers	Carry out a capital workshop with Senior Officers to re-profile capital budgets in light of previous year's slippage, and understand the demands on the capital programme and the long-term impact of these on the Capital Programme.	0%	

# Newport Council's Property Estate

Short Description	NCC has a significant property estate covering over 170 buildings (circa) such as the Civic Centre, Telford Depot, schools etc. The Council has to ensure the estate is maintained to required standards to enable access, safety, security and in the long term sustainable for staff and residents to use.
Risk Owner	Ben Hanks
Overseeing Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Executive</li> <li>Head of People &amp; Business Change</li> <li>Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing</li> </ul>
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet Member for Assets
Linked Theme	Theme : Modernised Council
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SRA 2. Supporting the Environment &amp; the Economy</li> <li>SRA 3. Supporting Health &amp; Well-being of Citizens</li> <li>WBO 2. Economic Growth &amp; Regeneration</li> <li>WBO 3. Healthy, Independent &amp; Resilient</li> </ul>

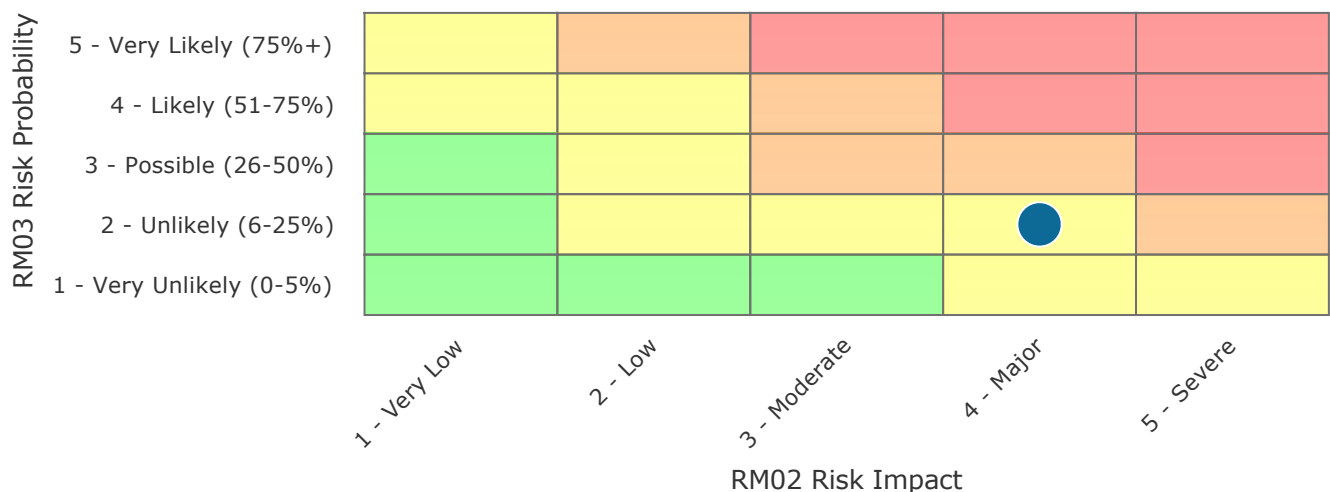


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Inherent Risk Score

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Target Risk Score

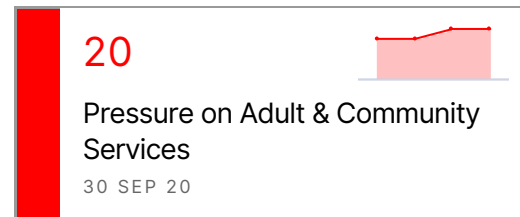


Direction of Risk		
	DoR	Comment
Newport Council's Property Estate	➡	No change to the risk score for the quarter 2 period.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adhere to the Corporate Landlord Policy	Adherence to the Corporate Landlord Policy	50%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create and Develop the Civic Centre Operational Groups	Create and develop the Civic Centre Operational Groups	75%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delivery of the Annual Capital Maintenance Programme	The delivery of the Council's annual Capital maintenance programme to maintain and improve the Council's property estate.	75%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop a balanced strategy for the future of the Civic Centre	In response to financial, environmental, legal sustainability and social pressures we need to develop a balanced strategy for the future preservation and transformation of the Civic Centre.	30%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop The Civic Centre Maintenance Backlog Prioritisation Schedule	Develop and update a Civic Centre maintenance backlog prioritisation schedule.	50%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure NCC Property & Assets Support the Corporate Plan	Ensure that the property and assets held by NCC sustain and support the corporate plan	50%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure there are Accountable & Responsible Premise Managers in all NCC premises	Accountable and responsible Premise Managers in all NCC premises	50%	●

# Pressure on Adult & Community Services

Short Description	<p>There is increased pressure on Adult Services to deliver services to adults with complex and long lasting needs.</p> <p>With an increase in demand / volume of referrals and care packages the Council has seen an increase in costs whilst in the context of tightening budgets.</p> <p>There are also additional statutory requirements to safeguard adults in our care and prevent risk of harm, injury or a loss of life.</p>
Risk Owner	Jenny Jenkins
Overseeing Officer	Head of Adult and Community Services
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Linked Theme	Theme: Resilient Communities (Social Care)
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 3. Healthy, Independent &amp; Resilient</li> <li>SRA 3. Supporting Health &amp; Well-being of Citizens</li> </ul>

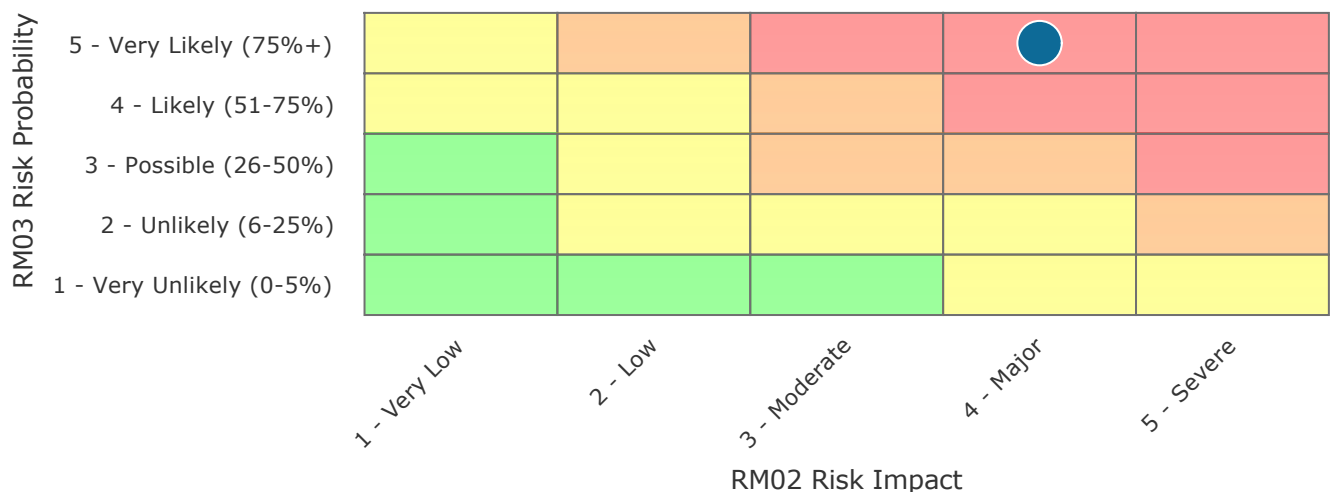


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Inherent Risk Score

Target Risk Score





Direction of Risk		
	DoR	Comment
Pressure on Adult & Community Services	➡	No change to this risk score for the end of quarter 2.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue to Develop First Contact as a Multi-Agency & Disciplinary Team	To continue to develop First Contact as a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary team effectively managing demand. This includes the integration of the Frailty service into the First Contact Team.	80%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further implementation of the revised Telecare Service	Implementation of the revised Telecare Service - To further develop the availability of assistive technology as a means of preventing or supporting a care and support plan.	70%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve Support Available for Young People with Learning Disabilities	To improve the support available for young people with learning disabilities to transition from Children Services into Adults Services. ·	60%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrate Regional Home First Initiative into Hospital Pathway	To develop and effectively integrate the Regional Home First initiative into the hospital pathway and to further align patient flow processes within hospital discharge.	50%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide Integrated Health & Social Support to Newport Citizens	To provide integrated health and social care support to Newport citizens.	25%	★

# Pressure on Homelessness Service

Short Description	Further pressures and increased presentations on homelessness service
Risk Owner	Ben Hanks
Overseeing Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Executive</li> <li>Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing</li> </ul>
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Economic Growth & Investment
Linked Theme	Theme: Resilient Communities (Community)
Linked Corporate Objective	WBO 4. Cohesive & Sustainable Communities

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Pressure on Homelessness Service

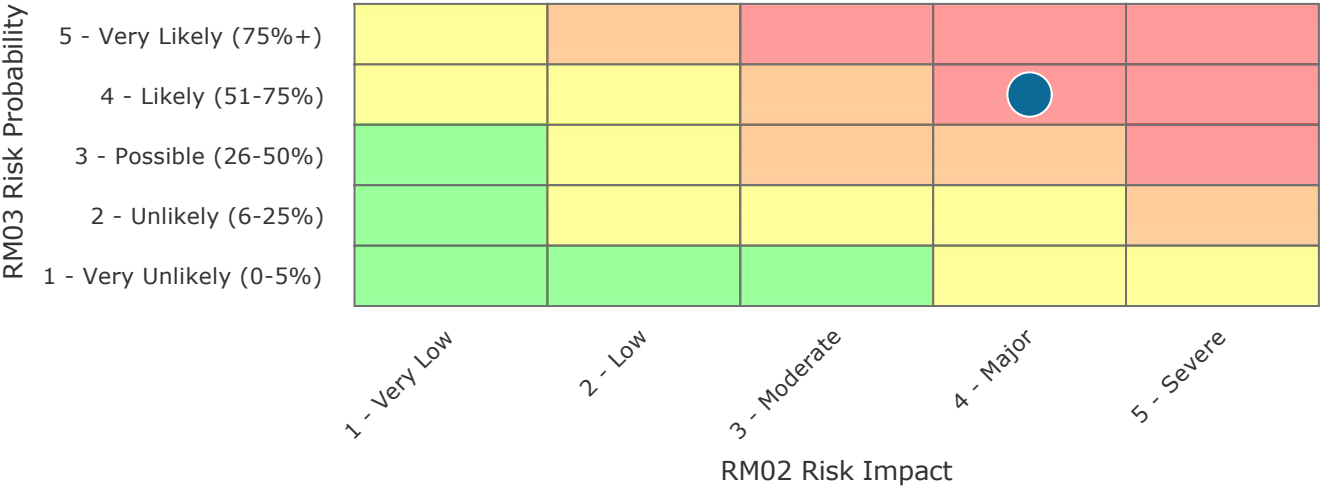
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Inherent Risk Score

Target Risk Score

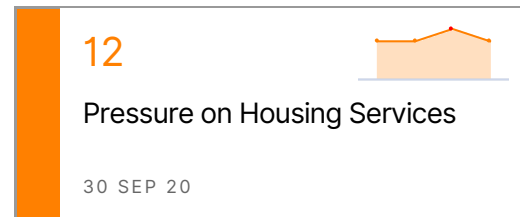


Direction of Risk		
	DoR	Comment
Pressure on Homelessness Service	➡	The risk score for the pressure on homelessness service remains the same for quarter 2.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deliver the 3-year Planned Development Programme with RSL's - 2020-21	Deliver the 3-year Planned Development Programme with RSL's	75%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop Strategy Framework for Private Sector Housing	Develop a strategy framework for private sector housing, bringing together the Adaptations Policy, Private Sector Leasing scheme, Housing Loans Policy	30%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Produce a Housing Prospectus for Newport	Produce a housing prospectus for Newport in line with Welsh Government guidance.	0%	●

# Pressure on Housing Services

Short Description	Increased pressure on Housing services to provide residents with safe, affordable housing options.
Risk Owner	Ben Hanks
Overseeing Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Executive</li> <li>Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing</li> </ul>
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Economic Growth & Investment
Linked Theme	Theme: Resilient Communities (Community)
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 3. Healthy, Independent &amp; Resilient</li> <li>WBO 4. Cohesive &amp; Sustainable Communities</li> </ul>

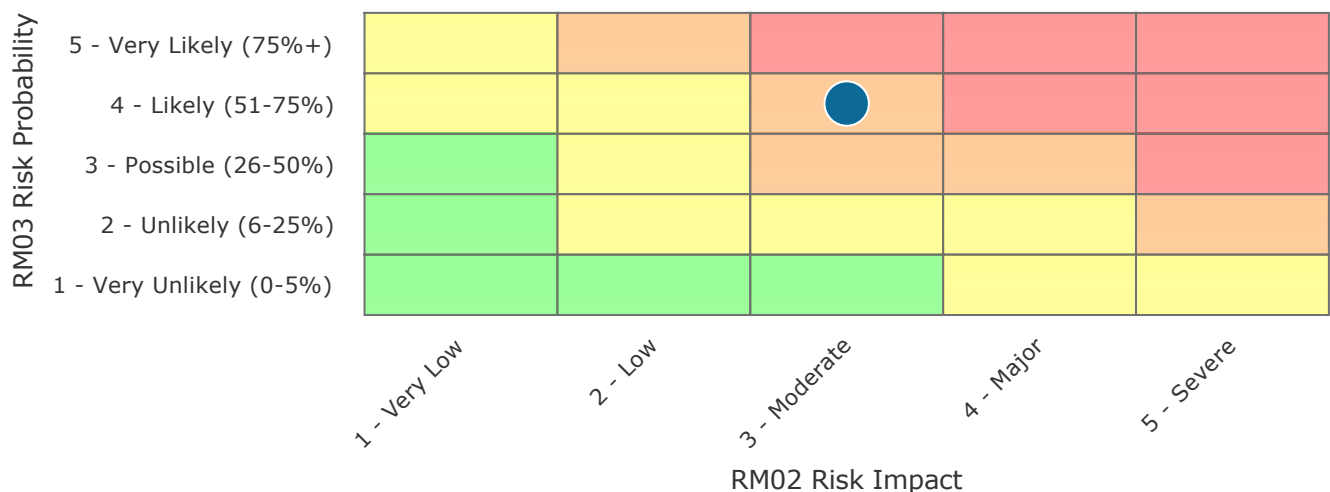


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Inherent Risk Score

Target Risk Score

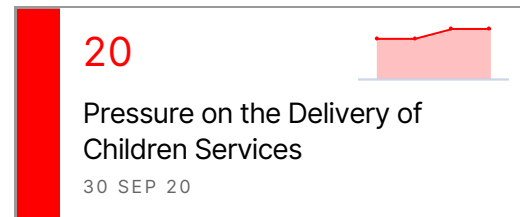


Direction of Risk		
	DoR	Comment
Pressure on Housing Services		Since Quarter 1 this risk has reduced from a 16 to 12. This reflects that while pressures remain with the demand for housing and homelessness, additional support has been received through the Welsh Government funding and continuous strengthening of our partnership working with Registered Social Landlords, Council teams and third sector to provide accommodation and support to the most vulnerable.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deliver 3 year Planned Development Programme with RSLs	Deliver the 3 year Planned Development Programme with RSLs.	100%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deliver the 3-year Planned Development Programme with RSL's - 2020-21	Deliver the 3-year Planned Development Programme with RSL's	75%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop Strategy Framework for Private Sector Housing	Develop a strategy framework for private sector housing, bringing together the Adaptations Policy, Private Sector Leasing scheme, Housing Loans Policy	30%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Development of specialist housing for residents with learning disabilities	Further development of programme for specialist housing schemes for residents with a learning disability.	100%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further Development of Strategic Housing Forum	Further development of the Strategic Housing Forum	50%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manage common housing register and Newport Housing Options Service	Manage and maintain the Common Housing Register and Newport Housing Options service	50%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maximise new housing units from empty properties	Maximise the number of new housing units created from empty properties	100%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Produce a Housing Prospectus for Newport	Produce a housing prospectus for Newport in line with Welsh Government guidance.	0%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Produce Updated Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment	Produce an updated Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment.	0%	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research Private Rented Sector Accommodation in Newport	Carry out research into the extent and nature of private rented sector accommodation in Newport.	33%	

# Pressure on the Delivery of Children Services

Short Description	Increased pressure on Children Services to manage increase in volume of referrals / cases of children with complex needs. This is in the context of budgets not being able to meet increase in costs to provide the necessary care and front-line staff being able to manage high volume and complex caseloads.
Risk Owner	Sally Jenkins
Overseeing Officer	Chief Executive
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Linked Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theme : Aspirational People</li> <li>Theme: Resilient Communities (Social Care)</li> </ul>
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 3. Healthy, Independent &amp; Resilient</li> <li>SRA 3. Supporting Health &amp; Well-being of Citizens</li> </ul>

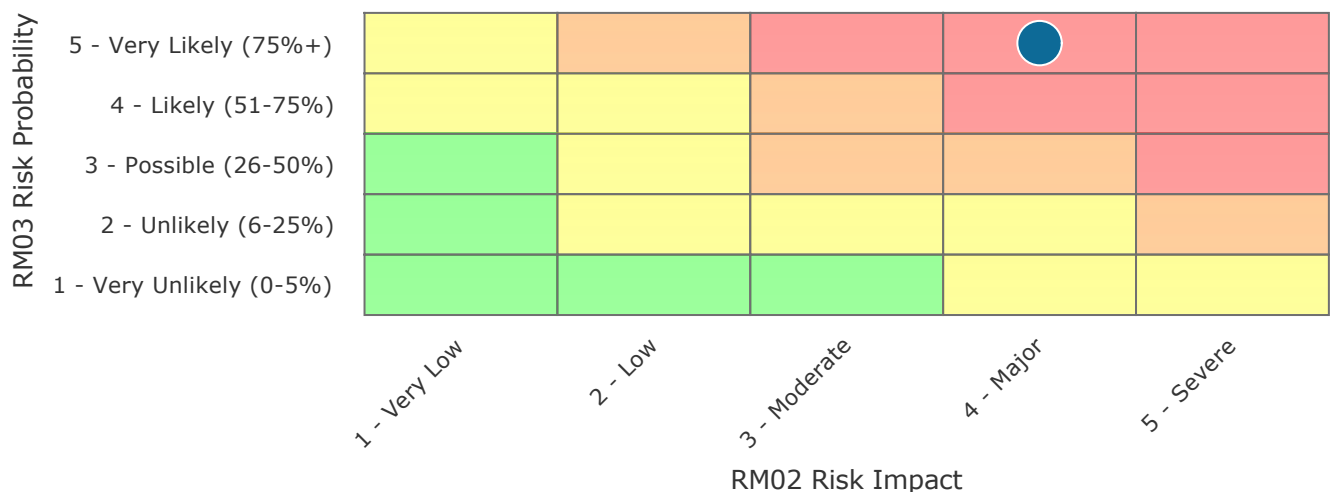


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Inherent Risk Score

Target Risk Score



## Direction of Risk

	DoR	Comment
Pressure on the Delivery of Children Services	➡	No change to the risk score in quarter 2.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete & Implement Welsh Government Recommendations for LAC Reduction	Completion and implementation of Welsh Government action plan to work towards reducing the numbers of looked after children	50%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue Development of Residential Provision	Continue with the development of the residential provision (including Windmill Farm) across Newport in order to increase the number of children who can be cared for safely in Newport	46%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue the Work Started with GDAS to Base Multi-agency Staff in Front line Teams	Continue the Work Started with GDAS to Base Multi-agency Staff in Front line Teams	40%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuing to Increase Housing Options for Care Leavers	Increased housing options for care leavers. Currently Newport has a limited range of choices for housing for care leavers especially with a range of suitable support. This action will seek to address this gap. Work has already commenced and will continue.	30%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop a Rapid Response Provision at the Front Door of Children's Services	Develop a rapid response provision at the front door of Children's Services utilising the skill set in existing provision.	25%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Number of Foster Carers Recruited to NCC Through Increased Marketing	To increase the number of foster carers recruited to NCC through increased marketing and scoping raising fostering fees and implementing council tax exemptions.	40%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review our Existing Arrangements for Family Time to Improve the Offer for Children & Families	In light of the learning during lockdown we will review our existing arrangements for family time to improve the offer for children and families: i) To develop a comprehensive framework of all aspects of family time; ii) Continue to deliver family time virtually as a positive for families.	75%	★

# Safeguarding Risk

Short Description	To ensure the Council safeguards adults, children and carers as part of its statutory duty.
Risk Owner	Mary Ryan
Overseeing Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Education Officer</li> <li>Chief Executive</li> <li>Head of Adult and Community Services</li> <li>Head of Children and Family Services</li> <li>Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing</li> </ul>
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Linked Theme	Theme: Resilient Communities (Social Care)
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 3. Healthy, Independent &amp; Resilient</li> <li>SRA 3. Supporting Health &amp; Well-being of Citizens</li> </ul>

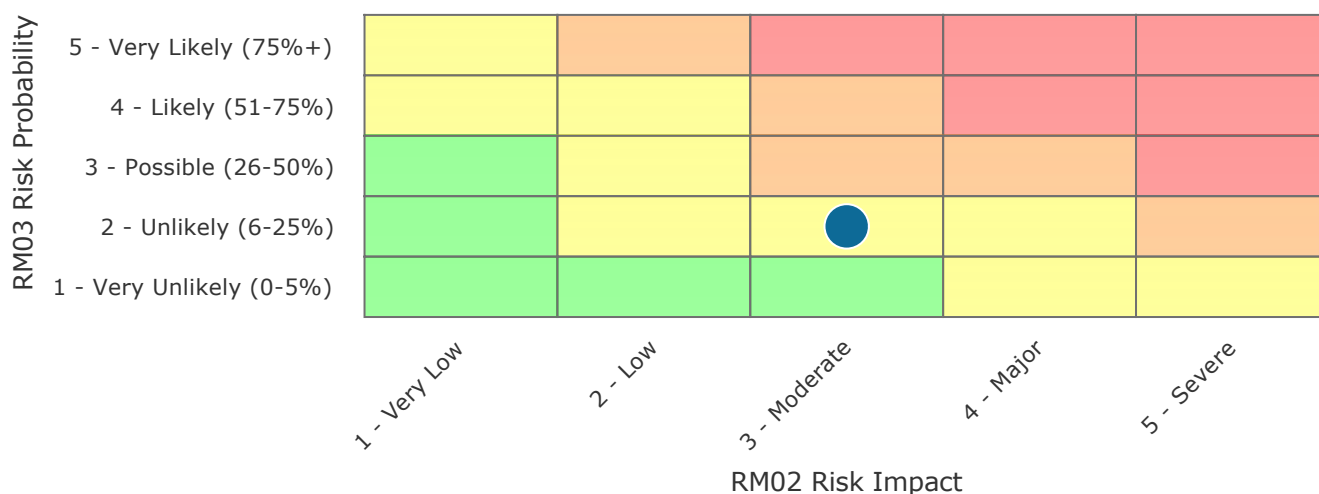
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Inherent Risk Score

Target Risk Score





## Direction of Risk

	DoR	Comment
Safeguarding Risk	➡	There is no change to the quarter 2 risk score for safeguarding.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All education Services staff to have completed relevant safeguarding training	All education Services staff to have completed relevant safeguarding training	88%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Build on Contextual Safeguarding Research	Build on work on Contextual harm and exploitation, safeguarding research, and embed new approaches to understanding, and responding to young people's experiences of significance.	75%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete & Deliver Actions Agreed in Post Safeguarding Joint Inspection Action Plan	Complete and deliver actions agreed in the post safeguarding joint inspection action plan	50%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contribute towards the All Wales Adult Safeguarding Guidance	Contribute towards the All Wales Adult Safeguarding Guidance	100%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delivery of Safeguarding Programmes 2020-21	Deliver safeguarding programmes and measures that protect citizens from victimisation and to measure the impact of regulatory interventions.	25%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embed the implementation of the new national 'safeguarding toolkit' for schools.	Embed the implementation of the new national 'safeguarding toolkit' for schools.	30%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empower Citizens Through the Adult Safeguarding Process	To continue to support and empower citizens through the adult safeguarding process.	90%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implement the Exploitation Strategy within Newport Children's Services	Exploitation will be considered under one overarching banner whether it is criminal or sexual and the response will be based on the needs and desired outcomes for the young person rather than the risks. A multi agency approach is in place and there is progress being made to evaluation this work through the contextual safeguarding and CASCADE schools.	40%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incorporate a Robust Preventative & Early Intervention Agenda in a Contextual Safeguarding Framework	Develop the breadth of support available from the service, incorporating a robust preventative and early intervention agenda within a contextual safeguarding framework.	80%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide Training & Practitioner Access to Welsh Government Safeguarding App	To provide training and Practitioner access to Welsh Government Safeguarding App through council mobile phones and computers.	100%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To implement new processes for Liberty Protection Safeguards.	Mental capacity Act requires the authority to implement the deprivation and liberty safeguards for citizens of Newport. We have an established regional and local process to delivery on DoLS. However, the legislation changes in October 2020 requiring the Council to have processes in place for the new LPS Liberty Protection Safeguards. This action is to implement the new process for the Council.	50%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Website Development	Website Development	99%	★

# Schools Finance / Cost Pressures

Short Description	In year cost pressures of schools are not met resulting in increased deficit budgets
Risk Owner	Sarah Morgan
Overseeing Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Education Officer</li> <li>Chief Executive</li> </ul>
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cabinet Member for Education and Skills</li> <li>Leader of the Council &amp; Cabinet Member for Economic Growth &amp; Investment</li> </ul>
Linked Theme	Theme : Aspirational People
Linked Corporate Objective	WBO 1. Skills, Education & Employment

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Schools Finance / Cost Pressures

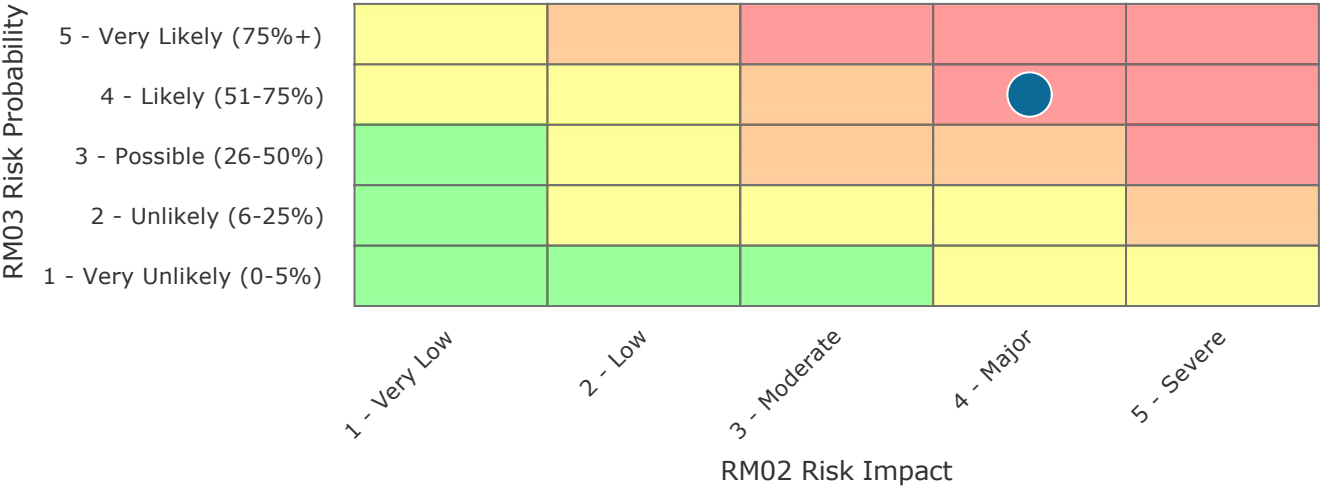
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Inherent Risk Score

Target Risk Score



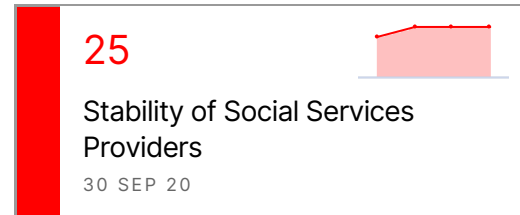
## Direction of Risk

	DoR	Comment
Schools Finance / Cost Pressures	➡	There remains significant pressure on the school's finances for this financial year and the risk score remains at the same for quarter 2.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual school funding formula review 20/21.	Review School Funding Formula.	25%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Managing School Budget	The local authority will monitor school budgets to ensure that Headteachers and Governing Bodies are: a) Maintaining a balanced budget; b) Addressing in year overspends to reduce the risk of moving in to deficit positions; c) Where deficit budgets occur, deficits are licensed with full recovery plans. d) Where in year deficits are still arising following substantial review, further mitigation may be through the medium term financial plan.	40%	▲
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monitor In-Year School Budgets to Ensure Budgets are Managed Effectively	Monitor In-year School budgets to ensure budgets are: • Managed effectively and taking necessary actions to prevent overspending. Effectively taking necessary actions to prevent overspending. Schools that have deficit budget recovery plans are implementing the necessary actions to reduce their overall budget deficits.	25%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monitoring of Primary, Secondary & Special Schools In-Year Budgets	Monitoring of primary, secondary and special schools in-year budgets: • To prevent overspending and take necessary mitigating action(s). Schools with deficit budget recovery plans are implementing the necessary actions to reduce their budget deficits	40%	▲

# Stability of Social Services Providers

Short Description	The Council requires support from external providers to deliver care packages for children and adults (residential / Non Residential). The current marketplace for external providers is volatile due to the increasing costs to provide care, maintain homes, staffing meeting legislative and regulatory requirements.
Risk Owner	Jenny Jenkins
Overseeing Officer	Head of Adult and Community Services
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Linked Theme	Theme: Resilient Communities (Social Care)
Linked Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBO 3. Healthy, Independent &amp; Resilient</li> <li>SRA 3. Supporting Health &amp; Well-being of Citizens</li> </ul>

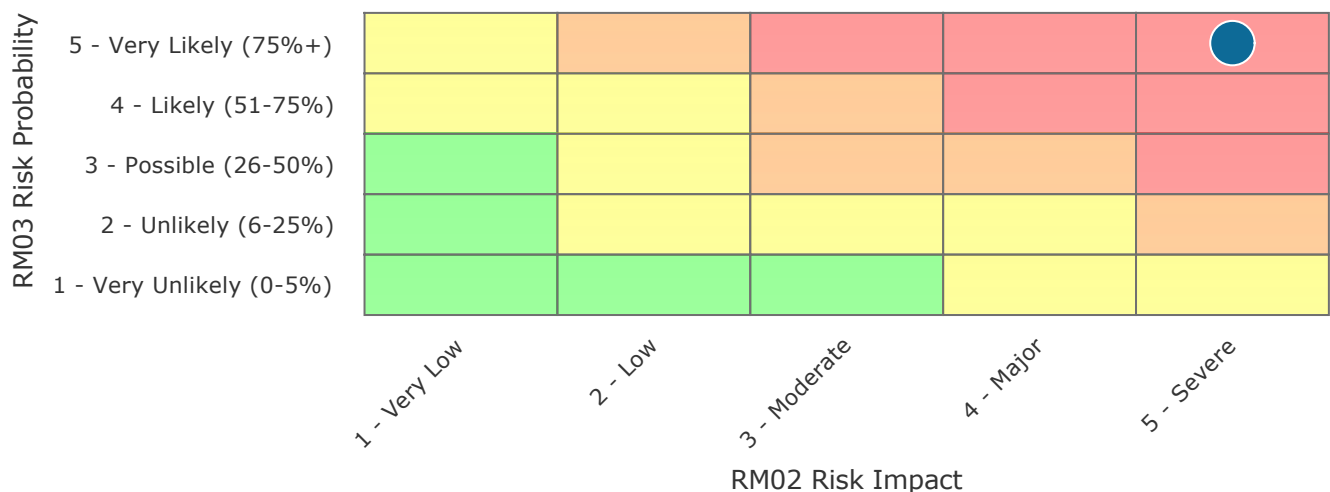


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Inherent Risk Score

Target Risk Score



## Direction of Risk

	DoR	Comment
Stability of Social Services Providers	➡	This risk remains at 25 for the end of the quarter 2 period due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and continuing pressure on providers.

Action Name	Action Description	% Complete	Sep 2020
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ABUHB & Local Authority Partners to Develop Common Contracts & Monitoring Protocols	Work with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Local Authority partners to develop common contracts and monitoring protocols.	80%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assess Impact of Covid 19 on Long Term Sustainability of Service Providers	Assess the impact of Covid 19 on the long term future sustainability of service providers ensuring that the market is able to offer sufficient market capacity and diversity.	20%	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue to Provide & Develop in House Provision	Continue to provide and develop in house provision	100%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop the People Commissioning Function to Oversee Commissioning & Contractual Activity	To further develop the People Commissioning function to oversee all commissioning and contractual activity within the Directorate. To monitor the People Commissioning Function to maximise opportunities to add value across the whole service area.	75%	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monitor the Quality of Services Against Agreed Outcomes & Offer Value for Money	To monitor the quality of services to ensure they deliver against agreed outcomes and offer value for money.	70%	★

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# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: 16 December 2020

**Subject** **Audit Wales – Audit of Newport City Council’s Assessment of 2019-20 performance (Certificate of Compliance 2)**

**Purpose** To present Cabinet with the Audit Wales second Assessment of Performance Certificate on the 2019/20 assessment of performance. The certificate confirms that the Council has discharged its duties under section 15(2), (3), (8) and (9) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

This report also provides a summary of audits completed in 2019/20 and their work programme for 2020/21 in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Author** Head of People and Business Change

**Ward** All

**Summary** As part of the programme of regulatory activity in accordance with the Local Government Measure 2009, the Auditor General is required to issue two Certificates of Compliance to demonstrate that Council is discharging its duties under the Measure. This is the second certificate following the publication of the Council’s Annual Report 2019/20 before the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

In 2019/20 and 2020/21, Audit Wales has been providing assurance across a broad range of Council services as well as All-Wales (National) reviews. The report includes a summary of the work completed and also their response to Covid-19 crisis sharing best practice and self-reflection work.

**Proposal** Cabinet is requested to note the positive outcome of the Certificate of Compliance in relation to meeting its statutory duty under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

**Action by** Cabinet

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Corporate Management Team
- Audit Wales

**Signed**

## Background

As part of the programme of regulatory activity in accordance with the Local Government Measure 2009, the Auditor General is required to issue two Certificates of Compliance to demonstrate that Council is discharging its duties under the Measure.

As part of the second certificate of compliance, the Council is required to publish its Annual Report of performance for 2019/20 before the 31<sup>st</sup> October in accordance with sections 15(2), (3), (8) and (9) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. At the Cabinet meeting dated 14<sup>th</sup> October, the Council's Annual Report was approved and subsequently published on the [Council's website](#) on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

As a result of this action completed by the Council, Audit Wales has published its second Certificate of Compliance (Appendix 1), with the Auditor General for Wales certifying that:

*Certify that I have audited Newport City Council's (the Council) assessment of its performance in 2019-20 in accordance with section 17 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) and my Code of Audit Practice.*

*As a result of my audit, I believe that the Council has discharged its duties under sections 15(2), (3), (8) and (9) of the Measure and has acted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance sufficiently to discharge its duties.*

## Certificate

The certificate is attached as Appendix A (English) and Appendix B (Welsh) to this report.

## Audit Wales Work Programme 2019/20 and 2020/21

Audit Wales work programme includes local reviews of services delivered by Newport City Council and as well as All-Wales (National) reviews for the Council to consider. Publication of Audit Wales reports can be found on their website here. Below is a list of the performance reviews that have been completed in 2019/20:

- Children Services Budget Pressures (Local)
- Corporate Safeguarding arrangements for Children (Local)
- Environmental Health Follow Up (Local)
- Tackling Anti-social Behaviour, Well-being Review (Local)
- Finance Sustainability Review (National / Local)
- Effectiveness of local planning authorities in Wales (National)
- Front Door to Adult Social Care (National)
- Tackling Domestic Violence (National)
- Public Services Board (National)

From the outbreak of Covid-19, Audit Wales recognised the pressures being faced by local authorities and suspended its planned work programme. In its place Audit Wales has been collating the responses of public services to the crisis identifying and sharing areas of innovative and good practice to support continuous learning and self-reflection. In addition to this Audit Wales has continued to publish All-Wales (National) reviews which are listed below as well as its statutory duties. The reports that have been published and are ongoing include:

- Rough Sleeping in Wales – Everyone's Problem, No one's responsibility (National) / published;
- Providing Free School Meals during Lockdown (National) / Published;
- Commercialisation in Local Government (National) / Published;
- Regenerating Welsh Towns (National) / field work ongoing;
- Assurance and Risk Assessment / field work ongoing.

In addition to the performance reviews, Audit Wales also complete audits of the Council's financial statements to ensure public money being properly accounted for. This work continued throughout the pandemic and are reported to the Council's Audit Committee.



## **Financial Summary**

There are no direct financial impacts in relation to this report. Where proposals for improvement have been made in individual Audit Wales reports these will be actioned through business as usual activities by the Council.

## **Risks**

There are no direct impacts of this report to the risks identified in the Council's Corporate Risk Register.

## **Links to Council Policies and Priorities**

Continuous improvement is central to the Council's ambitions for itself, organisationally, and in terms of its role in advancing the City's reputation and the quality of life for its citizens. A range of core priorities and programmes are influenced by this agenda, including:

- The Corporate Plan 2017-22
- Newport Public Services Board 'One Newport' Well-being Plan.
- Annual reporting arrangements

## **Options Available and considered**

Cabinet are asked to:

- (a) Consider and accept the conclusion contained in the Auditor General's Certificate of Compliance Report; or
- (b) Disregard the findings of the report.

## **Preferred Option and Why**

The preferred option is (a) as the Certificate of Compliance is positive and confirms that the council has discharged its duties under the Local Government Measure 2009 with regards to Improvement Planning.

## **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

There are no financial impact in presenting the Audit Wales Certificate to Cabinet. Any improvement actions included within the Corporate Plan are reported as part of the on-going medium term financial planning and budget monitoring processes and in that respect, clear responsibility and accountability for delivering the projects and managing resources is key.

## **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report. The Council has a duty under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 ("the Measure") to secure continuous improvement in the delivery of services and to publish an assessment of its performance. The Assessment of Performance Certificate issued by the Audit Wales confirms that the Council has discharged its duties in accordance with section 15 of the Measure and statutory guidance.

## **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

The certificate verifies that the Council has met its obligation of publishing its Annual Report 2019/20 under the Local Government Measure 2009. This is an on-going aim for the council and this also contributes to the Council's adherence to the Sustainable Development Principle of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. There are no direct staffing implications contained in this report.

## **Comments of Cabinet Member**

The Leader of the Council is briefed on all aspects of performance monitoring and management within the Council and related Audit Wales monitoring work.

## **Local issues**

Not Applicable.

## **Scrutiny Committees**

Scrutiny Committees receive information on Audit Wales review outcomes as appropriate to the Committee responsibilities, and also received and commented on the Annual Report.

## **Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010**

Not Applicable.

## **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

Not Applicable.

## **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

The Auditor General helps to ensure that public bodies are held to account for their performance in relation to the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Local Government Measure (2009). Audit Wales consider the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in the planning and implementation of their work. The issue of the Certificate of Compliance demonstrates that the council is meeting its obligations under both Acts.

## **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

## **Consultation**

Not Applicable

## **Background Papers**

Newport City Council's Corporate Plan 2017-22

Audit Wales Assessment of Performance Certificate

Audit Wales Assessment of Performance Certificate (Welsh)

Cabinet Minutes 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Annual Report 2019/20

Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Reference:** 2085A2020-21

**Date issued:** November 2020

## Audit of Newport City Council's assessment of 2019-20 performance

### Certificate

I certify that I have audited Newport City Council's (the Council) assessment of its performance in 2019-20 in accordance with section 17 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) and my Code of Audit Practice.

As a result of my audit, I believe that the Council has discharged its duties under sections 15(2), (3), (8) and (9) of the Measure and has acted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance sufficiently to discharge its duties.

### Respective responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor General

Under the Measure, the Council is required to annually publish an assessment which describes its performance:

- in discharging its duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions;
- in meeting the improvement objectives it has set itself;
- by reference to performance indicators specified by Welsh Ministers, and self-imposed performance indicators; and
- in meeting any performance standards specified by Welsh Ministers, and self-imposed performance standards.

The Measure requires the Council to publish its assessment before 31 October in the financial year following that to which the information relates, or by any other such date as Welsh Ministers may specify by order.

The Measure requires that the Council has regard to guidance issued by Welsh Ministers in publishing its assessment.

As the Council's auditor, I am required under sections 17 and 19 of the Measure to carry out an audit to determine whether the Council has discharged its duty to publish an assessment of performance, to certify that I have done so, and to report whether I believe that the Council has discharged its duties in accordance with statutory requirements set out in section 15 and statutory guidance.

## Scope of the audit

For the purposes of my audit work I will accept that, provided an authority meets its statutory requirements, it will also have complied with Welsh Government statutory guidance sufficiently to discharge its duties.

For this audit I am not required to form a view on the completeness or accuracy of information. Other assessment work that I will undertake under section 18 of the Measure may examine these issues. My audit of the Council's assessment of performance, therefore, comprised a review of the Council's publication to ascertain whether it included elements prescribed in legislation. I also assessed whether the arrangements for publishing the assessment complied with the requirements of the legislation, and that the Council had regard to statutory guidance in preparing and publishing it.

The work I have carried out in order to report and make recommendations in accordance with sections 17 and 19 of the Measure cannot solely be relied upon to identify all weaknesses or opportunities for improvement.



**Adrian Crompton**

**Auditor General for Wales**

CC: Julie James MS – Minister for Housing and Local Government  
Non Jenkins, Manager  
Martin Gibson, Performance Audit Lead

**Cyfeirnod:** 2085A2020-21

**Dyddiad cyhoeddi:** Tachwedd 2020

## Archwiliad o Berfformiad Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd 2019-20

### Tystysgrif

Rwy'n ardystio fy mod wedi archwilio asesiad Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd (y Cyngor) o'i berfformiad yn 2019-20, a hynny yn unol ag adran 17 o Fesur Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2009 (y Mesur) a'm Cod Ymarfer Archwilio.

O ganlyniad i'm harchwiliad, rwyf o'r farn bod y Cyngor wedi cyflawni ei ddyletswyddau o dan adran 15(2), (3), (8) a (9) o'r Mesur, ac wedi gweithredu'n ddigonol, yn unol â chanllawiau Llywodraeth Cymru, i gyflawni ei ddyletswyddau.

### Priod gyfrifoldebau'r Cyngor a'r Archwilydd Cyffredinol

O dan y Mesur, mae'n ofynnol i'r Cyngor baratoi a chyhoeddi Cynllun Gwella, sy'n amlinellu ei gynlluniau i gyflawni ei ddyletswyddau:

- wrth gyflawni ei ddyletswydd i wneud trefniadau i sicrhau gwelliant parhaus wrth arfer ei swyddogaethau;
- o ran cyflawni'r amcanion gwella y mae wedi'u pennu iddo'i hun;
- drwy gyfeirio at ddangosyddion perfformiad a nodir gan Weinidogion Cymru, a dangosyddion perfformiad hunanosodedig; ac
- o ran bodloni unrhyw safonau perfformiad a bennir gan Weinidogion Cymru, a safonau perfformiad hunanosodedig.

Mae'r Mesur yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i'r Cyngor gyhoeddi ei Gynllun Gwella cyn gynted ag y bo hynny'n rhesymol ymarferol ar ôl dechrau'r flwyddyn ariannol y mae'r cynllun yn berthnasol iddi, neu ar ôl dyddiad arall a bennir dan orchymyn Gweinidogion Cymru.

Y Cyngor sy'n gyfrifol am baratoi'r Cynllun Gwella, yn ogystal â'r wybodaeth a nodir ynddo. Mae'r Mesur yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i'r Cyngor ystyried canllawiau a gyhoeddir gan Weinidogion Cymru wrth baratoi a chyhoeddi ei gynllun.

O dan adrannau 17 ac 19 o'r Mesur, mae'n ofynnol i mi, archwilydd y Cyngor, gynnal archwiliad o'r Cynllun Gwella, ardystio fy mod wedi gwneud hynny, ac adrodd a wyf o'r farn bod y Cyngor wedi cyflawni ei ddyletswyddau i baratoi a chyhoeddi Cynllun Gwella yn unol â'r gofynion statudol a nodir yn adran 15 a'r canllawiau statudol.

## Cwmpas yr archwiliad

I ddibenion fy ngwaith archwilio, ac ar yr amod bod awdurdod wedi bodloni ei ofynion statudol, byddaf yn derbyn bod yr awdurdod wedi cydymffurfio'n ddigonol â chanllawiau statudol Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflawni ei ddyletswyddau.

Ar gyfer yr archwiliad hwn, nid yw'n ofynnol i mi lunio barn ar gyflawnder na chywirdeb yr wybodaeth, na ph'un a ellir cyflawni Cynllun Gwella'r Cyngor ai peidio. Bydd gwaith asesu arall y byddaf yn ymgymryd ag ef o dan adran 18 o'r Mesur yn archwilio'r materion hyn. Felly, roedd fy archwiliad o Gynllun Gwella'r Cyngor yn cynnwys adolygiad o'r cynllun i ganfod a oedd yn cynnwys elfennau a ragnodir mewn deddfwriaeth. Euthum ati hefyd i asesu a oedd y trefniadau ar gyfer cyhoeddi'r cynllun yn cydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddfwriaeth, ac a oedd y Cyngor wedi ystyried y canllawiau statudol wrth baratoi a chyhoeddi ei gynllun.

Ni ellir dibynnu'n unig ar y gwaith a wnaed gennyf er mwyn llunio adroddiad a gwneud argymhellion yn unol ag adrannau 17 ac 19 o'r Mesur, i nodi'r holl wendidau neu gyfleoedd ar gyfer gwella.



**Adrian Crompton**

**Arwchilydd Cyffredinol Cymru**

CC: Julie James AS – Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol  
Non Jenkins, Rheolwr  
Martin Gibson, Uwch Archwilydd

# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: 16 December 2020

### **Subject Corporate Safeguarding (2019/20) Executive Summary**

**Purpose** To establish an annual corporate safeguarding report which monitors, scrutinises and plans on the theme of “safeguarding” becoming fundamentally embedded within all aspects of Council services, functions and duties.

To provide Scrutiny with essential and key information to build their understanding and knowledge on the topic of “safeguarding” in order to allow them to effectively scrutinise the Council’s safeguarding practice.

To update Cabinet members on the work that has been undertaken to improve arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children and adults who require specific Council services and to ensure that these arrangements are effective. One of the main objectives during 2019/20 was to promote and ensure that *safeguarding involves us all* is adopted by all service areas within the council.

**Author** Mary Ryan, Service Manager, Safeguarding Unit  
Sally Ann Jenkins, Head of Children and Young People Services  
Lynsey Thomas, Consultant Social Worker, Safeguarding Unit

**Ward** N/A

**Summary** This is the third review of the annual corporate safeguarding report. The original report was established in November 2016 and sought to synthesise the various safeguarding reporting strands into one Corporate Safeguarding report which provides scrutiny information on how well the council is achieving on its safeguarding arrangements.

This report is out of timescale with the Cabinet timetabling functions due to Covid 19 measures imposed in March 2020 when it was due to be presented to Scrutiny committee and Cabinet. Safeguarding progress within the council has continued through the ‘lock down ‘ period and work that was planned has continued. For example the safeguarding champions are now embedded across the Council and currently meet virtually.

Other legislative changes that would have provided a challenge to the council and workforce is the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) to Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) which were due to be implemented in October 2020 have been postponed until March 2022. This will enable the workforce and the regional consortium to plan, and train the workforce in readiness for the changes in practice. The Scrutiny Committee received the full Annual Report on Corporate Safeguarding on October 30<sup>th</sup> 2020, with the caveat that progress has been made in the intervening months, this report is now being presented to Cabinet.

The comments of the scrutiny committee from October 2020 are being addressed in detail in the forthcoming Corporate Safeguarding Report (2021/21) in March 2021.

**Proposal** To scrutinise and review the progress of the key priority work plans for both corporate safeguarding arrangements and the safeguarding specific teams as identified in 2019/20.

**Action by** Sally Jenkins (HOS) Mary Ryan (Service Manager Safeguarding)

**Timetable** N/A

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Cabinet Member for Social Services
- Strategic Director People
- Head of Children and Young People Services
- Head of Finance
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of People and Business Change

**Signed**

## **Background**

This is the third review of the annual corporate safeguarding report. The committee are advised that following a Welsh Audit Office Inspection in 2019 that the format and data presented within this report has required to be revised.

The committee are also advised that Welsh Government are due to implement a change to the Quality Standards (Key Performance Indicators) which provide the basic benchmark of performance for local authorities who deliver care and support to the people of Wales. The new performance data sets will commence from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and will report to Welsh Government in March 2021. Welsh Government will not be externally publishing this data for any Local Authority for the first year. This means that the collection and presentation in terms of "Safeguarding" data for members to be aware of and scrutinise currently, and in future reports, will change from this year's report and in forthcoming reports. Authors of the report have attempted to be clear in terms of the data we currently provide and what the future reporting requirements will be from April 2020 onwards to Welsh Government. These changes have resulted in a more detailed report than committee have previously requested to receive, however, members are respectfully reminded that scrutinising the full safeguarding portfolio of duties and responsibilities is a corporate requirement.

Cabinet are advised the report is a combination of scrutiny requests for reporting to reduce and the Welsh Audit Office (WAO) directive on what needs to be shared with Scrutiny. Going forward, the service area is completing a self- assessment toolkit for all the council service areas to complete and this will provide the basis of future reports to scrutiny.

The committee are advised, in order to assure and improve the accountability for corporate safeguarding arrangements across Newport City Council, all future reports to scrutiny committee will comprise of the following information. A council-wide set of performance and information as identified by the WAO recommendations; presentation of the Welsh Government Key Performance measures for Safeguarding specifically, local indicators/ measures from the teams comprising the Safeguarding Unit, and the presentation of any identified risks/ challenges likely to be encountered within the authority and the actions available to mitigate these risks.



Newport City Council remains an active member of the “Gwent Safeguarding Board”, which is an amalgamation of the two former specific regional boards; the South East Wales Safeguarding Children’s Board (SEWSCB) and Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board (GWASB). Newport continue to host the regional Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) team and work closely with the regional Partnership Board (VAWDASVB).

There are three specific areas of stress/ risk in this period for Members to be aware of:-

- The first is in relation to the resource and financial implications of the review of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) re-checks within Education and school services. This scoping work has continued during 2020/21 as an area that for the Council that requires attention.
- Secondly, Adult and Children Services will be required to manage the practice and process changes in relation to the launch of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures. These will include; “Safeguarding allegations/ Concerns about Practitioners and those in positions of trust”- Managing Professional Concerns. Members are advised that all these areas of national safeguarding procedures have been adopted into process and practice within adult and children services.
- The third pressure for the Council was the pending changes in the legislation for the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) to Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) being implemented all within a 7 month period (April- October 2020). This is now postponed until March 2022.

Cabinet are requested to consider the rates of corporate compliancy in relation to the elearning safeguarding mandatory training introduced this year. The second mandatory training required by all officers is the Violence against Women Domestic Violence and sexual violence (VAWDASV) training, the council need to encourage compliancy for the new elearning for safeguarding and remind all officers of the Welsh Government requirement to complete the Ask and Act elearning as part of the VAWDASV legislation.

## **Financial Summary**

- The costs for the full council to take on the safeguarding proposals for mandatory training across each service will not incur or require additional finances. Each directorate will be responsible for the completion of both mandatory elearning packages and performance monitoring.

## **Risks**

The risks for the Council by not accepting this proposal have been raised within the Welsh Audit Office recommendations as an area that requires development across the Corporate agenda.

The risks identified are to ensure that employees and citizens of Newport receive services by a knowledgeable staff group that understands and are aware of their duty to report safeguarding concerns that they come across while delivering services on behalf of the council and officers are aware of their responsibility and how to raise concerns in order to protect vulnerable citizens. The risks for Newport citizens will be minimised by ensuring the Council is a responsible and accountable authority with an understanding that safeguarding involves us all. It will also raise the knowledge and expertise across the council for all safeguarding issues in the community and within the work place.

You will need to complete the following Risk table

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Elearning for Safeguarding and VAWDASV to be mandated throughout the council	M	L	Introduced safeguarding champions across the council to promote safeguarding involves us all. Champions disseminate Safeguarding awareness and updates within own service areas to address training needs. Officers will understand the duty to report when they come across vulnerable citizens in the community and know what is required and where to refer to.	Mary Ryan Safeguarding Lead for the Council.  Any risks identified will be addressed with specific Head of Service

### Links to Council Policies and Priorities

This proposal directly enhances the Councils priorities and plans within all Corporate services. The Council safeguarding statement clearly sets out the expectations on all who deliver services on behalf of the Council;

*“Newport City Council expects all employees to take reasonable steps to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of the children and adults they may come into contact with is upheld and that all employees (paid or voluntary) recognise and respond to their duty of care to objectives. to be responsible.*

All Council plans including the Corporate plan, the improvement plan, Strategic Well-Being and future generations plan, Strategic director for people plan and service area plans with Social Services all include ensuring we deliver a safe and inclusive community for the citizens of Newport.

### Options Available and considered

1. Council view safeguarding training as a social services responsibility only.
2. Council acknowledge the importance of having an informed and responsible workforce aware of legislative requirement for safeguarding citizens when representing the council.

### Preferred Option and Why

Option 2 is the preferred option as it reflects the Corporate plan of ensuring we deliver a fair, safe and learning environment for the workforce and citizens. It takes on board all Welsh Office Audit recommendations and is in line with the Social Services and Well-Being Act (2014) also enhances the Well-Being and future generations Act, includes the VAWDASV legislation and demonstrates a forward thinking inclusive Council.

### Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no additional financial resources required for the E-learning Safeguarding training proposal.

The 20/21 Corporate Safeguarding report will address other risk areas and comments of the Chief Financial Officer will be provided on the 20/21 report.

## **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report, which simply updates Cabinet on the progress made in implementing the arrangements for corporate safeguarding in relation to children and vulnerable adults in accordance with the annual Corporate Safeguarding Plan. The Report identifies three specific areas of concern, increased DBS checking within Education, the implementation of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and the changes to the DoLS procedures, all of which will increase pressures on the services and resources. The report also highlights the need for increased VAWDASV training.

## **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

The report recommends that all our workforce are informed and responsible, with an awareness of legislative requirements in relation to safeguarding. Therefore there is a requirement for our organisational development programme to reflect these requirements, should Cabinet agree with the recommended proposal. The areas of risk identified will also have both resourcing and staffing implications which will need to be considered within Service Plans and, potentially, the Corporate Risk Register.

Safeguarding is critical for the well-being of our citizens and therefore supports our Well-Being Objectives and Plan.

## **Comments of Cabinet Member**

The Cabinet Member has approved the report for consideration by Cabinet.

## **Local issues**

N/A

## **Scrutiny Committees**

Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, October 30<sup>th</sup> 2020.



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## **Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010**

The Equality Act 2010 contains a Public Sector Equality Duty which came into force on 06 April 2011. The Act identifies a number of 'protected characteristics', namely age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; marriage and civil partnership. The new single duty aims to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the regular business of public authorities. Compliance with the duty is a legal obligation and is intended to result in better informed decision-making and policy development and services that are more effective for users. In exercising its functions, the Council must have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The Act is not overly prescriptive about the approach a public authority should take to ensure due regard, although it does set out that due regard to advancing equality involves: removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics; taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these differ from the need of other people; and encouraging

people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

### **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

Although no targeted consultation takes place specifically aimed at children and young people, consultation on planning applications and appeals is open to all of our citizens regardless of their age. Depending on the scale of the proposed development, applications are publicised via letters to neighbouring occupiers, site notices, press notices and/or social media. People replying to consultations are not required to provide their age or any other personal data, and therefore this data is not held or recorded in any way, and responses are not separated out by age.

### **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

Report writes need to indicate how they have considered the five things public bodies need to think about to show they have applied the sustainable development principle put into place by the Act. You will need to demonstrate you have considered the following:

- Long term: the importance of balancing short- term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long – term needs
- Prevention: How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse will address legislative requirements under the Social Services and Well-Being Act (2014).
- Integration: An informed workforce with clear understanding of safeguarding responsibilities while in the community will assist in achieving our wellbeing objectives, and wellbeing goals. The Safeguarding multi agency Hub with co-located partners achieves integration and improved communication with all public bodies with safeguarding responsibilities.
- Collaboration: Is key within the Council and wider partner agencies to achieve our wellbeing objectives.
- Involvement: The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the wellbeing goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the City we serve.

### **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

### **Consultation**

Comments received from wider consultation, including comments from elected members, are detailed in each application report in the attached schedule.

### **Background Papers**

Annual Safeguarding Report 2019/20

25/11/2020

# Report

## Cabinet

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**Date:** 16 December 2020

**Subject** **Annual Report of the Director of Social Services**

**Purpose** To present to Cabinet the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services.2019/20

**Author** Chris Humphrey Director of Social Services

**Ward** Citywide

**Summary** This report is the Director's evaluation of 2019/20 performance for Social Services. It conforms in format and content with the statutory requirements for the Director's Report as set out in the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

**Proposal** To receive the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services, 2019/20

**Action by** Director of Social Services

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Social Services staff
- Cabinet Member for Social Services
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Finance
- Head of People and Business Change

**Signed**

## Background

The purpose of this annual report is to set out the local authority's continued delivery of its statutory duties in providing services to people in Newport in terms of information, advice and assistance, and those individuals and carers who need care and support. This report demonstrates how Newport Social Services has responded to the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and how we have promoted and accounted for the delivery of well-being and care and support to the citizens of Newport.

***The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (RISCA)*** and the ***Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWB)*** sets out the requirement for the Director to produce an annual report setting out the performance of Social Services, following the format prescribed by the Local Authority Social Services Annual reports (Wales) Regulations 2016 and is intended for a range of audiences as set out in the Local Authority Annual Social Services Report guidance document.

The intention of the report is not to detail process but to focus on the activities and outcomes achieved and the impact this has had on citizens in Newport. The evidence of our citizens has been used throughout the report as has the contribution of our partner agencies and commissioned services.

## Director's Summary of Performance

2019/20 was another demanding year characterised by the maintenance of quality and standards of service delivery and the beginning of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The delivery of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act continues to drive the provision of early intervention and preventative services and the ongoing work to manage the increasing demands placed upon Social Services. The well-being objectives are wound through all Social Services operations and tie closely to the Newport City Council (NCC) Corporate Plan, notably:-

- To improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities.
- To enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient.
- To build cohesive & sustainable communities.

There is a continuous striving to maximise the efficient use of resources both financial and resources whilst identifying savings. In Children's Services efforts have continued to address the shortage of placement options with a new 4 bed residential home now in operation with 2 more services planned for 2021/22. The preventative work to minimise the number of children becoming Looked After continues to develop with new and innovative practices such as Baby & Me and Family Group Conferencing.

Work in Adult and Community Services continues to focus on working across the interface of health and social care through the use of the Integrated Care Fund and the Transformation Fund to support services such as the Community Connectors, and Intermediate Care beds. The collaborative work to minimise the number of delayed hospital discharges has further developed with the combined impact of Home First and the improvement and expansion of the Reablement service to support people

Newport was the pilot site for a new joint inspection in Wales which carried out a review of multi-agency responses to child abuse and exploitation the outcome of which was positive with the conclusion that agencies collaborated effectively.

The Coronavirus Pandemic brought unprecedented challenge across the range of services in 2020 and some older persons residential homes were impacted early on as Newport experienced high numbers of cases before preventative measures such as whole home testing and PPE were fully in place.

At the time of writing significant changes to the way services are being delivered has been implemented in order to maintain levels of essential support. However At this stage we are still in the midst of a crisis and uncertainty remains about the longer term impact of COVID 19 on community and how we deliver our services in the future.

## Financial Summary

During 2019/20, the Council has managed its overall revenue position within budget. The revenue outturn shows an underspend of £2,062k prior to the approval of new reserve transfers requested by service areas, leaving a remaining underspend of £1,807k. Excluding schools, this represents a less than 1% variance against net budget.

The Council faced some unexpected costs during the last part of the financial year linked to the Covid19 pandemic and these have been able to be accommodated within the overall budget. This is due partly to the reduced levels of spending in the service areas and also some one-off grant funding from Welsh Government received late in the financial year.

Within Children's there is ongoing significant financial pressure due to out of authority placement costs which is replicated in many other local authorities and identified as an area of increasing demand and cost nationally. The development of in-house residential services is progressing well which should in time reduce the reliance on external provision. Newport will continue to monitor this closely in 2020/21.

The Adult & Community Services budget also faces significant pressure due to increased demand. Adults are living longer with more complex conditions and these result in an increase in residential and supported living care and support arrangement as they need support on a 24 hour basis. Inflationary increases on care packages continues to place pressure on service budgets.

The annual budget in 2019/20 for social services was £71.2m. There is a well-developed financial management process in place across service areas that enables the identification and management of budget risks. This process supports medium term financial planning, ensuring that all relevant factors can be considered when budgets are set.

## Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
That the continuing and increasing demand for Social Services will bring unsustainable financial pressures.	H	M	We are maintaining strong financial controls on day to day decision making in the service and also develop services both in-house and in partnership which provide effective options to meet the increasing demand.	Chris Humphrey Director of Social Services/ Head of Adult and Community Services and Sally Jenkins, Head of Children and Family Services
That users and carers will not continue to have the opportunity to engage and contribute further to	H	L	The plan will be to continue to hold regular and frequent service user and carer forum meetings, as well as making use of a wide	Chris Humphrey, Director of Social Services, Head of Adult and Community Services and Sally

our understanding of their experience to inform the development of services in future years			variety of other consultative mechanisms that we have put in place for users and carers. We will continue to develop imaginative ways of capturing people's views, comments and experiences	Jenkins, Head of Children and Family Services
That we will need to recruit and retain staff with the skills and experience to deliver on our statutory responsibilities and support the independent and voluntary sector to do the same.	H	M	We continue to invest in our workforce in terms of training and development and work regionally to support the care sector.	Chris Humphrey, Director of Social Services, Head of Adult and Community Services and Sally Jenkins, Head of Children and Family Services

## Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- Newport City Council's Corporate Plan 2017–22.

## Options Available and considered

Option 1 - Council endorses the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services for 2019-20.

Option 2 – Council does not endorse the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services for 2019-20 and sets out specific reasons and recommendations for action.

## Preferred Option and Why

Option 1 as the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services is a statutory requirement whereby the Director provides their assessment of performance to the Council.

## Comments of Chief Financial Officer

The Director of Social Services annual report gives an overview of the performance of Social Services in 2019-20. Whilst there are no financial implications arising specifically from this report it is important that the service has an awareness and consideration of the financial position when making any decisions. Robust financial management will enable the appropriate funds to be available for the greatest need.

## Comments of Monitoring Officer

The Director of Social Services has a statutory duty under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (as amended by the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016) to produce an annual report to the Council, setting out his personal assessment of the performance of Social Services in delivering its social care functions during the preceding 12 months. This Annual report covers the financial year 2019/20 and has been prepared in accordance the Local Authority Social Services Annual Reports (Prescribed Form) (Wales) Regulations 2016 and statutory guidance, as set out in the Local



Authority Annual Social Services Report guidance document. The Report also sets the Director's assessment of how well the Council has promoted and delivered well-being standards for service users and carers in need of care and support, in accordance with the six well-being outcomes. The Report confirms that the Director of Social Services is satisfied that the Council continues to make good progress in implementing the Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, in a structured and programmed manner, and is meeting the requirements of the Future Generations and Well Being Act and the corporate well-being objectives. This statutory Annual Report reflects the Director's personal assessment of the performance of Social Services and is, therefore, being presented to Cabinet for information purposes and not for comment or amendment.

## **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

This report sets out the Director of Social Services' own assessment of the performance of Social Services in 2019/20 as part of the statutory role. Whilst there are no direct staffing implications that arise specifically from the report there are potentially implications in the future, either as a result of on-going financial uncertainty or the further implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act or Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. These will need to be considered as they arise and are not the purpose of this report.

## **Comments of Cabinet Member**

The Cabinet Member supports the content of this Report.

## **Local issues**

City-wide report

## **Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010**

Not applicable to this report

## **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

Not applicable to this report

## **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

This report sets out how Social Services has responded to the following requirements:

- Long term: the importance of balancing short- term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long – term needs
- Prevention: How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help us meet our objectives
- Integration: Consider how the proposals will impact on our wellbeing objectives, our wellbeing goals, other objectives or those of other public bodies
- Collaboration: have you considered how acting in collaboration with any other person or any other part of our organisation could help meet our wellbeing objectives
- Involvement: The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the wellbeing goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the City we serve.

## **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Not applicable to this report

## **Consultation**

There is a continuing programme throughout the year of meeting with users and carers to help people make their contribution to the continuing intelligence supporting the Director's Annual Report.

## **Background Papers**

None.

# **Report of the Director of Social Services 2019/20**



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## **1. Introduction**

2019/20 was another demanding year characterised by the maintenance of quality and standards of service delivery and the beginning of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The task of embedding the Social Services and Well-Being(Wales) Act 2014 continues to influence the provision of Early Intervention and Preventative services and in the ongoing work to manage demand. The well-being objectives wind through all Social Services operations and tie closely to the Newport City Council (NCC) Corporate Plan, notably:

- To improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities.
- To enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient.
- To build cohesive & sustainable communities.

There is a continuous striving to minimise costs and identify savings. In Childrens Services efforts have continued to address the shortage of placement options with a new 4 bed residential home now in operation with 2 more services planned for 2021/22. The preventative work to minimise the number of children becoming Looked After continues to develop with new and innovative practices such as Baby & Me and Family Group Conferencing.

Work in Adult and Community Services continues to focus on improving and developing integrated working between health and social care with the Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) and the Transformation Fund being key enablers. The collaborative work to minimise the number of delayed hospital discharges has further developed with the combined impact of Home First and the improvement and expansion of the Reablement service delivering a strong year end position.

Newport was the pilot city for the new joint inspection arrangements in Wales and the review of multi agency responses to child abuse and exploitation was positive with the conclusion that agencies share information effectively.

The Coronavirus Pandemic brought unprecedented challenge across the range of services but older persons residential homes were impacted early on as Newport experienced high numbers of cases before preventative measures were in place.

At the time of writing significant changes to the way services are being delivered has been implemented in order to maintain levels of essential support.

At this stage we are still in the midst of a crisis and uncertain about how the medium to long term impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic will affect the community and how we deliver our services.

## **2. Summary of Performance 2019/20**

This is the fifth year of reporting against the measures introduced by the Welsh Government (WG) following the introduction of the Social Services and Well-Being Act in 2016. Anomalies within the reporting framework have been identified and regional and national discussions have highlighted differences in the ways that Local Authorities are recording their activity.

These anomalies, along with the rollout of the Welsh Community Care and Information System (WCCIS) have required a review of performance measures and Newport City Council (NCC) has been involved in national discussions led by WG to develop new recording and reporting requirements.

A new performance framework was originally planned for implementation during 2018/19 year but it was delayed until April 2020. Unfortunately, the onset of the Coronavirus Pandemic in March 2020 has led to a further delay.

NCC have started to develop the WCCIS system to capture the new data but the Welsh Government guidance has not yet been published so full implementation is now scheduled for April 2021

### **End of Year Performance Figures for Adult and Community Services**

The table of measures shown are all subject to change or will be removed from the new performance framework.

Work has continue to progress to embed the recording and reporting mechanisms for the new framework that will be implemented in 2021 but as yet the final guidance has not yet been published.

Notwithstanding the above it must be noted that adult services has experienced significant additional demand during 2019/20. The number of people receiving assessments was 4038, an increase of 891 from 2018/19

Hospital discharge figures are within target and is a result of close collaboration with Health and the continued effectiveness of In Reach and Reablement. The preventative approach of Home First has also become embedded into practice and is having an impact on the overall flow of patients through the hospital.

The First Contact team continues to offer information, advice and assistance and signposts people to prevent the need for statutory provision. The links to the Community Connector service ensures that the team are well informed about local support groups and social activities

4,588 citizens received advice and assistance from First Contact in 2019/20

Adults Measures	Target	Results & Comments
% of adult protection enquiries completed within 7 days	90%	99.9% (Improving) 901 enquiries 900 completed within 7 working days  Several new measures proposed next year to capture the quality of response as well as the timeliness
The rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1 1,000 population aged 75 or over	6	5.10 (strong performance -low is good, high is bad)  Reported within Public Accountability Measures PAMS next year
% of adults who completed a period of Reablement and have a reduced package of care and support 6 months later	50%	4.6%  (the guidance for this measure has changed it now includes everyone who received Reablement whereas previously it was limited to those with a care and support plan)  Reablement measures are retained within the new framework but different reporting criteria to measure the impact of intervention at the end rather than 6 months later
% of adults who completed a period of Reablement and have no package of care and support 6 months later	50%	77.2% (strong performance –the target for both Reablement measures require updating but the impact of the intervention can be identified if both figures are added together i.e.  $77.2\% + 4.6\% = 81.8\%$ of people who received a Reablement service did not require or reduced the need for ongoing care & support

The average length of time in days adults (aged 65 or over) are supported in care homes	1,100 days (approximately 3 years)	826.9 days = 2yrs & 3 months, target is 3 years  Strong performance (high is bad low is good) and represents people being successfully supported in the community for as long as possible.  <b>This measure has been removed from the new performance framework by WG.</b>
Average age of adults entering care homes	75 years	84.yrs (high is good low is bad)  Supports the above measure in that people are supported successfully in the community and average age of entry to residential care is higher than the average.  <b>This measure has been removed from the new performance framework by WG.</b>
% of adults who have received advice and assistance and have not contacted the service again within 6 months	40%	This was not reported at year end because the requirement was suspended by Welsh Government due to the Coronavirus Pandemic  We know that during 2019/20 4,588 citizens received advice and support from the First Contact team  <b>This measure has now been removed from the performance framework by WG. There are a new set of indicators that aim to identify demand and measure the effectiveness of the response</b>

**NB: This performance report is restricted to the measures required by WG and is the benchmark for comparison between all Welsh Local Authorities. Inconsistent interpretation and methodology around**



**recording and reporting practice means that the comparison across Wales is not robust.**

## **End of Year Performance Figures for Children and Young People's Services**

The table of measures shown are all subject to change or will be removed from the new performance framework.

Work has continue to progress to embed the recording and reporting mechanisms for the new framework that will be implemented in 2021 but as yet the final guidance has not yet been published.

Notwithstanding the above it must be noted that children's services has experienced significant additional demand during 2019/20. The number of children receiving assessments was 5944 an increase of 919 from 2018/19

The continuing development of additional residential placements, and the ongoing efforts to recruit Foster Carers will improve capacity and enable more children to remain within the City.

Family Group Conferencing and Baby & Me as new additions to the range of preventative services are enabling families to stay together. The percentage of families supported to remain together during 2019/20 is 58%, despite a significant increase in the number of referrals during the year.

<b>Children's Measures</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Results &amp; Comments</b>
% of assessments completed for children within statutory timescales	90%	89.25% 5944 completed in total 5302 completed within timescales
% of children supported to remain living with their family at 31 <sup>st</sup> March	65%	58% - improved <b>This measure has now been removed from the performance framework by WG. There is a new set of indicators for looked after children – to monitor placement arrangements</b>
% of Looked After Children returned home from care during the year	13%	9.35% All children are regularly reviewed and their circumstances assessed to ensure the best outcome

% or re-registrations of children on Local Authority Child Protection Registers (CPR)	10%	1.1% Strong & improving performance (low is good high is bad)
The average length of time for all children who were on the Child Protection Register during the year	260 days	260.8 days Strong & improving performance (low is good high is bad)
% of children achieving the core subject indicator at key stage 2. <b>This KPI is populated by WG based on Education data – due to COVID 19 it has not been provided for 19/20</b>	60%	<b>This measure has now been removed from the performance framework by WG with the intention of linking the data in the annual child requiring care and support census to the returns submitted by Education</b>
% of children achieving the core subject indicator at key stage 4  <b>This KPI is populated by WG based on Education data – due to COVID 19 it has not been provided for 19/20</b>	5%	<b>This measure has now been removed from the performance framework by WG with the intention of linking the data in the annual child requiring care and support census to the returns submitted by Education</b>
% of children seen by a registered dentist within 3 months of becoming Looked After	40%	This data is usually collected manually and because of Covid was not provided for 19/20  <b>This measure has now been removed from the performance framework by WG</b>
% of children looked after at 31 <sup>st</sup> March who were registered with a GP within 10 working days of the start of their placement  .	90%	54.34% - this is not felt to be a representative figure as the usual verification process could not take place because of the Coronavirus Pandemic  <b>This measure has now been removed from the performance framework by WG</b>

% of looked after children who have had 1 or more changes of school	12%	This data was not collected during 2019/20  <b>This measure has now been removed from the performance framework by WG with the intention of linking the data in the annual child requiring care and support census to the returns submitted by Education</b>
% of looked after children who have had 3 or more placements	9%	11.84% (improved)
Care leavers who are in education, training or employment at 12 months	50%	15.8% this is not felt to be a representative figure as the usual verification process could not take place because of the Coronavirus Pandemic  <b>This measure has now been removed from the performance framework by WG</b>
Care leavers who are in education, training or employment at 24 months	50%	48.48% (historically better outcome at 24 months)  <b>This measure has now been removed from the performance framework by WG –</b>  The new framework requires the measurement of those who have completed 3 consecutive months of education or training
% of care leavers who have experienced homelessness during the year	10%	Manual collection –  <b>annual reporting requirement suspended by Welsh Government due to the Coronavirus Pandemic</b>
Number of first time entrants into the youth justice system	79	25 (Strong & Improving)  Children continue to be offered the opportunity of being diverted away from the Youth Justice System, by receiving a Community Resolution

		Disposal. This means the child is not criminalised and will continue to receive an intervention from the Youth Justice Service.
Number of young people sentenced to custody	25	0 (Strong & Improving)  No Child from Newport has been sentenced to Custody since December 2018
Young people out of court disposals re-offend within 12 months	30%	14% (Strong & Improving)  The re-offending rate, for children issued with out of court disposals between 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 is at 14%, this based on a cohort of 120 young people with 17 re-offending.  <b>NB: This figure is 12 months behind as reoffending rates are tracked over a 12 month period</b>
Young people statutory orders who re-offend within 12 months	50%	39% (Improving)  <b>NB: This figure is 12 months behind as reoffending rates are tracked over a 12 month period</b>

**NB: This performance report is restricted to the measures required by WG in 2019/20 and is the benchmark for comparison between all Welsh Local Authorities. Inconsistent interpretation and methodology around recording and reporting practice means that the comparison across Wales is not robust.**

**The implementation of the new performance framework originally due to go live in April 2020 has been delayed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The final guidance is yet to be published by Welsh Government but work is ongoing regionally and locally to prepare for the new measures that includes making changes to recording and reporting systems (WCCIS)**

### **3. How Are People Shaping Our Services?**

Newport City Council is committed to ensuring that people are able to have a say in how they receive support and how services will be developed and delivered in the future.

Some examples of how we do this are:

- Co-production in the assessment process to enable citizens to express their preferences around how support will be delivered.
- Contract monitoring processes where the views of citizens who receive services are sought and providers are contractually required to gather feedback and comments to inform service development.
- Citizen engagement/involvement in the commissioning process
- Complaints and compliments.
- Consultation events and citizen forums
- Provider Forums and engagement processes
- Feedback from inspections.
- Engagement with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).
- Active promotion of voice of the child

### **Consultation events in 2019/20**

These included:

- Gwent Safeguarding Children's Board held a consultation day for 250 children and young people in the Celtic Manor on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 discussing issues such as mental health, bullying and knife crime
- The over 50's Information Day was held in Newport Centre in October 2019, attended by 1,000 citizens and 115 organisations.
- The Carers Network, meetings and drop-ins throughout the year building peer support and providing opportunities to engage with the Local Authority and community groups.
- Carers Week 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – various activities
- Carers Rights Day was held in November 2019 – 65 carers attended and 15 partner agencies
- The NCC team of Connectors attended community events during the year
- Annual public budget consultation process in December 2019.
- Regular feedback obtained from children and adults living in NCC residential homes at house meetings.
- The Cabinet Member for Social Services is very active at community level and is a regular attendee of events and meetings across the full range of client groups.

**Welsh Government agreed that Local Authorities were not required to undertake a citizens survey during 2019/20 as there have been issues with the questions and process that have not been resolved. The statutory reporting requirement is currently under review.**

**NB: The Public Accountability Measure linked to satisfaction with Care and Support is deleted for 19/20.**

## **Regulation & Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (Risca)**

This legislation requires the appointment of a responsible individual (RI).

- To oversee the management of the registered service;
- To provide assurance that the service is safe, well run and complies with regulations
- To ensure the service has a manager, sufficient resources & support;
- The RI is **NOT** responsible for the day-to-day management of the service.

The RI is required to provide a quality of care report that was due for submission to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) in May 2020. This report was deferred for 12 months as a consequence of the Coronavirus Pandemic so it will be produced in 2021 and considered by the Council's democratic process.

## **Care Inspectorate Wales Inspections 2019/20**

### **Adult Services**

#### **Spring Gardens January 2020**

CIW reported that residents were satisfied with the care and support provided at the home.

"We found the home to be comfortable and the environment met the needs of people living there. We observed that staff knew people well, were responsive to their needs and we saw people having opportunities to take part in activities that interested them. Staff and management demonstrated a commitment to providing a good quality service and they had a range of policies and processes in place to help them achieve this"

#### **Areas for improvement:**

- Recording – greater detail required in some areas.
- Recruitment – process to be reviewed by the Responsible Individual to ensure staffing regulations continue to be compliant.
- Appraisal – to extend the system in place for managers and supervisors to all staff

#### **Blaen-y-pant January 2020**

CIW reported that the service offers a clean, welcoming environment where people are provided with care in a respectful and dignified manner.

"They are kept safe and assisted to maintain their health and well-being. Residents were supported by staff who were familiar, trained and had good knowledge of each individual. The management had good oversight of the service and systems in place to offer reassurance and monitor effectiveness. The manager recognises that the service has areas that

require development and is proactive in welcoming feedback to secure improvement

Areas for improvement:

- Recording – personal plans/details of activities/medication/fluid and nutritional intake
- Laundry system requires further improvement to ensure all residents get the right clothes
- Security – cleaning materials should be kept safe.

**Parklands August 2019**

CIW reported that people living at Parklands were satisfied with the care they receive.

“Staff are well-trained and most staff were happy working at the service. Management is effective within the home, but improvements are required to ensure quality assurance is monitored effectively”

“People are accommodated in a clean, warm and welcoming environment and have access to some social engagement and interaction, but consideration to a dedicated activity co-ordinator is recommended, to ensure that people meet their personal well-being outcomes”

Areas for improvement:

- Internal quality assurance audits
- Security – window fixings
- Availability of special diets.
- Medication administration
- Recommended a lead person for activity co ordination
- Update Statement of Purpose
- Deployment of staff

**Children’s Services**

**Rose Cottage September 2019**

CIW reported that the relationships between staff and the young people were warm and caring with staff dedicated and committed to each young person and their well-being

“Good attention was given to education and health care needs and we saw positive outcomes for young people. Staff are trained and supported to fulfil their roles and there were good management and monitoring arrangements in place.”

Areas for improvement

- Recording processes need to be properly established

### **Oaklands November 2019**

CIW reported that care provided at Oaklands is good and they acknowledged that significant investment had been made to refurbish the building and improve the environment for the children.

“Children who stay at Oaklands experience a good level of care”

#### **Areas for improvement**

- Further attention needed to ensure the compatibility of young people who attend together

### **Cambridge House July 2019**

CIW reported that staff were young person focused

“We found the relationships between staff and young people warm and caring with staff dedicated and committed to each of the young people”

#### **Areas for improvement**

- Internet access needs to be improved for the benefit of the young people
- The home was not compliant with Reg 80(2) because a review of the quality of service needs to be undertaken every six months with recommendations for improvement

### **Forest Lodge February 2020**

CIW reported that the home was found to be non-compliant

“we saw examples of some positive interaction between staff and young people although the impact of this does not consistently result in positive outcomes for young people”

#### **Areas for improvement**

- Medication management
- Provision of care and support in a way that promotes and maintains the safety and well being of young people.

**NB: Improvement plans are in place and subject to ongoing review**

The full reports can be found on the CIW website

<https://careinspectorate.wales/our-reports/regulated-services-inspection-reports>



## **Joint Inspection of Child Protection Arrangements December 2019**

Between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019 the Care Inspectorate Wales, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales, Probation, Police, Fire & Rescue and Estyn carried out a joint inspection of the multi agency response to abuse and neglect in Newport.

Newport was the pilot city for the new inspection arrangements in Wales. This new approach included a deep dive into the circumstances of 7 children aged between 13 and 17 years to measure the effectiveness of how all partners had responded and worked together.

*"During our inspection we met with highly committed and motivated professionals who demonstrated a good understanding of the nature of work in relation to children and families who are at risk or are experiencing exploitation. We recognised the complex nature of this work".*

### **Findings:**

- Agencies share information effectively and in a timely way
- The Childrens Service management team were seen as being supportive to staff and there was evidence of a 'no blame culture'
- Social Workers demonstrated an effectiveness at building relationships with the families they work with

*"Children told us they had been able to form good relationships with professionals working with them from across a range of agencies. We were told about some social workers having long- standing relationships with young people. Research points to the importance of young people having strong relationships with a key individual, so this is a significant finding" (p8*

The report highlighted the following areas of practice as positive:

- Development and implementation of the risk assessment tool for child exploitation as part of multi agency practice
- The safeguarding hub model
- How the NCC childrens homes support young people

## **Overview of complaints 2019/20**

A Stage 1 complaint is for local resolution within 10 working days.

Following Stage 1, if the complainant remains dissatisfied they can request to proceed to Stage 2. This involves a formal investigation conducted by an independent investigator at a cost to the Local Authority.

Following Stage 2, if the complainant remains dissatisfied they are advised to proceed to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW)

During 2019/20, the Complaints Service received **148** Social Services complaints, **19 more than last year**

Adults' Services –

- **83** complaints
- **82** were **resolved** at stage 1
- **1** proceeded to **stage 2**
- **1 resolved**

Children's Services –

- **65** complaints:
- **61** were **resolved** at stage 1
- **4** proceeded to **stage 2**
- **1 resolved - 1 not upheld - 1 partly upheld - 1 ongoing**

It should be noted that although the number of complaints received has increased there are fewer proceeding to stage 2, thereby indicating improved complaints handling and resolution procedures

No complaints were referred to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW)

**Recommendations for service improvement as a consequence of complaints management.**

- The specific communication needs of the complainant must be considered
- Mandatory Data Protection re-training provided to all staff involved in Complaints.

**Overview of compliments 2019/20**

Adults' Services received **13 – 3 more than last year**

Children's Services received **0**

**"Please accept my sincere thanks for all your kindness and consideration during my recent incapacitation. I will always be grateful**

**(Reablement)**

**"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all concerned with the adaptation of my bathroom. The help and assistance I received was second to none**

**(Occupational Therapy Team)**

#### **4. Promoting & Improving the Well-being of Those We Help**

##### **Quality Standard 1 – Working with people to define and co-produce personal well-being outcomes that people wish to achieve**

Throughout 2019/20 NCC's Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) Service had meaningful conversations with service users, their families and carers about what really matters to them. Conversations with our IAA staff are strengths based, meaning that we work with people to regain or maintain their independence and encourage them to utilise their own skills and networks to achieve their desired outcomes.

In order to respond appropriately to the wide range of adult enquiries, our First Contact Service is a multi-disciplinary team with co-located specialist officers who offer on-the-spot advice and assistance to citizens in the following areas:

- Safeguarding;
- Occupational Therapy;
- Housing advice;
- Sensory impairment;
- Independent living – Direct Payments;
- Financial advice.
- Community Connectors

There are plans to further extend the services available within First Contact to strengthen the preventative focus of IAA by ensuring citizens get the right advice and support at the earliest opportunity. During 2020/21 Physiotherapy, Falls and Reablement services will be added to the multi-disciplinary First Contact team

IAA has been successfully extended to the hospital environment and is an integral part of the following 2 components of hospital discharge that contributes to effective patient flow:

- **In Reach** - Targeted engagement with patients and families whilst still on the ward ensures safe discharge arrangements are co-produced to maximise independence, identify well-being outcomes and sign post or refer to appropriate ongoing community based provision
- **Home First** - The offer of IAA is a critical feature of this regional service, hosted by Newport City Council. It offers IAA and low-level care support to patients within the hospital with the aim of preventing admission and encouraging citizens to seek support from alternative sources if it is deemed appropriate and safe

In 2019/20 **4,588 citizens received advice and assistance** from the First Contact Team

Where the First Contact Team are unable to meet the needs of citizens through the provision of Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) via a proportionate assessment, an integrated assessment is offered that further explores the person's eligible needs and works with the individual on how best to meet them.

The following figures represent the full range of assessment activity during the year (proportionate and integrated):

- **4038 adult assessments**
- **Number increased by 891** (3147 in 2018/19)
- **5944 children assessments**
- **Number increased by 919** (5025 in 2018/19)
- **188 carers assessments**
- **Number increased by 135** (71 in 2018/19)

It is important to acknowledge that the majority of contacts for Children's Services are from professionals and as a result the 'what matters' conversations with the child and/or their family are unable to take place until an assessment for Care and Support has commenced.

- Children participate fully in their foster care placement reviews.

A guiding principle is the promotion and maintenance of independence. For Children's Services, this means supporting families to stay together and maintaining children within their homes and communities wherever it is safe to do so. This is underpinned by timely assessments of need and creative solutions being sought to help keep families together.

- **89.2%** of children assessments were completed within the statutory timescale (4% less than last year)
- **58%** of children were supported to remain with their family (1% more than last year)

Barnardo's currently deliver an **Integrated Family Support Service** in partnership with NCC.

The partnership has developed innovative approaches to prevent children coming into care that were established in 2019/20

Every young person who is involved in the child protection process or who are Looked After has access to the which is the opportunity to speak with an advocate.

**The National Youth Advocacy Service** (NYAS) provides a regional advocacy service. Every Newport child who is involved in the child protection process or who is Looked After has access to the **statutory active offer** and has the opportunity to speak to an advocate to ensure their voice is heard.

**Dewis** is commissioned to provide an independent advocacy service to adults. In 2019/20 they supported **54 adults** with a range of issues such as accommodation, finance, representation and safeguarding

**The Community Connector team** continues to offer support to citizens who may be socially isolated to gain independence and to improve their well-being based on what matters to them.

- Newport's team of **six Connectors** provided a service to a total number of **2,007 citizens** during 2019/20 with information, telephone advice and 1:1 support.
- The Connectors offer specialist support to BAME communities including work with asylum seekers, refugees and migrants to enable access to social activities, volunteering and learning and employment opportunities.
- **941 BAME citizens were supported during 2019/20**
- **12 BAME groups were supported to access grant funding**

**"May I say many thanks for your help and understanding,  
I feel you went over and above and for that we thank  
you."**

The Community Connectors and our Third Sector partners continue to update the **DEWIS** database that contains local and national information. Newport has 538 live resources on the site, an increase of 10 from last year.

There has been a slight decrease of database use during 2019/20

- **4,904 views per month compared to 5,237 in 2018/19**
- **At the time of writing this report the database usage has significantly increased as citizens refer to the site during the pandemic – this demonstrates DEWIS remains a trusted source of community information**

The Connectors distribute quarterly newsletters

- to raise awareness of social isolation,
- to provide information on local groups
- to promote activities and community events
- to signpost citizens to information sources

**NCC Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024:**  
Objective 6 Independent Living Outcome 2

**People are empowered to play an active  
role in their communities**

Occupational Therapists (OT) provide assessments to support people to remain physically independent within the home environment. An OT is based within our First Contact team to ensure appropriate advice is available for citizens at the earliest opportunity.

Funding was received by NCC from the **Intermediate Care Fund** in 2019/20 to employ an OT who will undertake specialist work with 17 to 25 year olds to support the transition from the children's disability team into adulthood with the intention of maximising independent living and personal choice.

The OT team currently co-ordinate the telecare service that was established in 2019/20 in partnership with Monmouthshire and Caerphilly Local Authorities. The provision of equipment supports independence and ensures community safety

**In 2019/20 32 Newport citizens were provided with telecare equipment to help them remain independent at home**

**Ask SARA** - an easy to use online self-help guide providing information about equipment for independent living. The site provides an overview of what is available and how to obtain it.

Newport was the first Local Authority in Wales to adopt Ask SARA and it has now been launched Gwent wide.

**The Newport Support Partnership (NSP)** has been operating since September 2016, it is a consortium arrangement comprising of four Third Sector providers who offer a range of services including advocacy, information, advice and assistance, community support, a sitting service and volunteering opportunities. The emphasis is prevention and early intervention to support well-being and promote independence. Any Newport resident can self refer.

- NSP received **964 enquiries** during 2019/20
- **132 people** received specialist advocacy services (DEWIS)
- **187 people were provided with a sitting service** (Reach & Volunteering Matters)
- **96 people** were offered community support (Reach & Volunteering Matters)
- **1100** people received financial advice and assistance (Citizens Advice Bureau)

These services were subject to review during 2019/20 and it was found that the way that people were accessing the services was not via the single point of contact that the consortium intended to offer. Reviews of individuals in receipt of services were undertaken and it was felt that to separate out the consortium would be the best way to ensure equal access to provision.

Consultation with providers was undertaken during the year and it was agreed to end the consortium arrangement but to retain some of the services as single contracts

- Citizens Advice Bureau – financial advice and support

- Pobl – carers respite service
- Volunteering Matters – community support
- Dewis – advocacy support

These new single arrangements provided the opportunity to consolidate funding streams such as Corporate grants, Families First and Housing Support into a single contract with integrated contract monitoring, management and payment processes. At the time of writing these arrangements are in development but services have continued throughout the pandemic with providers modifying their offer to ensure they remain connected to those in need of support.

**The Carers Network** aims to offer information, advice and support for Newport citizens in a way that suits their individual requirements. The focus is on helping people access services and identify community-based options. Newsletters and updates are sent out via email and available on the website to reach those who are unable to attend the quarterly meetings

The Newport Carers Network has **510** members.

In 2019/20 there were

- The Carers Network benefited from **25** new signups
- **188** new carer's assessments were undertaken in 2019/20 – 117 more than last year
- **A Carers Handbook** was launched this year

Carers Week 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June 2019

- **86** carers participated in well-being activities such as an art class, a walk in the park and a Theatre trip.

**"Good fun. Staff excellent, company good"**

**The Carers Network** has increased opportunities for citizens with caring responsibilities to obtain information, advice and support from Newport City Council. During 2019/20:

- The community connectors provided information, advice and assistance to **422 carers**. (135 more than last year)
- The community connectors engaged with **376 carers** at community events and drop ins such as the monthly **Carers Café** that offers time out, peer support and information and advice

### **Priorities for 2020/21**

- To further develop the First Contact team into an Information Advice and Assistance (IAA) hub consisting of co-located Social Care, Health and partner organisations
- To continue to develop the OT service;
  - supporting 17 to 25 year-olds in the transition to adulthood.
  - develop knowledge around new technological aids and work with citizens to support their independence
- To develop the integrated third sector contracts to maximise funding opportunities and ensure citizens have equal access to services.
- To ensure the services provided by NCC continues to compliment the work that is being undertaken to expand the well-being network within the City that aims to increase information, advice and support options for all citizens

#### **NCC Corporate Plan 2017-2022:**

"We will support the development of health and well-being hubs which can provide day and work opportunities, carers respite, social prescribing and care closer to home."

### **Quality Standard 2 – Working with people & partners to protect and promote people's physical and mental health and emotional well-being**

A key priority in 2018/19 was to open new residential services for children in Newport to reduce the number of out of county placements.

Rose Cottage, a 4-bedroom residential home opened in January 2019 and 4 children who were previously living out of the area were able to return to Newport. The Inspection undertaken by CIW in September 2019 was positive.

Capital funding has been received from the Intermediate care Fund (ICF) and planning is underway to open 2 more residential homes for children in crisis.

- **Rosedale** – a 4 bed property due to open in November 2021
- **Windmill Farm** – a 4 bed property due to open in 2021

These 2 settings will increase opportunities for children to remain close to their family networks and plans are already in place to bring a child back from an out of county setting where previously there were no local placements available.



Newport are active partners in the Gwent-wide Children and Families Strategic Partnership and has a positive working relationship South East Wales Regional Adoption Collaborative.

- In 2019/20 permanent and stable futures were secured for **20 children through adoption.**

Newport has more looked-after-children placed with in house foster carers than with foster placements purchased from Independent Fostering Agencies. This is in contrast to most other Welsh Authorities. Nationally there is a decreasing foster carer cohort, which is naturally leading to the requirement for more placements in residential and secure accommodation. This results in possibly less favourable options for children who would be better served within a family environment and leads to increased costs.

Newport is actively participating in the National Fostering Framework (NFF) Phase 3 work programme that aims to increase the number of Local Authority foster placements across Wales to increase the range and quality of options available for children who are looked after.

**NCC Corporate Plan 2017-2022:**

"We will reduce out of county children's social care placements by 25%."

### **Recruitment & Retention of Foster Carers**

- In February 2020 Cabinet agreed to increase the payment rates in an attempt to retain foster carers. The new rates were implemented in April 2020
- A regional recruitment campaign is ongoing and social media is being utilised to ensure wider engagement. There were **6 new approved foster carers** in 2019/20
- As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, there were **248 approved foster placements** available in Newport.
- This number includes:
  - Connected Person Carers (formerly known as kinship foster carers who take on the responsibility for children who are part of their extended family or network group.
  - Respite placements and supported lodgings

- NCC continues to invest in foster carers as an alternative to residential placements. Work will continue to place children in family settings with better support in the form of MyST (My Support Team). This multi agency approach to the provision of a therapeutic service for children with complex needs will serve to better support foster carers and prevent placement breakdown. Implementation of MyST is planned for 2020/21
- During 2019/20 Barnardo's provided support to **330 families and 774 children**, thereby greatly contributing to the **58%** of children that were able to remain with their family.

**The Young Carers' Service** is delivered by Barnardo's to ensure young people who care for family members have an opportunity to engage with their peers, achieve their personal development goals and get appropriate respite from their role as primary carer. Barnardo's offer time out activities for young carers who often face social isolation and low self esteem. Each young person has a personal plan based on what matters to them.

Barnardo's also run a youth club for young carers aged over 14.

- **299** young carers were supported in 2019/20

#### **Young Carers Awareness Day – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

- Celebrated with a trip to the Cardiff Escape Rooms, a meal out for the older group and the younger carers enjoyed pottery and art activities.

**"It helped me take my mind off my problems"**

**"I enjoyed trying something new. It's enjoyable to get a break from caring"**

**"I made new friends and I enjoyed painting"**

#### **The Youth Justice Service (YJS)**

The Welsh Government Youth Justice Blueprint published in 2019 has helped to significantly re focus the work of the YJS in Newport, as the transformation of the service continues.

Building on improved child focussed practice already underway, the Blueprint sets out the vision for youth justice in Wales. Key guiding principles for the implementation of the Blueprint include;

- Ensuring a 'children first' approach to youth justice
- Ensure youth justice is child-centred rather than service focused
- Ensure that it meets the individual needs of children and responds to their best interests
- Taking a trauma-informed approach throughout the various stages of the youth justice system, from prevention and early intervention to resettlement from custody, recognising and responding to adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) and indicators of complex need.

### **The service continues to improve performance**

- Numbers of children entering the CJ system for the first time, only **25** new entrants in 2019/20 (54 below target – low is good)
- Numbers of children receiving a custodial sentence **0** in 2019/20 – this cannot be improved upon and is the lowest ever recorded in Newport.

### **YJS Priorities for 20/21**

- Development of an online training course for volunteers to contribute to the delivery of the Youth Justice Service. This is in response to Covid-19 restrictions
- Development of Participation and Engagement role within the service to meaningfully involve children and their families with service developments
- Addressing the BAME agenda with clarity of actions and collaboration with key partners
- Embedding trauma informed practices (TIP) within all assessments, reports and care planning.
- Continuation of overhauling all service processes and systems to ensure the service is working towards an 'Inspection ready' position

### **Delayed Transfer of Care (DToC)**

A delayed transfer of care is experienced by a hospital patient that is ready to be discharged to move to the next stage of care but is prevented from doing so.

The measure is defined as the rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1,000 population aged 75 or over.

- Year-end performance in Newport was strong **5.10 against a target of 6** (low is good high is bad)

This represents the effectiveness of the ongoing management strategy that seeks, in partnership with Health, to minimise the number of people who cannot come out of hospital because they don't have the right social care services.

**Reablement** supports hospital discharge operates as a fully integrated health and social care service in St Woolos and the Royal Gwent Hospital.

The service operates as an Intake model, which means that everyone who has not previously had a care package has a period of Reablement first to ensure his or her independence skills are maximised. This means that people are encouraged and supported to do as much as they can for themselves, which has a positive impact on their physical and mental wellbeing.

- **The combined total for those who were discharged from the Reablement service in 2019/20 with no care and support plan or a reduction in their care is 81.8%, representing a high level of success.**

**NB the measure for reporting this data has changed and in 20/21 will focus on the outcome at the end of the intervention rather than after 6 months.**

The Reablement service has implemented improvements in 2019/20 as follows:

- Development of a duty hub to co-ordinate and fast track daily queries
- Implementation of new software that improves access to patient information

**Home First** - Newport City Council are hosting and managing the service based in A&E at the Royal Gwent and Neville Hall Hospitals. It involves the offer of proportionate assessments (IAA) for patients within pre-admission wards, regardless of where they live in Gwent.

- **Home First received 2714 referrals between 01/04/19 and 31/02/20**
- **Home First safely discharged 1167 people between 01/04/19 and 31/02/20**

**NB: The above data covers an 11 month period due to the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic in March 2020**

**Intermediate Care Unit at Parklands Care Home** (*Step Up Step Down*) benefited from Intermediate Care Funding (ICF) in 2019/20 to increase the number of beds available from 10 to 15

The facility supports early discharge from acute hospital beds and also prevents hospital admission by offering intensive rehabilitation and assessment

**"Helped me back to independence. Helped me back to quality of life. First class, a big thank you to all concerned. I'm very grateful"**

- Feedback Forms demonstrated that:
  - **23 out of 23 respondents stated that they felt fully involved in decisions about their care and support**

**Domiciliary Care** provision is provided through Newport with approximately 30 independent providers operating in the city. Despite the relative stability within the market, recruitment remains an ongoing problem across the region. NCC Commissioners negotiate annual fees with providers that reflect the true cost of care to support the retention of a skilled and committed social care workforce.

The impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on services will be evaluated throughout 2020. Immediate issues and threats to service delivery included

- shortages of PPE and hugely inflated costs
- concerns around service continuity if large numbers in the social care workforce became ill
- citizens concerns about having carers in their home leading to cancelled calls and escalating risks
- the long term financial stability of the sector

## **Mental Health**

There is increasing pressure on mental health services and the Coronavirus Pandemic has created further immediate demand with an expectation that resources will continue to be challenged

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 NCC has 8.5 Adult Mental Health Professionals (AMHP's) with 2 more staff members undertaking training.

## **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLs)**

Is the procedure prescribed in law when it is necessary to deprive a person of their liberty who lacks capacity to consent to the care that is required to keep them safe.

It requires Social Services to undertake a mental capacity and best interest assessment for each person where this applies

### 2019/20

- 377 DoLs assessments undertaken (102 more than last year)
- 344 on the waiting list at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 (201 less than last year)

A new model for authorising the Deprivation of Liberty for those receiving care was due to come into effect in 2020 but this has now been delayed until March 2022 – Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) are included in the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 and will place additional responsibilities onto Local Authorities.

NCC commissions a service from **Mind** that offers support to prevent a deterioration in mental health. The service offers practical advice and signposting to other agencies and self management courses to help with stress and anxiety.

During the lockdown Mind have undertaken active monitoring with their service users. Groups have continued to run via Zoom and activity packs and food parcels have been delivered.

**Growing Space** as an NCC commissioned mental health service provider has also kept services running throughout lockdown with zoom calls and outreach visits to monitor well being and offer ongoing practical support.

### **Priorities for 2020/21**

- Reablement – review patient information to improve understanding of the service
- Reablement – to develop a specialist dementia service with links to the memory clinic and older persons mental health teams
- To complete the work already started around increasing placement capacity for children within the city (Rosedale & Windmill Farm)
- To continue to increase capacity within the in-house foster care service, improve training and support for carers and reduce pressure on external foster and/or residential placements
- To fully implement the MyST service to support children with complex needs and their Foster carers.
- To continue to offer support to children who are looked after in partnership with Barnardo's to prevent placement breakdown.
- To continue to develop discharge pathways to ensure people are supported to leave hospital as soon as possible with an appropriate package of care that supports continued independence
- To continue to identify and support carers.
- To ensure our staff are sufficiently trained and prepared for the introduction of the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019.
- To work with our mental health partners in both the statutory and independent sector to establish a clear pathway into preventative services.
- To continue to support the health and social care sector through the Career College Consortium

### **Quality Standard 3 – Taking Steps to Protect & Safeguard People from Abuse, Neglect or Harm**

Safeguarding vulnerable children, young people and adults will continue to be a priority.

A full report on Corporate Safeguarding was due to be presented to Scrutiny in March 2020. It was delayed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic but is available on the Council's website. Safeguarding is intrinsically embedded within the Well

Being of Future Generations Act 2015, with the requirement for public bodies to ensure citizens are safe. The Social Services and Well Being Act strengthens the safeguarding and protection of both adults and children.

Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults is a corporate priority and Newport is an active member of each of the two Regional Safeguarding Boards that have amalgamated under the umbrella of "Gwent Safeguarding".

Newport Officers are also part of the regional Violence against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board and the regional Adult & Children's Safeguarding Boards.

**99.9%** of adult protection enquiries were completed within 7 days against a Welsh Government target of **95%**

The Regional IDVA (Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor) team has continues to provide an IDVA service for Newport citizens at high risk of domestic abuse. The IDVA regional Manager is employed by Newport City Council (funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner's office) and based within the Regional VAWDASV Team (Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence).

The VAWDASV Team operate on a regional basis to develop and implement the Welsh Government's legislation across all relevant public services. This ensures that workplace policies are developed; that the National Training Framework (NTF) is operational for all staff; and the 'Ask and Act' Welsh Government mandated training continues to be rolled out to all front line staff so that they can recognise signs of domestic abuse.

All employees complete basic VAWDASV level 1 e-Learning as part of the NCC induction process. All employees are expected to report any concerns or suspicions they have for children or adults at risk of harm or abuse.

Development of mandatory safeguarding training will be rolled out in the latter part of 20/21 (delayed due to Coronavirus Pandemic measures)

We closely monitor services that we commission to ensure safeguarding policies are in place and staff are appropriately trained.

The Children's review team in Newport have 2 distinct roles:

- Chair of Child Protection Conferences for children who are deemed at risk of significant harm
- Act as Independent Reviewing Officers to ensure children's care plans are appropriate to the child needs.

The Regional Deprivation of Liberty (DoLs) assessment service (managed by Health) continues to struggle with the demand and high referral rate across the region. The DoLs legislation will be changed to Liberty Protection Safeguards, this has been delayed and will be implemented in April 2022. This will pose significant

challenge for the Council to ensure all practitioners are trained and new processes in place.

The success of the Newport adult and children Safeguarding HUB (based in the Civic centre) continues and has expanded to include additional services (specifically for children). *Open Closed Doors* (focus on domestic abuse) and also the *Early Intervention Together* programme ensure that all referrals to statutory children's services where there is no statutory role are provided an effective support pathway. Both of these programmes are for 12 months with external funding. The other service that was developed within the Safeguarding Hub is 'ENCOMPASS' which ensures schools are aware of any domestic incidents that may impact the child in education in a timely manner.

The Council have continued to roll out the safeguarding Champions across the whole Council and have a schedule of meetings to raise awareness about all safeguarding aspects for each service area, from safe recruitment, safeguarding training and wider safeguarding requirements.

Safeguarding vulnerable children, young people and adults will continue to be a corporate priority.

### **Achievements 19/20**

1. An e-learning safeguarding module for all Members, Officers and volunteers is now in place
2. The safeguarding champion's cohort can work with volunteers
3. Proposals have been developed for partner agencies to consider next steps in relation to the Safeguarding Hub pilot
4. A child exploitation strategy and toolkit for Newport is in place and is embedded into core child protection work.
5. The new Wales safeguarding procedures and protocols are embedded in practice

### **Priorities for 20/21**

1. To develop a Corporate Safeguarding self-assessment tool for all areas
2. Develop a register of chaperones and volunteers
3. Safeguarding champions to take on domestic abuse role within service area for employees
4. Develop Corporate training map for safeguarding

### **Quality Standard 4 – Encouraging & Supporting People to learn, develop and participate in society**

Supporting children who are looked after and young people leaving care to reach their full potential and achieve positive outcomes is a key priority for Children's Services. Targeted support is provided to children and young people at key stages in their education. In addition, tuition and extra-curricular activities are funded to provide further support.



**The Career College Consortium** (previously known as the Gwent Care Academy) is a regional initiative that seeks to encourage recruitment and retention within the social care workforce. The Consortium will seek to increase the status of the workforce and help agencies to manage costs by enabling employees to passport their qualifications within the sector.

Partners include:

- Coleg Gwent
- ABUHB
- Local Authorities
- Care Forum Wales
- Regional employability projects
- Mirus (as a provider representative)

### **Career College Consortium Main Objectives**

- To create a seamless pathway from college into health and social care creating a skilled and compassionate workforce that meets sector requirements.
- Develop relationships between key stakeholders so a holistic, integrated approach to qualification and recruitment can be developed.
- Add value to current courses while developing new, innovative courses that meet the future recruitment needs of the sector.
- To create more opportunities for work experience placements/internships across the sector

**NB: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, there has been a reduction in the numbers of placements offered by employers. The impact of this will be assessed during 20/21**

### **Career College Consortium Achievements 2019/20**

**307 full time level 3 Health & Social Care students**

**137 full time level 2 Health & Social Care students**

The Council has an apprenticeship scheme –

- Social Services hosted **2 placements** in 2019/20 in residential services.

There are a range of options and information sources to help people achieve the things that matter to them. The Community Connectors have supported

established groups by referring new members and set up new groups because of their knowledge of unmet need.

**“The Connectors assisted me with housing solutions, benefits checks and social groups to meet exciting new friends”**

The Community Connectors developed a database of activities across the City. This information has now been transferred to DEWIS so that people can access the information for themselves 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- **27 community groups** were assisted by the Connectors in 2019/20

Newport City Council is committed to makes the city’s dementia-friendly status real by introducing dementia-friendly work practices across the Council and creating dementia-friendly toolkits for local businesses to ensure people with dementia are not socially excluded.

**NCC Corporate Plan 2017-2022:**

**“We will use best practice materials from the Alzheimer’s Society and elsewhere to create a simple toolkit and online training module for staff and businesses to use”**

**During 2019/20**

- **62 Dementia Friends awareness sessions** were completed in the City
- **1018** People became **Dementia Friends**
- **8** people trained as **Dementia Champions**
- Regionally there are over 8000 Dementia Friends

**Volunteering Matters** provide training to Newport citizens who want to offer their time to help others in the community. Volunteers are matched with citizens who require help with daily activities.

In March 2020 adult services established a contract with Volunteering Matters to specifically address the needs of the community for low level support during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

- NCC, in partnership with Volunteering Matters established a range of essential support services such as shopping, medication/prescription collection and other activities such as dog walking for those shielding or with caring responsibilities who were unable to access normal respite provision due to the National lockdown.
- At the time of writing the service has been expanded to offer telephone befriending to those who are experiencing social isolation as a consequence of ongoing Coronavirus restrictions.

NCC provides funding and works in partnership with **Growing Space** who offer accredited training programmes for people recovering from **mental ill health**.

The service is based at Tredegar Park in Newport where they have established a gardening project and a shop selling plants and handcrafted items, offering participants horticultural, organisational and retail experience.

Other activities available include arts and photography, cookery and independent living skills, confidence building and stress management courses.

### **Priorities for 2020/21**

- To continue to identify and source additional educational support for children who are looked after to improve choices for work experience, training, apprenticeships and wider employment options
- To develop a full range of services for carers based on consultation and engagement through the Newport Carers Network.
- To ensure early identification of young carers and the provision of appropriate support in partnership with Health, Education and our delivery partner, Barnardo's.
- Continue to support and develop DEWIS & other information sources to encourage self-reliance and maximise opportunities for engagement in community based activities.
- To work with our mental health providers to ensure the continued availability of preventative and rehabilitative services.

### **Quality Standard 5 – Supporting people to safely develop and maintain healthy domestic, family and personal relationships**

NCC supports children to feel they can make decisions for themselves and maintain important relationships. It is recognised that people having fulfilling relationships with those they are close to is really important for their well-being.

Children who are looked after maintain contact with their families through facilitated sessions. Our strategic partner Barnardo's, provide support to existing placements and prevent relationship breakdown

#### **NCC Corporate Plan 2017-2022:**

"We will improve placement stability, including achieving permanence for % (up from 75%) and reducing the number of children accessing more than three placements to 5%"

In 2019/20, **11.84%** of children who are looked after experienced three or more placements. This represents a reduction of 3% when compared to last year's figure of 15.63 (target 9%).

In 2019/20 the number of children returned home from care was **9.35% against a target of 13%** - this is a measure with a number of elements out of the control of the Local Authority.

**NB: Children are regularly reviewed and their individual circumstances assessed to ensure the most appropriate service is provided.**

**These figures must also be viewed in the context of the evidenced increase in activity within Childrens services in 2019/20 that reflects the National trend.**

Barnardo's currently deliver an **Integrated Family Support Service** in partnership with NCC.

The partnership has developed innovative approaches to prevent children coming into care that were established in 2019/20

### **Family Group Conferencing Service. (FGC)**

Family Group Conferencing encourages families to find their own solutions with appropriate support. The aim is to build resilience, develop problem-solving skills and reduce dependency on statutory provision.

- **During 2019/20 there were 52 Family Group Conferences**
- **60% of families reduced risks following FGC engagement**
- **22% reduction in Looked After numbers following FGC engagement**

Funding has been made available until 2022 for FGC based on the early evidence gathered that substantiates a high level of success

### **Baby & Me Service**

The Baby & Me service went live in November 2019 and works with pregnant women whose children are at risk of being removed. The service includes a Social Worker, Midwife and Health Visitor.

Newport is the first Local Authority in Wales to develop this service and it has recently been highlighted as one of the leading models to reduce the numbers of new born babies coming into care.

An evaluation of the service by 'Research in Practice' has just begun which will demonstrate the impact of this service.

## Build A Girl Project

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Children's Services hosted an event for **20 young people** or who are at risk or have experienced sexual/criminal exploitation. The event was called Build a Girl project and was founded by Fiona Broadfoot who is a survivor of child sexual exploitation.

The project provides a safe and therapeutic environment for girls and young women to 'build a unique self' by raising aspirations and self-esteem and empowering them to make safe choices and have healthy relationships.

**"I know now why my sister did not leave her abusive boyfriend"**

We recognise that, where possible, children who are looked after need to be close to their communities and social networks.

**Family and Friend Team** The Family and Friends Team was established in early 2019 utilising Intermediate Care Funding. This team aims to enable kinship Foster Carers to become Special Guardians thereby reducing the number of children on care orders

**Rose Cottage**, the new residential children's home developed by NCC has enabled four children placed out-of-county the opportunity to return to the city.

Respite offers an important opportunity for family members to have time for themselves and Newport offers residential respite services for adults and children.

Residential respite for adults with disabilities is available at the **Centrica Lodge** in the Gaer area of the city. Occupancy levels have improved since the building was refurbished as the internal lift has made it more accessible.

**Oaklands** residential respite centre for disabled children was fully refurbished with ICF capital funding in 2019 and continues to offer a valued service to Newport citizens

The below quote is from a Social Worker

**"Children have made significant progression whilst at Oaklands which is credit not only to them but also to the staff."**

Carers were able to access a sitting service from the Pobl Group during 2019/20. This provides time out from the caring role and helps to maintain positive family/carers relationships.

- **187 people** used the sitting service in 2019/20

**Shared Lives** offers shorter periods of respite to enable carers to have a break in addition to long-term placements. It gives people the opportunity to experience living in more homely, family-based support settings within communities, rather than in residential care settings. The service is managed regionally with Caerphilly County Borough Council as the host

- At the end of 2019/20, there were **41 people** from Newport in long-term placements."

Shared Lives continues to offer services to meet the diverse needs of older people, adults with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and people with mental health support needs.

New Shared Lives services were developed during 2019/20

- **Mental Health Crisis Project** offering short term placements for those who require temporary additional support
- **Dementia Project** offering short term specialist placements for those with a diagnosis of dementia

NCC provides day services at Brynglas House for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, those recovering from mental ill health and older people.

At the time of writing the NCC day services have been suspended as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Support is being maintained with families to monitor health and well-being.

Relationships can also be harmful and as outlined under Quality Standard 3, work is carried out through the Safeguarding Boards and Regional services such as IDVA and VAWDASV to support and protect those who are at risk of harm.

### **Priorities for 2020/21**

- To further develop the preventions work in Children's Services to support families, placements and develop sustainable alternatives to care;
- To recruit more Foster Carers to meet increasing demand;
- To source more residential placements in Newport to meet increasing demand;
- To review the impact of the additional involvement of the Commissioning team in Children's Services / Education contractual activity;
- To increase the number of carers we engage with to ensure the right support is available;
- To review the domiciliary care service for children with disabilities;

- To review the wider day services provision for mental health, learning disabilities and older people to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the community;
- To continue to educate and inform people about the dangers of unsafe relationships and support those at risk of harm.

**Quality Standard 6 – Working with and supporting people to achieve greater economic well-being, have a social life and live in suitable accommodation that meets their needs.**

As outlined in Quality Standard 4, Children's Services support children and young people to access education and training and provide individualised additional support where necessary.

**In 2019/20**

- **15.8%** of young people were in education, training or employment **12 months after leaving care.**
- **48.48** of young people were in education, training or employment **24 months after leaving care.**

**NB – Historically, the figure increases at 24 months. These measures have now been removed from the Welsh Government Performance Framework and replaced by a new measure that records those engaged in ETE for a consecutive 3 month period**

NCC wants to do better and the Corporate Plan sets out a commitment to be achieved by 2022.

**NCC Corporate Plan 2017-2022:**

"We will ensure that 85% of care leavers enter employment, education or training."

The incidence of homelessness in Newport for young people was not recorded in 2019/20. The Welsh Government suspended the requirement for this report due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. This measure is included in the new WG Performance Framework and will be reported in the future

NCC works with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and the Housing Department to ensure we can provide an appropriate response to young people facing homelessness. We have access to supported accommodation and lodgings for young people who need extra help during the transition from care to independent living and are currently working with a private landlord to increase the accommodation and support options available.

- Along with the residential children's homes, all of the 16+ accommodation is now overseen by a single service manager with a team manager structure. All accommodation has been reviewed.
- Additional properties have been negotiated for unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged 16+.
- The pathway for young homeless people has been revised and simplified. The process is now clearer and ensures those picking up this work fully understand the needs of the young people and steps required to support them.

**Disabled Facilities Grants** (DFG's) are available to citizens to make their homes safe and enable them to remain independent

### **In 2019/20**

- **135 DFG's** were completed - ramps, stairlifts, and accessible showers to enable people to remain safe and independent. The total spend was £1,092,123.
- **1130 Safety at Home Grants** were allocated with a total spend of £374,931
- A further £211,320 was unspent but committed so will continue into 2020/21

NCC has 3 residential homes, offering 94 beds for older people and those with specialist dementia care needs. Parklands offers 15 specialist support for those who are ready to be discharged from hospital but who need support to return to independent living.

#### **NCC Corporate Plan 2017-2022:**

"We will develop our internal Care Homes and day opportunities to specialise in Dementia care"

NCC works proactively with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) and with 20 Independent Residential and Nursing home providers in the City to ensure citizens and their families are able to choose where they live when they can no longer remain at home.

At the end of 2019/20 Newport was badly affected by the virus and the impact on care home settings was significant and devastating for residents families and the staff.

The ongoing work with care homes includes the continued distribution of PPE and the allocation of additional funding from Welsh Government.



Close partnerships have been forged between Commissioning Teams, Environmental Health, Public Health Wales and ABUHB in order to provide support and guidance to providers, to ensure service continuity for citizens and to ensure oversight of the regional position.

### **Housing Support Grant (formerly Supporting People)**

2019/20 was the first year of a two-year transition period from the Supporting People Programme to the new to Housing Support Grant Programme.

The programme offers support to help access, maintain appropriate accommodation, and provide stability. These services help to prevent crisis, keep people safe, prevent homelessness and reduce the need for more expensive accommodation options.

During 19/20 the Supporting People Team received over **3,000 new referrals**, approximately **57 per week**, an increase of 300 on last year's figure.

A total of **5,000 people** were supported during the 12 month reporting period. The number of people with presenting complex/multiple needs continues to increase year-on-year.

Over **£6.3m of Housing Support Grant** funding is invested in a wide range of accommodation-based and community support services for Newport citizens.

Housing Support grant is used to fund an in-house **Financial Inclusion Team** comprising one full-time and one part-time support worker who, in 2019/20, increased annualised income for vulnerable citizens by over **£500,000**.

This total was achieved by maximising welfare benefits and grants and facilitating debt write offs.

In addition, a Housing Support Worker is located in the First Contact Team to offer specialist IAA (information, advice and assistance) to citizens and to refer them directly into the established Housing Support Gateway that is the conduit for assessment and onward referral to all Housing Grant funded services that operate across the city.

**Age Cymru Gwent's 55+ floating support scheme** supported **250 people** in 2019/20 with 175 new referrals coming onto the service. This service provides housing related support to people living in both public and private housing in Newport and signposts to other community services.

### **Housing Support Grant Achievements in 2019/20**

- A new supported housing scheme comprising 8 self-contained flats for women and children with complex needs who need accommodation as a result of domestic abuse opened in December 2019.

- This was a partnership project with Torfaen and Caerphilly. Newport funded two units.
- By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 **3 Newport families** had been supported in the scheme.

**The Citizens Advice Bureau** offer financial advice and assistance to citizens have recorded gains of over £1.5m for people in receipt of benefits since the contract started in 2016.

NCC has developed an Independent Living Strategy to identify the future accommodation needs for adults with Learning Disabilities. The document has been shared with our Registered Social Landlord partners (RSLs) and identifies the need for more self-contained accommodation as traditional group living arrangements become less popular.

A specialist Learning Disability Occupational Therapist was employed by NCC in 2019/20 through the Intermediate Care Fund. The OT works with young adults to as they enter into adulthood. These skills provide the young people with the ability to choose independent living solutions.

- The Transitions OT worked with **22 young people** in 2019/20

### **Priorities for 2020/21**

- Continue to work with the RSL's to develop sustainable accommodation options for all client groups
- To continue to develop innovative services for people with dementia
- To continue to support Newport citizens of all ages to manage their own tenancies and maintain their independence through services funded by the Housing Support Grant
- To improve the support available to care leavers in order to address homelessness and assist in the transition to education, training and employment;
- Increase the range of accommodation and support options available for young people leaving care.

## **5. How We Do What We Do**

### **Our workforce and how we support their professional roles**

The workforce is a dynamically changing asset that supports service delivery to some of the most vulnerable people in the city. NCC faces many challenges, not least as a result of complex social issues associated with city centre living.

Under Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, regional finance, governance and workforce priorities for action are agreed through the Regional Workforce Development Board and reflect alignment to Social Care Wales' National Priorities in partnership with transformation and health services.

**The Social Care Wales Workforce development Programme (SCWWDP)  
Board regionally agreed priorities for 2019/20 are as follows:**

- Support the continued implementation of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act.
- Support the training, development and qualification of social care managers.
- Support the ongoing development of approaches to outcome-focused care and support practice.
- Support for both Social Work qualifying training and post qualifying training in Wales.
- Support frontline social care workers to develop their skills overall in relation to social care, and the revised induction framework.
- Enable the workforce to meet regulatory requirements for qualification and/or registration using guidance available in the Qualification Framework.
- Provide learning and development to equip the workforce to work effectively alongside carers.

**Local Key achievements in 2019-20 include:**

- More than 350 generic/ non-qualifying courses of core learning and development opportunities, delivered across the sector.
- 4276 course places offered
- Social Work Qualifying Training –**Six** trainee SW students from NCC workforce with 2 qualifying.
- 36 Social Work Practice Learning Opportunities undertaken in partnership with four universities and 30 teams /placements during the new academic year
- 37 Post Qualifying Social work programmes with 11 qualifying
- 16 accredited vocational and academic management based courses
- 18 Best Interest Assessor places supported (working with 6 SW LA partners)
- Qualification Assessment Centre – 85 Vocational learning programmes of QCF based qualifications with Newport Assessment Centre and contribution to national qualification development

- Implementation of the new All Wales Induction Framework, and introduction of the new CORE qualification.
- Support of regional initiatives with partners including Social Care Wales.
- Emergency training support for the sector/ Covid related resources

**NB:** It is difficult to estimate the true impact of Covid-19 on additional progress that may have been achieved by the end of 2019/20.

Gwent, the early epicentre, had to respond earlier than some other regions. Regional projects came to a halt, planned engagement cancelled, and programmes of learning completely disrupted.

SCWWDP had to urgently respond to the advancing army of volunteers and redeployed LA staff to meet essential care training needs.

Training schedules and programmes included opportunities to support skills development e.g. supervision, motivation, time management, mindfulness, coaching.

## 6. Financial Resources & How We Plan for the Future

During 2019/20, the Council has managed its overall revenue position within budget. The revenue outturn shows an underspend of £2,062k prior to the approval of new reserve transfers requested by service areas, leaving a remaining underspend of £1,807k. Excluding schools, this represents a less than 1% variance against net budget.

The Council has faced some unexpected costs during the last part of the financial year and it is fortunate that these have been able to be accommodated within the overall budget. This is not solely due to the reduced levels of overspending in service areas but because of the one off grant funding received by social care late in the financial year.

Whilst this position is positive there are 3 main areas of budget pressures that have been highlighted throughout the year. Whilst the overspending is significant within these three key areas, the position would have been worse had the areas not received unexpected grant income during the year. The next few paragraphs highlight the key underlying issues had the grant income not been received:

Overall outturn was £1.8m overspend for both areas. Final spend of £72.979m (£47.3m Adults and £25.7m childrens)

- Adults social care - community care – £955k overspend (underlying position exc. unexpected / one-off grants - £1,146k overspend)
- Children's independent fostering – £598k overspend
- Children's out of area placements – £553k overspend (underlying position exc. unexpected/ one-off grants - £742k overspend)

These three areas alone contribute £2.1m to the service area overspend (£2.5m exc. unexpected / one-off grants). As the outturn for social care is lower overall, at c£1.8m, there are areas of underspending that mitigate the £2.1m of overspending shown above. This mitigation is predominantly savings against staff budgets. Children's reported staff savings of c£300k.

Within Children's there is significant financial pressure due to out of authority placement costs. This is a trend replicated in many other local authorities and identified as an area of increasing demand and cost nationally. The alternative residential services project is progressing well which should in time reduce the reliance on external provision. Newport will continue to monitor this in 2020/21.

The Adult Services budget also faces significant pressure due to increased demand. Adults are living longer with more complex conditions and these result in an increase in residential and supported living care packages which are more expensive than non-residential care alternatives. Inflationary increases on care packages continues to place pressure on service budgets.

The council is working collaboratively with regional partners to maximise the use of regional resources to develop services within Newport.

The annual budget in 2019/20 for social services was £71.2m. There is a well-developed financial management process in place across service areas that enables the identification and management of budget risks. This process supports medium term financial planning, ensuring that all relevant factors can be considered when budgets are set.

## **7. Partnership Working, Political and Corporate Leadership, Governance & Accountability**

The features of partnership working have become more deeply embedded in the activities of both Children's and Adults with Heads of Service, the Strategic Director and Cabinet Member regularly engaged. NCC is a very active participant in the Regional Partnership Board.

Bids have, and will continue to be, made successfully to the WG Transformation Fund and the Integrated Care Fund, both capital and revenue. The former is a key mechanism for prompting and facilitating integrated working. The Newport Integrated Partnership (NIP), incorporating the third sector, ABUHB, Housing Associations and NCC continues to be the group that determines and drives the practical implementation of any regional approach to integration. The NCC Strategic Director is joint Chair of the NIP.

The Cabinet Member, Cllr Cockeram, is very active within the Partnership Board, numerous service user groups and at all opportunities with the Minister. In addition, Cllr Cockeram provides significant challenge to NCC officers.

The Cabinet Member, along with the Strategic Director and Heads of Service, regularly attend scrutiny. Cllr Cockeram presents reports on social services

matters to Cabinet and responds to questions from Cabinet colleagues in addition to his appropriate provision of social services context within Cabinet discussion.

Heads of Service regularly brief the Corporate Management Team (CMT) on social services matters with safeguarding and Domestic Homicide, Child Practice and Adult Practice Reviews standard items on the CMT agenda. Safeguarding is a standard item on the agenda of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), chaired by the Chief Executive. There are monthly reviews – at the least – of the service finances involving the Senior Finance Partner with the Heads of Service and again with the Strategic Director. Budget proposals and annual budget determination follow the NCC budget setting process with Heads of Service discussing these in detail with the SLT before the proposals are considered by the Cabinet Member and then by the Cabinet. Complementing the above there are clear lines of decision making and accountability to the Heads of Service and onward to the statutory Director of Social Services, the Strategic Director with the Cabinet Member providing the strategic direction.

November 2020

**Chris Humphrey**

**Director of Social Services**



## **Glossary of Terms**

<b>ABUHB</b>	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
<b>AMHP</b>	Approved Mental Health Professional
<b>BAME</b>	Black and Minority Ethnic
<b>CIW</b>	Care Inspectorate Wales
<b>CSE</b>	Child Sexual Exploitation
<b>DFG's</b>	Disabled Facilities Grants
<b>DOLS</b>	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
<b>DTOC</b>	Delayed Transfer of Care
<b>IAA</b>	Information, Advice and Assistance Service
<b>IDVA's</b>	Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors

<b>LAC</b>	Looked after Children
<b>NCC</b>	Newport City Council
<b>NFF</b>	National Fostering Framework
<b>NSP</b>	Newport Support Partnership
<b>OT</b>	Occupational Therapy/Therapist
<b>PSOW</b>	Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
<b>RISCA</b>	Regulation and Inspection of Social Care legislation
<b>RSL's</b>	Registered Social Landlords
<b>SCWWDP</b>	Social Care Wales Workforce Development Programme
<b>UASCA</b>	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children
<b>VAWDASV</b>	Violence against women, domestic abuse and violence Team
<b>WCCIS</b>	Welsh Community Care & Information System
<b>WG</b>	Welsh Government
<b>YJS</b>	Youth Justice Service

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# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: 16 December 2020

**Subject** **Replacement Local Development Plan: Consultation of Review Report and Delivery Agreement**

**Purpose** To report on the draft Review Report and Delivery Agreement for the Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) and seek approval for public consultation. This is the first stage of the review process of the LDP and will set the direction of travel, timetable and engagement strategy for the Replacement LDP.

**Authors** Planning Policy Manager

**Ward** All wards

**Summary** Following Cabinet's decision to progress with a review of the LDP, a Review Report (RR) and Delivery Agreement (DA), required by regulation, have been drafted and are ready for public consultation.

The Review Report is a key part of the evidence base. In summary, it sets out the key legislative, national and policy changes that have occurred since the adoption of the LDP in 2015 and includes an assessment of the current LDP to evaluate what policies are working and which policies may need review.

The Delivery Agreement comprises two key elements. A timetable setting out how the Council will manage the programme for preparing the LDP, and the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) which sets out who, when and how the Council will consult and engage during the production of the LDP.

**Proposal** **Cabinet is asked to approve the draft Review Report and Delivery Agreement for public consultation in January 2021. Feedback from the consultation and any revisions to the documents will then be reported back to Cabinet (March 2021).**

**Action by** Acting Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Executive
- Head of Finance – Chief Finance Officer
- Head of Law and Regulations – Monitoring Officer
- Head of People and Business Change

**Signed**

## Review Report

Section 69 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires all Local Planning Authorities (LPA) to undertake a review of their adopted LDP and report their findings to Welsh Government through a Review Report (RR). The LPA should approve the RR before it is submitted to Welsh Government within six months of triggering the review process. The Council agreed in October 2020 that a formal review of the LDP is to begin, and this draft RR sets out the first stage in this process.

The draft RR is structured as recommended in national guidance and contains the following sections:

- **Contextual Changes** including the key legislative, national and local policy changes and evidence base that have occurred since the adoption of the LDP in 2015, which are important considerations to inform the review of the LDP.
- A summary of the main findings of the past five **Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR)**, outlining the associated implications for review of the LDP.
- An assessment of the current LDP and the potential changes in terms of the **Vision and Objectives Development Strategy and Policies** to inform the review process.
- The areas of **evidence base** that would need to be reviewed/updated in preparing a Replacement LDP.
- The potential options for review of the LDP and opportunities for collaboration and a conclusion on the appropriate **form of plan revision** and outlines the next steps.

The RR is a key part of the evidence base underpinning the form and context of the reviewed plan. The RR has been informed by the adopted monitoring framework set out in the current LDP, contextual changes to legislation and relevant strategies, as well as the collation and analysis of other evidence to make an informed and robust conclusion. There is much to celebrate about the achievements of the current LDP, but there have been a lot of contextual changes which have a direct impact on the plan. In addition, the evidence base behind the original plan is in need of a refresh. The implications of being designated as an area of national growth in the draft National Development Framework will also have clear implications on the level of growth for Newport.

There are two options for the revision of an LDP; 1: Full Revision and 2: Short Form Revision (SFR). **The Review Report has concluded that a Full Revision of the current LDP is required.** The SFR procedure could be subject to a higher degree of risk regarding procedural challenges and is not suitable if the LDP requires changes to its strategy or proposes significant changes to the adopted LDP.

Consultation on the draft RR is required to maximise the robustness of the RR and justify its conclusions. Responses are used to inform the chosen review procedure and future content of the replacement LDP. The responses and proposed alterations to the Review Report will be reported back to Cabinet in March 2021. Provided Cabinet are satisfied; the intention will then be to seek Full Council's endorsement in April 2021 and send the Delivery Agreement to Welsh Government. This would legally mark the commencement of the LDP.

## Delivery Agreement

The Delivery Agreement (DA) is a mandatory requirement of the LDP process and is considered to be a key tool for the speedier production of land use plans. It is an essential project management tool and needs to be prepared to fulfil the requirements of LDP regulations. The DA will also set out the resources available for the work (financial and officer resource), a risk management register, the Tests of Soundness against which the plan will be assessed, clarifies the scope and influence of the LDP, identifies the role of the Integrated Assessments required and allows co-ordination with other strategies. It comprises the following two elements:

- **The Timetable** – this sets out how the Council will manage the programme for preparing the LDP. It identifies the key stages of the LDP process where the public and other interested parties will be given the opportunity to comment on the strategy, objectives and policies contained within the Plan.
- **The Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)** – this sets out who, when and how the Council will consult and engage with various stakeholders, including the general public, during the production of the LDP.

Table 1 below illustrates the key stages and anticipated timescales proposed for the Newport Replacement LDP. A detailed timetable is set out in Appendix B of the draft Delivery Agreement (see background papers for more information):

*Table 1: Delivery Agreement Proposed Timetable*

Key Stages		Definitive Timescales
Stage 1 <b>Delivery Agreement</b>	Public Consultation Full Council Approval and Submission to WG Approval from WG	January – March 2021 April 2021  May 2021
Stage 2 <b>Pre-Deposit</b>	Candidate Site Stage Consultation on Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) Vision and Objective/Growth Options Prepare Preferred Strategy Full Council reporting Preferred Strategy	June – Sept 2021 June – August 2021 July 2021 – Jan 2022 Jan – July 2022 July 2022
Stage 3 <b>Preferred Strategy</b>	Public Consultation Prepare Deposit Plan Full Council reporting Deposit Plan	August - October 2022 January – August 2023 September 2023
Stage 4 <b>Deposit Plan</b>	Public Consultation Full Council approval for submission to WG	October – December 2023 April 2024
Indicative		Timescales
Stage 5	Submission	May 2024
Stage 6	Examination	June 2024
Stage 7	Inspector's Report	January 2025
Stage 8	Adoption	February 2025
		<b>Total Plan Preparation 3.5 years (plus 3 months slippage period)</b>

The Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) sets out how the Council proposes to proactively involve the community and other stakeholders in the preparation of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). Whilst it is the responsibility of the Council to produce the RLDP, one of the aims of the development plan system is to produce a plan based on effective community involvement. This process of building consensus on the context of the RLDP is a key aspect of this CIS and the five ways of working prescribed by the Well-Being of Future Generations Act. The Delivery Agreement sets out when and how interested parties can influence the RLDP. The document identifies stakeholders that are required to be informed as outlined by regulation, but it also sets out local groups and people, including the identification of those hard to reach groups where specific engagement is required.

The DA (including the CIS and timetable) must be approved by resolution of the LPA in accordance with LDP Regulation 9 before submission to Welsh Government. The Welsh Government's role is to ensure the DA is robust, realistic and covers the main plan preparation requirements. Agreement of the DA marks the legal formal start of the plan preparation/revision process and binds the LPA into delivering within the stated timescales and using agreed consultation processes. The DA will be kept under review

and any changes required to the DA will need to be confirmed and agreed with WG. It is important to note that Welsh Government expects plans being reviewed to be prepared in 3.5 years from formal agreement of the DA, with a single additional slippage period of 3 months.

## Next Steps

Following the approval of the draft Review Report and Delivery Agreement, the documents will be made available for an 8-week public consultation starting in January 2021. Recommendations for amendments to the documents and details of the responses received will be fed back to Cabinet in March 2021. Providing Cabinet are satisfied, Full Council will be asked to approved the DA for submission to Welsh Government in April 2021.

## Financial Summary

The RLDP process has a project specific budget to cover costs of all resources associated, including additional staff, consultations, commissions, examination processes etc. The resources required for the RLDP process are set out in the Delivery Agreement. The cost of consultation will be met from the current Planning Policy and Local Development Plan budgets and reserve. The table below sets out an estimated cost for the RLDP which has been based on the previous LDP and neighbouring authority costs. The table identifies a potential budget pressure towards the end of RLDP process, however it should be noted that the estimates used are on the cautious side. We intend to monitor and mitigate as the plan review progresses.

	<b>Year 1 (Start RLDP 2021/22) £</b>	<b>Year 2 2022/23 £</b>	<b>Year 3 2023/24 £</b>	<b>Year 4 2024/25 £</b>	<b>Notes including budgets heads affected</b>
<b>Costs</b>	<b>330,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>155,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>Costs include estimated additional staff resource on fixed term contracts which will need to be subject to a business case.</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>					
<b>Revenue Budget</b>	<b>71,600</b>	<b>71,600</b>	<b>71,600</b>	<b>71,600</b>	
<b>LDP Reserve</b>	<b>258,400</b>	<b>178,400</b>	<b>83,400</b>	<b>133,800</b>	
<b>Net Costs</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54,600</b>	
<b>(Savings)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	
<b>Net Impact on Budget</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54,600</b>	
<b>LDP Reserve (£654,000)</b>	<b>395,600</b>	<b>217,200</b>	<b>133,800</b>	<b>0</b>	

## Risks

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)</b>	<b>What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect</b>	<b>Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?</b>
Not approving content of RR or DA	M	L	The documents have been prepared in line with national regulations and guidance and engagement with relevant stakeholders to influence content.	Planning Policy Manager
Not approving documents for public consultation	M	L	Justification for consultation: To maximise the robustness of the RR & DA and justify its conclusions and proposed processes, consultation with specific and general consultation bodies on its findings and conclusions should be undertaken.	Planning Policy Manager
Staff Resources and Budget	H	M	There are resources available for this immediate stage of LDP review. Future resource levels will be dealt with as part of the Delivery Agreement process.	Head of RIH/ Development Services Manager
Delays arising as a result of Covid-19	M	L	The consultation will be undertaken utilising electronic means where possible. Letters shall be sent where this has been indicated as the preferred method of contact and copies made available at the information station.	Planning Policy Manager

## Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The Local Development Plan is one of the statutory plans the Council has to prepare. The current LDP determines Newport's land use policies to 2026. The LDP covers many topics that impact on other sections of the Council e.g. drainage, tourism, education etc. Liaison with those sections is an essential part of the LDP process and this is set out in the draft Delivery Agreement. A revised LDP will consider any new Council policy, strategy or priority and its impact on the policy framework for the Council and this is explained in the draft Review Report. Since the LDP's adoption in 2015 there have been a number of significant changes to Council policy which will be of relevance to the LDP, particularly the Well-Being Plan for Newport. Newport City Council has a Corporate Plan that runs to 2022 which is also not referenced in the current adopted LDP. The primary objective of the Corporate Plan is 'improving people's lives' and whilst this is not at odds with the aims of the current LDP, a new LDP will help us to better align the four commitments; Resilient Communities, Thriving Cities, Modernised Council; and Aspirational People within the strategy. As a key document outlining the issues and aspirations of the Council this needs to be reflected in a revised LDP. In addition, there are numerous Council strategies and policies that will influence the LDP e.g. Flood Risk Strategy, Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Destination Management Strategy, Economic Growth Plan etc. The draft RR reports on the implications of these changes since adoption and sets out how it is proposed that the Replacement LDP will help to deliver the aspirations of these plans and strategies.

## **Options Available and considered**

- 1) Approve the draft Review Report and draft Delivery Agreement for public consultation.
- 2) Do not approve the draft Review Report and Delivery Agreement for public consultation.

## **Preferred Option and Why**

- (1) - To approve the draft Review Report and Delivery Agreement for public consultation. This option will provide Newport with an opportunity to update the LDP within its new context of legislation, regulations and social, economic and environmental context to ensure it is providing the most appropriate and ambitious policy framework for Newport. A revised LDP would also ensure the benefits of continuing a strong plan-led approach that provides effective and consistent planning decisions and certainty for investment and minimises undesirable speculative development. The Delivery Agreement clearly sets out the methods and timing of engagement and provides clarity to those interested in the RLDP process of their role and opportunities to inform and influence the outcome of the plan. This engagement, although not a regulatory requirement, will mean that the Council is confident it has undertaken its duty under the Well-being for Future Generations Act in terms of Integration and Collaboration.

## **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

The Local Development Plan carries a base budget which contributes to a reserve in less active years where no review/cost is required so that there should be sufficient funds to carry out the necessary actions to refresh the LDP when needed. The reserve 'smooths' / funds the cyclically increased costs here and enables the base budget to remain consistent over time.

The financial summary above shows how the LDP will be funded over the course of the review and indicates a shortfall in the final year which would need to be met through existing budget in the Regeneration, Investment and Housing service area. Officers have based the estimated costs on a worst case scenario and the shortfall may not materialise but accept that mitigation from other RIH budget areas will be required if it is the case.

## **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

The proposed action is in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015). The legislation requires the Council to keep under review its Local Development Plan. The legislation and the Regulations require the Council to review the LDP every 4 years. Until now, this has not been necessary as the provisions within the LDP have remained relevant but the current plan is now 6 years old and is in need of revision to reflect legislative changes and the National Planning Framework and to identify new candidate sites for development in the light of increased growth. Previously, Cabinet were asked to approved the Annual Monitoring Report for submission to Welsh Government, which triggered the commencement of the LDP Review. The creation of a Review Report and Delivery Agreement are the next stages in reviewing the LDP. Cabinet is asked to approve these documents for public consultation in January 2021.

The Review Report (RR) and Delivery Agreement (DA) then need to be formally approved and adopted by the Council, in its capacity as Local Planning Authority. Therefore, although Cabinet can agree to trigger the LDP review process, full Council will need to formally approve the RR and DA in April 2021. The revised LDP will also be a policy framework document that will need to be approved and adopted by full Council in due course.

## **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

The Review Report and Delivery Agreement are the next stages in the LDP review process which was approved by Cabinet last month.

In the cover report, the report writer has detailed how the LDP meets the five ways of working of the sustainable development principle contained in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The Delivery Agreement sets out the proposed staff resource for delivering the revised LDP. It is noted that a dedicated LDP budget is in place to fund the additional resource required.

## **Comments of Cabinet Member**

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development has been briefed on the draft documents and proposal for public consultation process.

## **Local issues**

The LDP will affect all wards in Newport.

## **Scrutiny Committees**

None

## **Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010**

The Equality Act 2010 contains a Public Sector Equality Duty which came into force on 06 April 2011. The Act identifies a number of 'protected characteristics', namely age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; marriage and civil partnership. The new single duty aims to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the regular business of public authorities. Compliance with the duty is a legal obligation and is intended to result in better informed decision-making and policy development and services that are more effective for users. In exercising its functions, the Council must have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The Act is not overly prescriptive about the approach a public authority should take to ensure due regard, although it does set out that due regard to advancing equality involves: removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics; taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these differ from the need of other people; and encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low. The replacement LDP process and in particular the CIS of the Delivery Agreement sets out an engagement approach which takes into account how to engage with stakeholders including hard to reach groups and apply techniques that make engagement appropriate for stakeholders e.g. plain English and non-technical versions of reports, documentation provided in Welsh, large print versions provided on request.

## **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

The Delivery Agreement sets out the need for targeted consultation and this includes engagement with children and young people, consultations on such documentation is open to all of our citizens regardless of their age. People replying to consultations are not required to provide their age or any other personal data, and therefore this data is not held or recorded in any way, and responses are not separated out by age.

## **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**



The Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act seeks to improve the social, economic environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Public bodies should ensure that decisions take into account the impact they could have on people living in Wales, in the future. It should be noted that the planning system is central to achieving sustainable development and the five ways of working are an intrinsic part of the planning system. A plan-led approach is viewed as the most effective way to secure sustainable development. The 5 main considerations are set out below with an explanation of how this work meets their objective:

- Long term: An LDP sets out a vision for how places are expected to change in land use-terms and this provides certainty for developers and the public. The monitoring and review process of the LDP provides an opportunity to look back on what has worked and take the time to update the plan to take a look at what Newport will need to plan for over the next 15 years.
- Prevention: The aim of the LDP and indeed planning is to create sustainable places. This approach will look to tackle issues such as safety, flood risk, health, air quality, amenity, availability of jobs, energy efficiency and carbon reduction, opportunities for skills and education as well as the protection of cultural facets. All options that will help create spaces which prevent negative impacts on health and wellbeing, environmental and economic factors.
- Integration: The LDP will have regard to the local well-being plan and other relevant corporate strategies and policies. The review process will take into account those council policies and strategies that have been created since the adoption of the LDP in 2015. The influence of the LDP covers many service areas as well as external organisations and these stakeholders will play an important role in the development of the plan.
- Collaboration: The LDP has to consider its impact on its neighbouring authorities and there is much work being done within the region which will provide part of the evidence base and influence the policy outcomes for Newport e.g. flood risk impact from the catchment. We will also work with a range of other partners to ensure that we are working together effectively on shared ambitions and aspirations. The LDP review process has to investigate and consider joint approaches to creating an LDP and this will be reported.
- Involvement: A key aspect of the LDP process is engagement. The adoption and adherence to the Delivery Agreement and the Community Involvement Scheme is a key element of the process. This approach provides a clear timescale and approach for effective and efficient engagement.

This proposal is in line with the Council's well-being objectives published in May 2018. The LDP will consider the objectives of the Well-Being Plan for Newport and seek to deliver what it can to meet the four well-being objectives for Newport. There are clear links between the LDP and delivering on the Newport offer, creating strong and resilient communities and developing the right skills, providing green and safe spaces as well as making sure there is push towards sustainable travel.

## **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is considered that there would be no significant or unacceptable increase in crime and disorder as a result of the review of the LDP. One of the objectives will be to ensure that places are secure and safe.

## Consultation

The draft Review Report and draft Delivery Agreement will be subject to a minimum of 8 weeks consultation started in January 2021 and the responses will be fed back to Cabinet in March 2021.

## Background Papers

Local Development Plan – Draft Review Report



Draft Review  
Report 23NOV20.doc

Local Development Plan – Draft Delivery Agreement



Draft Delivery  
Agreement 24NOV20.doc

[Local Development Plan Manual Welsh Government 2020](#)

Dated: 24 November 2020



# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: 16 December 2020

**Subject** Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill Consultation

**Purpose** To present to Cabinet an overview of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill and determine a response to the consultation regarding the establishment of Corporate Joint Committees.

**Author** Head of People and Business Change  
Head of Law and Regulation

**Ward** All

**Summary** The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill proposes to reform the legislative framework for local government electoral arrangements, democracy, performance and governance. This is an extensive piece of legislation covering the powers of local government, elections, performance and governance of Principal Councils, and collaborative working by Principal Councils – the establishment of Corporate Joint Committees (CJs).

The Minister for Housing and Local Government is seeking views on the draft regulations which will establish four regional CJs across Wales. This report includes the Council's draft response for Cabinet consideration.

**Proposal** Cabinet is asked to consider the contents of the report and agree the consultation response for submission by the closing date of 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**Action by** Chief Executive

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

Councillors  
Heads of Service

**Signed**

## Background

The current local government structure in Wales, consisting of 22 county and county borough councils (“principal councils”) was established in 1996 by the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994. There have been a number of reports, commissions and white paper consultations, with the aim of reforming the local government structure, strengthening democratic accountability and increasing diversity of representation.

Following publication of the ‘Williams Commission’ [recommendations](#), the Welsh Government attempted to move the change agenda forward. A draft Bill was introduced that would pave the way for local authority mergers, provide councils with the general power of competence, and change the functions of councils and their Members. However, the anticipated introduction of a final Bill did not materialise.

During 2018, the Welsh Government looked to restart the debate on local government reform with a [Green Paper consultation - Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for people](#). It had also launched a consultation a year earlier on [Electoral Reform in Local Government](#) as part of a review into democratic arrangements and functions in Wales.

On 18 November 2019, the Welsh Government introduced the [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Bill](#) (“the Bill”) along with the [Explanatory Memorandum](#) (EM). The EM also incorporates the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) and Explanatory Notes (EN). The Minister for Housing and Local Government, Julie James AM, on introducing the Bill in Plenary on 19 November 2019, stated that the Welsh Government is “changing the governance framework for local government to better enable innovation, transparency and local ownership for driving up service delivery outcomes and standards across Wales.”

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill proposes to reform the legislative framework for local government electoral arrangements, democracy, performance and governance. The EM states that it seeks to provide local government with “new ways to support and serve their communities”, and to “reinvigorate local democracy in Wales.”

## The Bill

The Bill covers:

- Elections;
- General Power of Competence;
- Promoting Access to Local Government;
- Local Authority Executives, Members, Officers and Committees;
- Collaborative Working by Principal Councils - Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs);
- Performance and Governance of Principal Councils;
- Merges and Restructuring of Principal Areas;
- Local Government Finance; and
- Other matters relating to Local Government and Fire and Rescue Authorities.

Welsh Government has reprioritised its legislative programme due to COVID-19. The Bill remains a priority for the remainder of this Senedd term, given the need to introduce planned electoral reforms in time for the 2022 local elections. The Bill’s passage through the Senedd has therefore been delayed but the Stage 3 Plenary debate on amendments took place on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and the Bill was passed by the Senedd by 39 votes to 16. It is anticipated that the Bill will receive Royal Assent early in the New Year.

The Minister for Housing and Local Government and Welsh Government officials have engaged with stakeholders on the development of proposals to establish Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) to exercise certain local authority functions on a collaborative basis. The Minister for Housing and Local Government is now seeking views on the draft regulations which will establish four regional CJCs across Wales. This report includes the Council’s draft response for Cabinet consideration.

## Overview of sections

### Part 1 – Elections

Part 1 of the Bill, according to the Explanatory Memorandum (EM), aims to “reinvigorate local democracy in Wales”. It introduces provisions that will extend the franchise to **include votes for 16 and 17-year-olds and for foreign citizens legally resident in Wales**. It also introduces the **option for principal councils to choose the voting system it wishes to use – first past the post system (FPTP) or single transferable vote (STV)**. There are also a number of provisions within Part 1 of the Bill that relate to the **registration of electors, electoral cycles** (changing to five year terms), proposals for election pilot schemes, meeting the expenditure of returning officers and **employees and officers (including teachers) who are not politically-restricted post-holders being able to stand as candidates** (would only need to resign paid employment if elected – currently serving officers have to resign before they can stand in an election). There are additional costs for Councils due to administering an election for an expanded electorate, register foreign citizens and promoting awareness. The costs of running local elections falls on the Council.

### Part 2 – General Power of Competence

As local authorities are statutory bodies, they derive their powers and functions from legislation and they cannot act outside of their specific statutory powers. These restrictions have been relaxed over a number of years by the introduction of general well-being and incidental powers. The EM notes that there is a “perception that the wellbeing power is too limited”, and has not “empowered authorities to innovate or take more transformative action” which may be for fear of acting outside of scope of powers. The Bill therefore **provides principal councils (and eligible community councils) with a general power of competence**. It has the “aim of bringing about more effective, capable and innovative local government”. It means that **qualifying councils will no longer be required to identify a specific power in order to undertake a particular activity**. Instead, they will be in a position in which it is “assumed they can do something unless there is a statutory restriction preventing it”. However, it should be noted that, if there is already a specific statutory power which is subject to restrictions, then the general power of competence cannot be used to override the requirements of the specific legislation.

### Part 3 – Promoting Access to Local Government

The purpose and intended effect of Part 3 of the Bill is to encourage **greater engagement and participation in local democracy** among a more diverse range of the public. The provision in the Bill will require principal councils to “**encourage public participation in their decision-making and scrutiny procedures**”. Principal councils will need to publish a strategy specifying how it proposes to comply with its duties including:

- Promoting awareness of the council’s functions;
- Promoting how to become a member of the council (or a related authority);
- Facilitating greater access to information for members of the public; and
- Providing ways for members of the public to make representations to principal councils and speak at meetings.

Other key aspects of this part of the Bill:

- Broadcast of all public meetings - and to make them available for a “reasonable period of time after the meeting”;
- Remote attendance of Council members;
- Duty to make a petition scheme – how we respond to petitions;
- Allows for electronic petition schemes (although not required);
- Council members not required to publish home addresses; and
- Requirement for the constitution to be available in ‘ordinary language’

### Part 4 – Local Authority Executives, Members, Officers and Committees

Part 4 of the Bill makes provision for a broad range of matters, including the **appointment and performance management of chief executives of principal councils**. There is also a focus on **consistency in the Chief Executive role**. There are also provisions for **expanding job-sharing for executive leaders and members of the executive**, and for the appointment of assistants to the executive.

The aim of the provisions is to **strengthen and improve equality and diversity**. There is an emphasis in this part of the Bill on improving standards, **placing greater responsibility on political leaders to promote high standards of conduct**.

#### Part 5 – Collaborative Working by Principal Councils

Local authorities already work collaboratively across a number of services. This Bill, according to the Welsh Government, provides a new mechanism for a more simplified, coherent and consistent approach to collaboration. The EM notes that the new mechanism will “support the drive within principal councils for more economic, effective and efficient delivery of services”.

The provisions will enable the creation of **corporate joint committees (CJCs) (for two or more principal councils) to deliver specified functions**. The Welsh Government considers that corporate joint committees offer an “opportunity to align a number of collaborative approaches already in statute, reducing the need (and therefore the costs associated with servicing) multiple separate boards”.

The current consultation relates to the establishment of four regional CJCs across Wales.

#### Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs)

CJCs will be **‘bodies corporate’ formed from the membership of principal councils, able to employ staff, hold assets and manage funding. They will be a new form of governance body, comprised of the democratic leadership of local authorities in its area, rather than traditional committees**. The CJCs will be separate, autonomous legal bodies, entirely separate from the local authorities, and with statutory powers to exercise specific functions on a regional basis. The model is designed to offer maximum flexibility with detail being co-produced with local government, however it is not the default model for all collaborative local services, as arrangements are proportionate to scale or complexity.

The proposals give the Welsh Ministers powers to make regulations to establish corporate joint committees for specific mandated functions and a power for local authorities to initiate the establishment of other CJC’s on a voluntary basis for the purposes of discharging their functions on a collaborative basis. The Welsh Ministers can only mandate certain functions for the joint committees under such circumstances. These functions relate to - improving education; strategic planning for the development and use of land; transport; and economic development. There are already voluntary arrangements currently in place for Economic Development and Improving Education. **The aim of creating CJCs is to provide a single consistent vehicle for collaboration and to enable the transition of existing regional arrangements into the CJC’s.**

The proposals for the creation of CJCs have been among the more contentious elements of the Bill and the Minister is seeking views in order to ‘co-produce’ CJC regulations and guidance.

CJCs can be seen as an **evolution from existing regional arrangements such as Growth of City Deal, school improvement consortia and regional planning and transport arrangements**. Although supportive of CJCs as a voluntary model for collaboration, there is concern within local government about the ‘mandation’ of regional structures or services and questions about what outcomes will be achieved. This is reflected in the proposed consultation response at an Appendix to this report.

Amendments to the Bill that have been agreed include clarifying ‘economic development’ as a broad ‘economic well-being’ power; inclusion of national park members in the strategic planning role of CJCs; and clarification that CJCs replace Strategic Development Panels and that all CJCs must produce Strategic Development Plans.

## Part 6 - Performance and Governance of Principal Councils

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 places a general 'improvement' duty on principal councils, and requires them to produce an improvement plan. The plans, which are reviewed by the Auditor General for Wales (AGW), have become "process orientated" according to the Welsh Government, focussing on activity or outputs which can be easily measured.

It is currently for the AGW to determine whether local authorities have "achieved continuous improvement each year, whether they have the capacity to improve further and whether either the principal council or the Welsh Ministers should take action".

Under the proposals in the Bill, **principal councils will be required to conduct an annual self-assessment of performance** and a "periodic review to provide an external, expert perspective" on performance. The Bill also **gives the Welsh Ministers powers to intervene where principal councils face significant problems**, and include powers for the AGW to "carry out a special inspection".

## Part 7 – Merges and Restructuring of Principal Areas

The debate over the structure of principal councils in Wales has been ongoing for several years. In 2013, the Welsh Government established the Williams Commission, which recommended that the twenty-two local authorities should "merge into larger units. In 2015, the Welsh Government at the time made the case for the compulsory mergers of principal councils by consulting on a draft Local Government (Wales) Bill, however this was not introduced.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill **does not make provision for compulsory mergers**, but does provide principal councils with the **opportunity to merge voluntarily**. The Bill also makes provision for restructuring principal councils where a council is "facing serious difficulties", but cannot find a "willing partner" to merge voluntarily.

## Part 8 – Local Government Finance

Part 8 of the Bill amends existing legislation regarding non-domestic rates, otherwise known as business rates, and council tax. The Bill introduces **new tax avoidance measures in relation to non-domestic rates**. It will also amend the way that the non-domestic rates multiplier is calculated. The Bill will also remove the power to enable imprisonment as a sanction for non-payment of council tax.

## Part 9 – Miscellaneous

Part 9 of the Bill covers a number of different areas in relation to local government and the fire and rescue authorities. Among the areas included are:

- Information sharing between regulators;
- Head of Democratic Services in a local authority is treated as a chief officer and afforded appropriate statutory protection;
- The merging and demerging of Public Services Boards; and
- Provisions relating to combined fire and rescue authorities.

## The Assembly's Consideration of the Bill

The Business Committee agreed to refer the Bill to the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee (ELGC) for Stage 1 scrutiny to consider and report on the general principles. The Committee undertook 15 evidence sessions with stakeholders, which included two scrutiny sessions with the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Julie James AM. The Committee also undertook a public consultation and a survey with members of the public regarding Part 3 of the Bill which makes provisions for promoting access to local government.

The [Committee's Stage 1 Report](#) on the Bill was published on 13 March 2020, and makes 32 recommendations for the Welsh Government on a wide range of matters in relation to the Bill.

The Committee recommended that the general principles of the Bill are **agreed by the Assembly**. While the COVID pandemic has impacted on the Welsh Government legislative programme, the Bill remains a priority for the remainder of this Senedd term, given the need to introduce planned electoral reforms in time for the 2022 local elections.

### **Impact on Newport City Council and Consultation response**

Newport City Council welcomes the intention to extend the voting franchise to include 16 and 17 year olds and foreign nationals which reflects the principle of involvement. However it is recognised that the proposals to allow changes to the voting system could be confusing for the electorate.

It is important to note that Newport City Council already has a proven track record in working collaboratively on a local and regional footprint. We have formed formal and informal partnerships with neighbouring Authorities and third sector partners, including the Public Services Board and Regional Skills Partnership. We are part of the Cardiff Capital Region and the Western Gateway Partnership and Newport has an important role to play in delivering economic and sustainable growth in these areas. Scoping work in respect of a Strategic Development Plan has already commenced and it therefore feels unnecessary to put into place powers which would mandate the Council to be part of another regional body. Important work in the key areas identified is already being undertaken on a collaborative and regional basis.

Changes to performance and governance will be the subject of a separate report although the principles are sound. The intention to provide a general power of competence to local government is helpful, although its use may be limited in practice. Members of NCC are concerned however that the move to more regional bodies will not represent the views of local communities, and that is reflected in the attached response.

The consultation paper can be found here: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2020-10/consultation.pdf>

Attached at **Appendix 1** is NCC's draft response to the consultation.

Consultation for Regulations to establish Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) ends 4th January 2021.  
Consultation for Draft statutory guidance - Performance and governance of principal councils ends 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 and will be the subject of a separate report and draft response.

### **Financial Summary**

There are no direct financial implications as a result of replying to the consultation. There would be significant financial implications as a result of the changes proposed in the Bill.

### **Risks**

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Not properly preparing for the implications of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill	High	Low	Cabinet will receive update reports as the consultation and programme progresses and respond to consultations accordingly.	Chief Executive



The needs of Newport residents are not best served by the Bill.	High	Medium	Response to the consultation as outlined in this report	Chief Executive
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\* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

### Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The Bill sets out the vision for the future of local government, reference is made to the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 and the work of Public Services Boards and the Well-being Plan.

The proposed changes being considered will require changes to Council policies and priorities as outlined in the report and proposed response.

### Options Available and considered

1. To note the proposals as outlined in the Bill and endorse the proposed response to the consultation (Appendix 1).
2. To amend the response to the consultation and respond to Welsh Government by the consultation deadline.

### Preferred Option and Why

To endorse the proposed response to the consultation.

### Comments of Chief Financial Officer

As noted in the report, the consultation itself has no financial impact but the Bill will have wide ranging and significant financial impact. Much of the detail will be developed over the next few months but the most significant area of impact will be the establishment of 'Corporate Joint Committees'. Essentially, they will be able to 'levy' a revenue budget requirement from Councils within its area, in a similar way the Fire Services are able to do now. Therefore, establishing practical and good working arrangements will be essential as well as ensuring the financial context of Principle Councils who pay it are understood. The use of existing democratic leaders of the principle Councils in its area on its governance structure will be helpful in that respect. As noted in the report, there are many example so regional working and Local Government has therefore extensive experience of working collaboratively and ensuring these practical issues are dealt with.

There will be a potential small financial impact from these in the 2021/22 financial year and will need to be considered as part of budget setting. As the function develops, the impact will become greater over time. A key issue is the extent to which any new 'levy' is mitigated by corresponding saved costs in principle councils as functions/projects, and therefore costs, are transferred.

### Comments of Monitoring Officer

Any specific legal issues have been addressed in the main body of the report and the proposed consultation response. The Bill will introduce significant changes to the Council's electoral arrangements, democracy, performance and governance. Therefore, it will have significant implications, which will need to be addressed in more detail once we have a clear time-table for the implementation of the different elements of the legislation and further statutory guidance. The general power of competence has been in force in England for over 8 years, following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011 and, in practice, it has not made a significant difference to the way in which councils operate. This is because the general power is still subordinate to specific legislative powers which are subject to restrictions, for example the

need to form arm's length companies to undertaking any "trading" or commercial work. Therefore, although this general power of competence is welcome, it may not have the impact envisaged. The introduction of Corporate Joint Committees is a significant change to the way in which joint committees and collaborative arrangements currently exist. The new CJC's are separate statutory bodies and legal entities in their own right, with the power to sue and be sued, employ staff and own property. They are fully autonomous bodies that will discharge functions at a regional level and operate entirely separate from the local authorities. They will set their own budgets and strategic priorities. Welsh Government has only "mandated" four functions where CJC's have to be established – strategic planning, economic development, regional transport and education improvement. The Welsh Ministers' intention is to produce general regulations about how all CJC's will operate and a series of specific regulations governing how each individual regional CJC will operate. It is recommended that the Council should take this opportunity to respond to the consultation on the CJC's and the proposed regulations, as this is an opportunity to help shape the framework in which these bodies will operate.

### **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

From an HR perspective, there are no staffing implications to this report.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the sustainable development principle has been fully considered when developing this consultation response.

As noted by the report writer the importance of local people being involved in decisions moving forward is key and we must not allow their voices to be lost if priorities change.

### **Comments of Cabinet Member**

The Leader of the Council is engaged in the consultation on the development of the LG Bill.

### **Local issues**

None.

### **Scrutiny Committees**

NA

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

Not applicable.

### **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

Although no targeted consultation has taken place specifically aimed at children and young people, previous consultation responses would show that children and young people are concerned about sustaining local government services in the future.

### **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

The Council has considered the Act and the sustainable development principle in the response to this proposal as outlined in the report. The importance of local people being involved in decisions moving forward is key and we must not allow their voices to be lost if priorities change.

### **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Not applicable.

### **Consultation**

Comments received from wider consultation, including the Senior Leadership team and comments from elected members, are included in the proposed response.

## **Background Papers**

[Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Bill: Bill Summary \(March 2020\)](#)

[Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Bill](#)

[Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Bill: Explanatory Memorandum \(November 2019\)](#)

[Local Government Act 1994](#)

[Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery Full Report \(January 2014\)](#)

[Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee – Stage 1 Report \(March 2020\)](#)

Dated: 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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## Appendix 1 - Newport City Council Consultation response draft

### Welsh Government Consultation Document - Regulations to establish Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs)

*Date of issue: 12 October 2020*

*Responses by 4 January 2021*

*Full consultation paper can be found [here](#) and is also available in Welsh.*

#### Consultation Question One:

##### **a) What are your views on CJCs being subject to broadly the same powers and duties as principal councils?**

We are concerned that the creation of another tier of 'local government' in Wales moves decision-making further away from local communities. Establishing CJCs which act in the same way as local government, with appropriate and necessary governance and oversight will mean replicating structures that already exist at a local level. This will further reduce current capacity in terms of both expertise and skills but also democratic oversight to the regional level or by re-creating the same structures but taking resources from local authorities to do so.

Our previous responses to local government reform indicated that we believe that local government should determine in which areas it wishes to collaborate. There are excellent examples of regional collaboration led by local government.

However, for CJCs to function effectively, openly and transparently we agree that CJCs should be subject to broadly the same powers and duties as principal Councils. If CJCs are to be treated as "a member of the local government family" then they have to be subject to the same rules and requirements as local authorities in relation to the way that they operate and discharge statutory functions. The challenge will be to adequately address the requirements that will be placed on them to act regionally while remaining engaged with local communities.

##### **b) Do you agree that CJCs should have broadly the same governance and administrative framework as a principal council provided that this is proportionate? Please give your reasons.**

Yes, we agree. The functions to be delivered by CJCs will need to be supported by robust and proven governance at a regional level. As a minimum requirement, the governance and administrative framework for the CJCs should provide the same level of democratic accountability as for local authorities. It is accepted that there has to be a degree of flexibility and proportionality, to enable CJCs to regulate their own business, but there has to be a basic requirement for openness and transparency. In order not to reduce capacity and skills for local government, this must be properly set up and resourced.

We would hope that, for South East Wales, we will be able to build upon the governance and structures already in place for the City Deal to meet the CJC Regulation.

Given that CJCs will have the ability to set a budget, incur expenditure, charge fees, acquire and dispose of property, employ staff etc. then a sufficient administrative framework should be developed to support them.

**c) Do you agree that members of CJsCs should have appropriate discretion on the detail of constitutional and operational arrangements? Please give your reasons.**

Yes we agree within defined parameters. In principle, each CJC should have an element of discretion to determine what governance and operational arrangements best suit their particular needs and objectives, but there needs to be a prescribed framework which sets out minimum requirements for democratic decision-making and open and transparent governance. We would need to see the guidance for these to be able to respond further.

**Consultation Question Two:**

**These CJC areas have been agreed by local government Leaders as the most appropriate to reflect the functions being given to CJsCs by these Establishment Regulations. Do you have any comments or observations on these CJC areas in relation to these functions or the future development of CJsCs?**

We agree that the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal area is the right fit for the strategic planning, economic development and regional transport functions of the current proposed South East Wales CJC. These functions are already being delivered collaboratively across this geographical footprint, so the proposal will facilitate the transition from the current City Deal Joint Cabinet arrangements and enable the CJC to develop from the current working model. However, the governance capacity of the City Deal will have to be significantly increased to meet the requirements.

Applying the same regional footprint to the school improvement service will be more problematic. The current regional consortia for school improvement cover different geographical areas and adopt different methods of service delivery. For example the Gwent Education Advisory Service is a company limited by guarantee formed by the constituent authorities, with their own staff and resources, which delivers school improvement services to the member authorities under service level agreements and subject to both internal and external scrutiny arrangements. Other consortia adopt more traditional joint committee and lead authority arrangements. Changing these disparate arrangements into a single CJC covering a combined geographical area will be extremely complex.

**Consultation Question Three:**

**a) Do you agree with the approach to the development of the regulations for CJsCs as outlined in this consultation? Please give your reasons.**

Yes, we agree with the approach and that local government Leaders and WLGA have been involved in the development of the Regulations. It is disappointing that the COVID pandemic has interrupted this and we would ask that the draft regulations are developed as soon as possible to ensure that local government is able to meet the already tight timescale.

The separation of the Establishment Regulations and the Regulations of General Application is also supported. The Establishment Regulations will need to set out the specific provisions relating to the governance, funding, staffing and functions of each CJC. However, there will need to be a general legislative framework within which each of the CJsCs will be required to

operate, and these common requirements should, more appropriately, be set out in separate regulation of general application.

- b) We have indicated throughout this document what may be included in the Regulations of General Application, subject to the outcome of this consultation. Whilst the Regulations of General Application are not the subject of this consultation, in order to inform their development we would welcome your views on anything else which should be covered?**

The Regulations will need to clearly set out what general legislation is applicable to CJsCs and any regulatory inspection regimes, for example Well-being of Future Generations Act, Welsh Language Standards, social-economic duties and any performance management and external inspection requirements. We would like early clarification on matters such as finance, what set-up costs might be available, the role of Audit Wales, dates for key plans to be developed by, codes of conduct, member training, member support, links back into local authority accountability structures including reports to Cabinet, Council etc.

#### **Consultation Question Four:**

- a) Do you agree with the proposed approach to membership of CJsCs including co-opting of additional members? Please give your reasons.**

We agree that the model should follow the City Deal Regional Cabinet with the Executive Leader being the senior representative and should follow the one member one vote arrangement currently in place. We note that non executive members are likely to become members of CJC Scrutiny Committees and this may reduce local democratic capacity. Attracting the right talent to CJC democratic structures will be important.

We would consider co-opted membership to be helpful but would question whether co-opted members should have voting rights. CJsCs are responsible to constituent councils and so the voting power of co-opted persons must not override the ordinary members who have been elected by the communities we serve.

It should not be necessary to co-opt additional members from constituent authorities, as Council Leaders will be able to represent their local areas. However, the Regulations may wish to make provision for Deputy Leaders to be able to deputise or substitute for Leaders at CJC meetings, where they are unavailable.

Co-option should be based on some specific expertise that the co-opted members can bring to particular matters and could be limited to consideration of specific issues. If they are drawn from outside of the constituent authorities, then they should not have any voting rights as this would affect the democratic decision-making process. Although the proposed Regulations would effectively prevent co-opted members from out-voting constituent authorities, the co-opted votes could still have a material impact on the outcome of a vote and decisions being taken, without any direct democratic accountability.

- b) What are your views on the role proposed for National Park Authorities on CJsCs, as described above?**

The National Park Authorities will clearly have a role to play in the determination of the Strategic Development Plan for their particular region and, therefore, it is appropriate that they should be given a right of representation and voting rights on the CJC when this is being determined. However, these rights should be limited to the Strategic Development

Plan. CJsCs should be able to co-opt members of the National Park Authorities if they have particular expertise in other strategic development matters, but on a non-voting basis.

### **Consultation Question Five:**

#### **a) What are your views on the proposed approach of ‘one member one vote’ and the flexibility for CJsCs to adopt alternative voting procedures?**

This appears to work relatively well in the City Deal Regional Cabinet arrangements where members are considering the whole of the region in terms of economic development. However, we note that funding is often a contentious issue and the proportionate split based on population can be problematic. With Strategic Planning Boards, there has been no general consensus about weighted voting, either based on population numbers or other factors such as developable land areas. Therefore, anything other than “one member one vote” can be politically contentious and can be difficult to resolve. Traditionally, joint committees have operated on the basis of each constituent authority having an equal vote and it may be more consistent to continue with this approach.

Alternatively, if CJsCs want discretion and flexibility to change to a different system of voting, after they have been established, then perhaps the Regulations should consider imposing a “special majority” requirement, where a minimum number of councils would need to agree before voting rights could be changed.

#### **b) What are your views on the proposed quorum for CJsCs?**

We agree that this is important and should be set at the suggested high level for any decisions of the CJC. A 70% quorum requirement would ensure that the majority of local authorities would need to be represented at any meeting of the CJC before any decisions could be taken. It would not be appropriate for binding regional decisions to be taken by a smaller number of members, as this would be undemocratic. However, it is important that Leaders attend CJC meetings on a regular basis to ensure that meetings are quorate and business can be transacted. Therefore, enabling deputies or substitute members to attend in the absence of the Council Leaders would assist in ensuring that meetings are regularly quorate.

#### **c) What are your views on the proposed approach to voting rights for co-opted members to a CJC?**

We do not believe that co-opted members should have voting rights for the reasons set out above. Our view would be that the CJC should restrict the number of co-opted members on each committee and should properly consider the skills and knowledge gaps it may have to fill a limited number of roles.

### **Consultation Question Six:**

#### **What are your views on CJsCs being able to co-opt other members and/or appoint people to sit on sub-committees?**

We agree that CJsCs should have the power to establish sub-committees should they wish to do so. However, most sub-committees are comprised of a smaller number of voting



members of the main committee (which in this case would be the CJC). It is unusual for sub-committees, particularly those exercising devolved or delegated power, to be comprised of members who are not on the main CJC. If sub-committees are to be given delegated power to exercise functions and take decisions in relation to specific areas, then the same considerations should apply as with the main CJC in terms of the democratic process, representation and voting rights. Therefore, if other executive members of the constituent principal authorities are to serve on these sub-committees, then consideration should be given to the same rules applying to the sub-committees regarding representation, voting rights and quorum requirements. If the sub-committees are to be advisory groups and not have any decision-making power, then these considerations would not apply. However, if they exercise any delegated functions, then they should be subject to the same democratic processes as the main CJC.

The range of business that is to be devolved to CJsCs may not be able to be dealt with by the Executive Member plus a deputy. These are senior members who will also hold a significant role within the local authority. Therefore, there may be a need for other executive members to participate in the decision-making process of the CJC, provided that this does not subvert or undermine the democratic process. However we have concerns regarding the co-opting other non-elected members and would not want to see such committees weighted toward co-opted members simply because of the capacity of elected representative to service them alongside their other duties as elected members. Any co-opted stakeholders or non-elected members should not have voting rights on sub-committees exercising delegated functions.

#### **Consultation Question Seven:**

**a) Do you agree that the approach to co-option of members would enable wider engagement of stakeholders in the work of a CJC?**

Yes we agree. However, co-opted stakeholders should not have any voting rights or decision-making powers for the reasons set out above,

**b) What might be needed to support CJC members in the involvement and engagement of appropriate stakeholders in their work?**

Member development will be an important aspect of the role of the CJC. We would like the guidance to offer assistance and clarity on this. This would need to include the requirements of acting in a regional multi-authority role. However, elected members will already be familiar with the ways of working under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, particularly in relation to collaboration, involvement and taking an integrated approach.

#### **Consultation Question Eight:**

**a) Do you agree that members and staff of a CJC should be subject to a Code of Conduct and that the code should be similar to that of Principal Councils? Please give your reasons.**

We agree. If the CJsCs are to be part of the “local government family”, then the same rules regarding ethical behaviour and standards of conduct should apply to both staff and elected members who serve on the CJC or any sub-committees. In order to achieve this consistency of approach, the CJsCs should be designated as relevant authorities for the purposes of Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000. That would ensure that elected

members serving on the CJC would be subject to the same Model Code of Conduct as when they are acting as local Councillors and the CJC would be responsible for maintaining separate registers and declarations of interests. The CJC members would then be subject to the same jurisdiction of the Ombudsman and the Adjudication Panel for Wales. CJCs will already be required to appoint their own Monitoring Officers for the purposes of the ethical standards framework. However, they would also have to establish their own internal Standards Committee in order to comply with Part 3, with the requisite independent membership, although the Standards Committee Regulations would need to be amended to reflect the regional nature of the CJC.

**b) What are your views on the adoption of a Code of Conduct for co-opted members?**

Co-opted members of local authorities, with voting rights, are subject to the same Code of Conduct as elected members. Therefore, the same requirement should apply to co-opted members of CJCs.

**c) Should all co-opted members be covered by a code i.e. those with and without voting rights?**

No. Only co-opted members with voting rights should be subject to the Members Code of Conduct, for example members of National Park Authorities dealing with the Strategic Development Plan. Co-opted members with no voting rights are not exercising any democratic decision-making power and, given the restricted nature of their role, should not be subject to the general standards of behaviour set out in the Members Code of Conduct. This is consistent with the current position with non-voting co-opted members of local authority committees.

**Consultation Question Nine:**

**a) What are your views on the proposed approach for determining the budget requirements of a CJC?**

The timeline to produce a budget within two months of the first meeting will be a challenging one as the CJC will not have established its plans or staffing complement. As the cost associated with the CJC will be mainly administrative initially we would suggest that budgetary plans are made for the five year term to support medium term planning.

There is likely to be significant expertise required from the local authority to ensure that such arrangements are in place. Local government is currently dealing with an unprecedented set of complex issues and we will need to consider the capacity at leadership level to ensure these needs are met.

Funding a new tier of local government inevitably reduces funding from the direct provision of services and while set up costs will be provided there needs to be consideration to an increase in local government funding. Working with our partner local authorities we will endeavour to keep the costs of the CJC to a minimum and will look to use the proportionate financial contribution models that were used to create the City Deal. Multi-year funding agreements will be needed for stability and to provide clarity local financial planning. We suggest that this is included in the Regulations, however this is a difficult issue when single year settlements are provided by Welsh Government.

**b) What are your views on the timescales proposed (including for the first year) for determining budget requirements payable by the constituent principal councils?**

As above. Local government is currently dealing with an unprecedented set of complex issues and we will need to consider the capacity at leadership level to ensure these needs are met.

**Consultation Question Ten:**

**a) Do you agree that CJsCs should be subject to the same requirements as principal councils in terms of accounting practices? Please give your reasons.**

Yes.

**b) Do you agree that the detail of how a CJC is to manage its accounting practices should be included in the Regulations of General Application? If not what more would be needed in the Establishment Regulations?**

Yes, we agree and would request early guidance on this.

**Consultation Question Eleven:**

**What are your views on the proposed approach to staffing and workforce matters?**

We note the staffing structure proposed and the likely costs. This is shown to be cheaper than working in collaboration within current local structures which is not necessarily the case.

As mentioned above funding a new tier of local government inevitably reduces funding from the direct provision of services and while set up costs will be provided there needs to be consideration to an increase in local government funding and longer term settlements.

Given the footprint that the CJC is likely to cover it is not possible to have a common set of terms of conditions of employment for a similar or comparable role. Each Principal Council will have its own set of terms and conditions of employment, job evaluation scheme and associated pay scales and this will need to be taken into consideration. It is likely, therefore, that if resource is gathered from a number of Principal Councils to support a CJC function that they will be subject to different terms and conditions of employment, either as secondees remaining employed by each Principal Council, or as a directly employed workforce via a TUPE process into the CJC. In order to overcome this CJC will need to devise its own pay and policy structures or there will be an inherent unfairness. Staff that are seconded would retain their host organisation's terms and conditions, as would those on loan for specific, time-bound activities.

It is essential that any transfer of staff from constituent local authorities to the CJsCs is subject to TUPE principles and the Code of Conduct on Workforce Matters, to protect their terms and conditions of employment and to safeguard pension rights. In addition, CJsCs should be designated a public bodies for the purposes of the Redundancy Modifications Order, to ensure that periods of employment with the CJC should count for the purposes of continuous public sector employment and redundancy entitlement.

The same political restrictions, codes of conduct, statutory duties and indemnities that apply to local authority staff should also apply to employees and officers of the CJC.

It is probable that there may be a mixed pattern of employment within the CJC with some direct appointments but other roles seconded on a task and finish basis. This may be difficult to manage while still ensuring that the statutory requirements are fulfilled. Allowing our statutory officers, and other staff to assist will place a burden on local authority capacity.

### **Consultation Question Twelve:**

**What are your views in relation to CJsCs being required to have or have access to statutory “executive officers”?**

The size and scope of the transfer of functions to the CJC will require this level of knowledge and expertise. It is possible that these would not be full time positions, as recognised in the Regulatory Impact Assessment. There may be some cross benefits in these roles supporting across all CJC functions. It is possible that CJsCs could share executive officers between themselves or with constituent authorities, but these arrangements would need to have safeguards against any conflict of interest.

The detail on ‘access’ to these staff will be important. If CJC are to employ these officers that will require significant financial resources to be allocated to this area of staffing. If the expectation is that the officers who fulfil these roles will be those currently employed in these positions within Principal Councils, then this will create pressures back within those Councils. There should not be an expectation that removing certain functions and making a CJC responsible for them will reduce the resource burden on Principal Councils to any great extent. Newport City Council is not in a position where it could operate sustainably with reduced Chief Officer capacity.

### **Consultation Question Thirteen:**

**Do you have any other views on provision for staffing or workforce matters within the establishment regulations?**

We would welcome the Social Partnership approach described between the CJC and recognised Trade Unions. We feel that this would be best achieved through guidance. Given that staff of all levels are likely to be working for and within CJC in various capacities (loaned, seconded or employed), guidance will need to knit together these arrangements and how they apply to those various scenarios. A single set of terms and conditions will not be applicable across the range of employment arrangements.

### **Consultation Question Fourteen:**

**a) Is it clear what functions the CJsCs will exercise as a result of these establishment regulations? If not, why?**

Yes, subject to the detail to follow.

The economic well-being function needs clarification especially around the role of the local authority versus the CJC.

**b) Do the establishment regulations need to say more on concurrence, if so what else is needed, or should that be left to local determination?**

There needs to be clarity about the exercise of concurrent functions, particularly in relation to economic well-being. However, there also has to be some level of flexibility for individual CJs to agree with constituent authorities about how these concurrent functions should be discharged within their particular region. Therefore, it may be advisable for this to be covered in statutory guidance rather than prescribed within the Establishment Regulations. Individual local authorities should not be precluded from exercising concurrent economic well-being powers for specific regeneration projects within their local areas.

**c) In your view are there any functions which might be appropriate to add to these CJs in the future? If yes, what?**

No.

**Consultation Question Fifteen:**

**Do you think the regulations should provide for anything to be a decision reserved to the CJC rather than delegated to a sub-committee? If so what?**

We agree with the suggestions in the consultation document ie. agreement of budgets; the adoption or approval of plans or strategies (including the Regional Transport Plan and Strategic Development Plan); and consideration of any reports required by statute. This is consistent with the Functions and Responsibilities Regulations for local authorities operating executive arrangements, where policy framework decisions are reserved to full Council rather than discharged by Cabinet, for example the budget and key strategic policies.

**Consultation Question Sixteen:**

**What are your views on the approach to transfer of the exercise of functions to these CJs?**

The CJC will need development time before it is able to effectively and efficiently able to transfer functions in. Set up implications over the first part of 2021 will be a drain on capacity and will mostly likely have to be largely undertaken within existing structures acting in collaboration.

The transition from existing arrangements to the new CJC model will be more complex where there are existing arrangements in place, such as in relation to strategic transport planning and economic well-being, and there will be a need to transfer staff and resources to enable the CJs to take over the delivery of these functions. The transfer approach should endeavour to simplify and expedite this process, so far as is practicable, and this needs to be reflected in both the Establishment Regulations and the flexibility given to each region to manage the process.

### Consultation Question Seventeen:

**What are your views on CJs being subject to wider public body duties as described above?**

We agree that the CJC should be subject to the same public body duties as the constituent councils e.g. Well-being of Future Generations, Equality Act (the new socio-economic duty is particularly relevant), Welsh Language Standards etc.

### Consultation Question Eighteen:

**a) The Welsh Government is keen to continue working closely with local government and others on the establishment and implementation of CJs. Do you have any views on how best we can achieve this?**

We would consider it important to continue the dialogue of coproduction into the medium and long term, not just at the set up stage.

**b) In your view, what core requirements / components need to be in place to ensure a CJC is operational, and exercising its functions effectively?**

It would assist if the Establishment Regulations and Regulations of General Application, together with the associated statutory guidance, could be finalised and made available to councils as soon as possible, to enable the preparatory work to commence. In addition, it would be helpful if a specific budget could be identified for the start-up costs and the preparatory and transitioning work, as councils will be unable to deal with these additional burdens within existing resources, to meet the September 2021 deadline.

The early meetings of the CJC will need to establish governance and financial structures and there will inevitably be a delay before the CJC is fully operational and effectively discharging its functions. Therefore, during the transition period, particularly for existing services, there may need to be agreed arrangements for the concurrent discharge of functions and the phased transfer of staff and resources.

**c) In particular, what do you think needs to be in place prior to a CJC meeting for the first time, on the day of its first meeting and thereafter?**

The Regulations and guidance should provide the legal framework for the first meetings of the CJs. Thereafter, the CJs will need to determine their own governance arrangements, within that framework. The CJs will then have to agree a programme and process for the transfer of existing functions and the discharge of new strategic duties, together with any agreed arrangements for the migration from existing collaborative arrangements.

### Consultation Question Nineteen:

**a) Do you think it would be helpful for the Welsh Government to provide guidance on the establishment and operation of CJs?**

Yes.

**b) Are there any particular areas which should be covered by the guidance?**

As outlined in the consultation document - constitution, governance, finance and staffing. Consideration also needs to be given to helping communities understand the growing changes in how services are delivered (national, regional, local, shared and through arms length models). Clear, simple, explanatory information is needed so that local authorities can consistently explain to their electorate why CJs exist.

Clarity is needed in the economic well-being function and how CJs complement the local function.

### **Consultation Question Twenty:**

- a) How can the Welsh Government best support principal councils to establish CJs?**

As outlined above, and a commitment to ongoing costs reflected in annual settlements.

- b) Are there areas the Welsh Government should prioritise for support?**

Governance and finance should be a priority for guidance, alongside staffing conditions and clear engagement.

- c) Is there anything that CJs should/should not be doing that these Establishment Regulations do not currently provide for?**

No.

### **Consultation Question Twenty One:**

- a) Do you agree with our approach to, and assessment of, the likely impacts of the regulations? Please explain your response.**

We do not agree that the cost of setting up CJs is less than the do nothing option. Costs are set at a minimum level without overheads etc.

- b) Do you have any additional/alternative data to help inform the final assessment of costs and benefits contained within the Regulatory Impact Assessment? If yes, please provide details.**

No, this is not possible in the timeframe.

### **Consultation Question Twenty Two:**

- a) We would like to know your views on the effects that establishment of CJs would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.**

CJs welsh language approach and requirements should be set by the Welsh Language



Commissioner, and translation costs will need to be considered.

**b) What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?**

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### **Consultation Question Twenty Three:**

**Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy for the establishment of CJsCs could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.**

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### **Consultation Question Twenty Four:**

**We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:**

None. We note the consultation on performance and governance which will be the subject of a separate response.

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# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: 16 December 2020

**Subject** Newport City Council Covid-19 Response and Recovery Update

**Purpose** To present to Cabinet an update on the Council's progress being made towards recovering services and supporting Newport's communities as part of its Strategic Recovery Aims.

**Author** Chief Executive  
Head of People and Business Change

**Ward** All

**Summary** The Covid-19 health emergency has been ongoing since March 2020 and has impacted all communities and businesses across Newport as the City has continued to adapt and respond to the necessary restrictions to minimise the spread of the virus. Newport Council's response has been to ensure continuity of services with our strategic partners, support vulnerable residents across communities, support businesses and ensure the safety of staff. This report provides an overview of what action the Council has taken to date and the progress against the Strategic Recovery Aims.

Since the last Cabinet Report and 'Fire Break' in November 2020 community spread of Covid-19 has remained prevalent across Newport and South East Wales. With the current restrictions in place the Council's Civil Contingencies 'Gold Team' alongside Strategic Coordination Group and Incident Management Teams have taken necessary actions and shared communications supporting communities and businesses to reinforce the requirements.

**Proposal** Cabinet is asked to consider the contents of the report and note the progress being made to date, the risks that are still faced by the Council.

**Action by** Corporate Management Team

**Timetable** Immediate

**Signed**

## **Background**

Since the last Cabinet Report on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Newport Council and its partners have continued to monitor vigilantly the Covid-19 cases in the City through its role at the multi-agency Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG), the Council's Emergency Response Team (Covid Gold) and liaison with Welsh Government (WG) and Public Health Wales partners.

### **Covid-19 Response (12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020) and Restrictions in place over the Festive period**

Since the 'Fire Break' that was in place for two weeks (23<sup>rd</sup> October to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020), the spread of Covid-19 remains prevalent across communities in Newport and across South East Wales and unfortunately families have continued to lose loved ones as a result of the virus. The Welsh Government (WG) has continued to keep a number of national measures in place following the end of the national firebreak period which include:

- Two household's bubbles can be formed;
- Non-essential business can remain open;
- 15 people can meet indoors for organised activities;
- 30 people can meet outdoors for organised activities;
- No travel restrictions within Wales; and
- Work from home where possible.

In addition to the measures above, the WG introduced new national restrictions for the hospitality and indoor entertainment sectors including:

- Pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes will have to close by 6pm and will not be allowed to serve alcohol.
- After 6pm pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes they will only be able to provide takeaway services.
- Indoor entertainment venues, including cinemas, bingo halls, bowling alleys, soft play centres, casinos, skating rinks and amusement arcades, must close.
- Indoor visitor attractions, such as museums, galleries and heritage sites will also have to close.
- Travel between Wales and areas in the UK with high rates of coronavirus will not be allowed

Welsh Government will formally review these restrictions by December 17 and then every three weeks.

Between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> December the Welsh Government in conjunction with the other three nations (England, Scotland and Northern Ireland) has relaxed the restrictions to enable households and their families to come together over the festive period. This will mean that families can:

- Form an exclusive 'Christmas bubble' composed of no more than three households;
- You can only be in one Christmas bubble;
- You can travel anywhere within the UK for the purposes of meeting your Christmas bubble;
- You must not form a Christmas bubble if you are self-isolating.

Whilst these rules have been relaxed, all Governments are urging households to keep to the social distance guidelines, to take sensible and common sense approaches to meeting in their Christmas Bubbles. All Nations have also indicated that there may be further restrictions after this period to prevent further large outbreaks as the restrictions have been relaxed.

### **Covid-19 Vaccine**

In the last month, significant steps have been taken by medical science and pharmaceutical companies to roll out the vaccines across the country. WG alongside the Health Boards and Local Authorities are making arrangements to support this rollout on a priority basis as soon as the vaccine is received. As stated by UK and WG, the vaccine programme will take some time to reach all demographics and Covid-19 will remain. This will still mean that as restrictions will remain in place for the foreseeable future and it is encouraged for individuals, households and work places to keep necessary social distancing measures in place.

## Newport Council Activity and Progress in delivering Strategic Recovery Aims

Newport Council through its Covid Gold team and Incident Management Team have continued to monitor the Covid-19 cases and to ensure new cases are being processed through the Track, Trace and Protect service. As summarised in the table below, service areas are still delivering services to the communities and supporting the most vulnerable and marginalised during this winter period. Outlined in Appendix 1 of the report is a detailed update on the progress of delivery being made against the Strategic Recovery Aims. A summary of the progress to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 as follows:

<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education &amp; Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Across Newport schools, Covid-19 cases remain and schools are taking necessary self-isolation action as per the Welsh Government guidance issued. As per the Welsh Government guidance issued, all secondary school pupils in Newport are now required to wear face masks in communal areas.</li> <li>• As at 13th November, 698 Supermarket vouchers in total had been issued in relation to self-isolating pupils and 7,501 to support free school meals provision over the recent half-term and firebreak periods.</li> <li>• School attendance data for the first half term of the academic Year (Sept/Oct 2020) highlights similar rates of attendance in both primary and secondary schools. The rate of attendance at special schools was significantly lower than that of primary and secondary sectors.</li> <li>• Community Regeneration is working in partnership with Digital Communities Wales to deliver a Welsh Government project which will loan IT equipment and provide data for eligible clients on the Communities for Work (CFW) and CFW Plus projects.</li> <li>• The Reach/Restart project continues to offer support to refugees across the city via virtual meetings, email, phone service.</li> <li>• Pilot project being rolled out by WG and Digital Communities Wales to provide free BT Wi-Fi vouchers to asylum seekers and refugees across Newport, providing six months of unlimited internet access.</li> <li>• BAME specific business support proposal being progressed with Business Wales and independent consultant.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 25 grant applications approved for Transforming Towns Fund to support businesses to trade throughout the winter with Covid 19 restrictions.</li> <li>• We have been successful in securing over £1million of additional funding for affordable housing in Newport. This will support the development of units on two RSL developments.</li> <li>• Newport City Council along with a range of Public Services Board Partners have signed up to the Gwent Healthy Travel Charter.</li> <li>• To support businesses in Newport, all NCC owned car parks are free over December and January to encourage visitors to safely shop and eat in the run up to Christmas.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health &amp; Wellbeing of Citizens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Support has been extended to assist homeless people to move into temporary accommodation.</li> <li>• Carers Rights Day was on the 25<sup>th</sup> November and an information bulleting will be sent to over 500 people registered as part of the carer's network.</li> <li>• The Commissioning team will administer the additional payments to social care providers (SSP enhancement scheme) to ensure any staff member required to self-isolate will receive their full pay.</li> <li>• The Museum Central Library and larger branch libraries have re-established the appointment only access system as per the pre firebreak arrangements.</li> <li>• Internally, the workforce has continued to be supported through provision of DSE assessment and provision of equipment where necessary, in addition to a range of wellbeing toolkits, support and training.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 2 capital project progressing with regular communications between partners and WG</li> <li>• Ongoing support and pathway activities to homeless people in Newport to establish long term solutions.</li> <li>• Foodbank working group, Disability Group and EU Citizens forum continue to meet virtually</li> <li>• WG hate crime in schools project being delivered across schools, raising awareness of identity based bullying and equipping children with critical thinking skills</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of activities and services continue to be delivered across Community regeneration facilities in the City within current social distancing requirements.</li> <li>• The perception survey is currently being extended using the 'bus wifi' technology which will increase responses and broaden the demographic spread. Results should be available in December.</li> <li>• Participatory budget is now underway across the City.</li> </ul>
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### Financial Summary

The Council's financial (revenue and capital) update is reported separately as part of the Council's budget management. The Covid-19 impact is reported to Cabinet and as highlighted in previous finance reports, the Council's financial position continues to be closely monitored in light of significant reductions in income and increase in costs to deliver services during the crisis.

### Risks

Through the Council's Risk Management process, the Covid-19 risk is reported every quarter to the Council's Cabinet and Audit Committee. Below is the latest update taken from the Quarter 2 2020/21 risk report update.

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (1-5)	Probability of risk occurring (1-5)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Covid 19 Pandemic Risk (Corporate Risk)	5	5	Mitigation measures outlined in the report.	Corporate Management Team

### Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Corporate Plan 2017-22  
Strategic Recovery Aims

### Options Available and considered

1. To consider and note the contents of the report and for Cabinet / Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.
2. To request further information or reject the contents of the report

### Preferred Option and Why

1. To consider and note the contents of the report and for Cabinet / Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.

## **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

Welsh Government have been supporting local authorities through the pandemic with a Hardship Fund intended to reimburse for all Covid related spend over and above existing budgets and within a set criteria. The fund also includes loss of income compensation; again, within a set criteria. The fund excludes 'Council Tax loss of income' which is currently under significant strain and 'Council Tax Reduction Scheme costs reimbursement' – both of which are monitored carefully. The fund will run to the end of the current financial year. It is continually developing and evolving to support specific initiatives as and when required.

In essence, Covid related, eligible expenditure are predominantly funded by the WG. A revenue budget monitor to end of September reported to November Cabinet confirmed a positive overall position for the Council and includes the impact of the financial assistance provided from the Hardship Fund as well as the normal and routine budget issues that affect the Council.

All costs which are not eligible for WG funding will need to be funded from services own budgets and will be reported as and when they develop over the year. Service areas have been asked to minimise these, wherever possible where they create overspending.

## **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report, which provides an update on the actions taken to deliver the Council's Strategic Recovery Aims and progress since the October report. Any legal issues will be picked up at the appropriate time as part of the operational delivery of the individual actions, within service areas. The main developments since the last report are in relation to the fire-break lock-down and the continuing restrictions in the lead up to the Christmas period. There continues to be an increase in the Test, Trace Protect contact tracing work, with numbers of cases and positivity rates rising throughout Gwent. Extra grant funding has been secured from Welsh Government to recruit additional contact tracers and contact advisers to deal with the increasing cases.

## **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

The recovery of the Council's services is important to ensure that we are able to build on the strong collaborative work that the Council has delivered in the last 6 months to manage this crisis. The role of Civil Contingencies, emergency planning and preparation is vital to ensure that the Council is able to continue to deliver services but also minimise the risks posed on Newport's communities as new restrictions are implemented.

The Council's supporting services and our partners are building on the advancements made to ensure we are able to operate safely and maintain the necessary social distance guidelines. The progress detailed in this report highlights the continuous work that is being made and build up resilience in the long term.

The HR implications are as outlined in the report as we continue to support the workforce through provision of equipment and a range of wellbeing measures.

## **Comments of Cabinet Member**

The Leader of the Council is briefed on all aspects of the Council's strategic recovery.

## **Local issues**

Members to be aware of the impacts that Covid is having on our Local Communities and business.

## **Scrutiny Committees**

NA

## **Equalities Impact Assessment**

The findings outlined in the Council's Covid-19 Community Impact Assessment have informed the development of the Strategic Recovery Aims as well as future strategic and operational decision making.

## **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

Not applicable.

## **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

The areas covered in this report demonstrate the progress being made against the Strategic Recovery Aims which also support the Council's Corporate Plan 2017-22. In consideration of the sustainable development principle and 5 ways of working:

**Long Term** – The progress reported against the Strategic Aims support the long term aims of the Council to improve people's lives.

**Preventative** – The preventative work outlined in the report support the Council's approach to minimising future covid 19 outbreaks and as necessary provide targeted support to those that need it. Re-establishing services in line with necessary legislation and regulation enables the Council to operate in the new normal.

**Integration** – The Strategic Recovery Aims have been integrated with the Council's Wellbeing Objectives set in the Corporate Plan as well as Service Plans. Recommendations from the Community Impact Assessment will also shape how the Council can improve the delivery of services across communities.

**Involvement** – Included in this report are actions to involve Newport's communities to provide assurance and shape the way in which services are being delivered by the Council. Their feedback and involvement in the process will enable the Council to consider how services are delivered in the long term.

**Collaboration** - The actions in the report are being undertaken in collaboration with partners from the Council's Public Services Board but also strategic partners within each service area. The collaborative work enables the Council to share resources and build expertise and knowledge.

## **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Not applicable.

## **Consultation**

Senior Leadership Team

Corporate Management Team

Officer leads across the Authority

## **Background Papers**

Cabinet Report (Strategic Recovery Aims) – July 2020

Corporate Plan 2017-22

Strategic Recovery Aims

Dated: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## Appendix 1 – Progress of Delivery against Strategic Recovery Aims (as at end of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education &amp; Employment.</b> Understand, and respond to, the additional challenges, which Covid19 has presented, including loss of employment, impact on business and on the progress, achievement and wellbeing of both mainstream and vulnerable learners.		
<b>Supports Wellbeing Objective 1 – To improve skills, education and employment opportunities.</b>		
Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
Support schools and other educational establishments to safely reopen for staff and pupils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of 19<sup>th</sup> October, 18 primary schools have had positive cases and 24 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. Seven secondary schools have had positive cases and 13 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. One special school has reported a case and one contact group has been required to self-isolate. There have been no recorded cases of children attending NCC nursery schools.</li> <li>• Schools have been providing either face to face or distance learning to pupils in line with guidance for the National 'fire-break' lockdown from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to 9<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li>• A hot school meal service reinstated on all primary school sites from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.</li> <li>• Arrangements to support free school meal entitlement for pupils unable to attend school due to self-isolation have now been implemented via a £19.50 per week supermarket voucher scheme, similar to that used to support eligible families during the summer term.</li> <li>• There continues to be a variable position regarding Breakfast Clubs. Head teachers are aware that Welsh Government's view is that there should be a return to pre-Covid arrangements however individual decisions regarding the reinstatement of this provision have been taken by Head teachers and Governing Bodies following completion of risk assessments and, where appropriate, fairness and equality impact assessments. Where provision has been reinstated, this also varies with some schools offering a traditional but reduced service, with others implementing a classroom-based approach.</li> <li>• There continues to be a variable position regarding Breakfast Clubs. Head teachers are aware that Welsh Government's view is that there should be a return to pre-Covid arrangements however individual decisions regarding the reinstatement of this provision have been taken by Head teachers and Governing Bodies following completion of risk assessments and, where appropriate, fairness and equality impact assessments. Where provision has</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of 4<sup>th</sup> December, 37 primary schools have had positive cases and 91 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. 9 secondary schools have had positive cases and 75 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. 2 special schools have reported a case and 4 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. There have been no recorded cases of children attending NCC nursery schools.</li> <li>• Following reinstatement of a hot meal service, Chartwells is working with primary and secondary schools to identify ways in which the traditional and popular Christmas Dinner can be provided on all sites during December.</li> <li>• The supermarket voucher scheme was used to support free school meal pupils during October half-term and the recent firebreak, and will also be used to support the forthcoming Christmas holiday period. This is in addition to the provision being made for free school meal pupils who are unable to attend school due to self-isolation requirement. As at 13<sup>th</sup> November, 698 vouchers in total had been issued in relation to self-isolating pupils and 7,501 to support free school meals provision over the recent half-term and firebreak periods.</li> <li>• As at 13<sup>th</sup> November, 27 schools across the primary and special school estate have reinstated breakfast club provision in some capacity.</li> <li>• Concessionary seats are now available for purchase on contracted home to school transport vehicles.</li> <li>• As at 13<sup>th</sup> November, the Education Service has received no requests from schools for priority testing for symptomatic pupils.</li> <li>• Additional PPE has been procured to support our specialist provisions this includes Perspex masks to enable deaf staff and pupils with communication difficulties to be able to communicate effectively.</li> <li>• A Health Care Plan task &amp; finish group has been established with Head Teachers; to ensure the health care needs of our most vulnerable pupils in mainstream school are supported through advice and training from Health care colleagues and appropriate co-constructed Health Care Plans.</li> <li>• Links have been established with Maindee Unlimited who are seeking to provide digital devices to primary pupils in Maindee Primary School</li> </ul>

**Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment.**

Understand, and respond to, the additional challenges, which Covid19 has presented, including loss of employment, impact on business and on the progress, achievement and wellbeing of both mainstream and vulnerable learners.

**Supports Wellbeing Objective 1 – To improve skills, education and employment opportunities.**

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)						
	<p>been reinstated, this also varies with some schools offering a traditional but reduced service, with others implementing a classroom-based approach. As at 19th October, 26 schools across the primary and special school estate have reinstated breakfast club provision in some capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home to School transport arrangements are operating successfully and thus enabling learners to access school. Concessionary seats will be made available from November 2020.</li> <li>• Newport Norse is continuing to meet the Cleaning SLA requirements in relation to the 24 schools that purchase this provision.</li> <li>• Head teachers are now able to submit priority test requests for symptomatic pupils who are unable to secure tests in the usual way. These requests are sent to the central Education Service who act as the conduit in submitting this information to ABUHB. Details of missed tests are shared with Head teachers who will then ensure that appropriate welfare checks are carried out.</li> </ul>	<p>and Lliswerry Primary School. The project was officially launched at the start of December with the schools participating in an interview with BBC Wales as part of this event.</p>						
<p>Work to prevent and reduce inequality of progress and outcomes in education for mainstream and vulnerable learners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings are ongoing with schools, college and Careers Wales to identify school leavers who are not currently in education, employment or training and are at risk of becoming NEET. Follow up with the young people identified is completed by staff from the Education Services and Regeneration Investment &amp; Housing teams.</li> <li>• The average attendance rate across all schools in September 2020 was 80%. All learners, including those that were previously shielding were expected to return to their school from 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020. However, in most schools, a minority of pupils have not returned as a result of parental concerns about transmission of the Covid-19 virus. These concerns are initially being followed up by the school. Concerns are then escalated to the Education Welfare Service after the school has made every attempt to engage the family. The use of Fixed Penalty Notices or proceedings for non-attendance is not currently available for local authorities / schools.</li> <li>• An increasing number of families are notifying schools and the local authority of their intention to home educate their children. As of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, 130 children were recorded as being home educated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School attendance data for the first half term of the academic Year (Sept/Oct 2020) highlights similar rates of attendance in both primary and secondary schools. The rate of attendance at special schools was significantly lower than that of primary and secondary sectors.</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Primary Schools Half Term 1</th><th>Secondary Schools Half Term 1</th><th>Special schools Half Term 1</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>89%</td><td>88.4%</td><td>78.8%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the week ending 23/10/20 attendance at schools in Newport was recorded at 87.2% which ranked the local authority at 5<sup>th</sup> position in Wales, falling below Ceredigion, Monmouthshire, Vale of Glamorgan and Gwynedd. It must be noted though that with their schools on half term, no data was available for Conwy, Powys or Pembrokeshire during this period.</li> <li>• The ABUHB Whole School Approach team has begun engaging with Newport schools to develop bespoke training and interventions, with a specific focus on Wellbeing and Covid recovery.</li> <li>• Through WG funding Newport has commissioned the Talking Zone Counselling service to expand their support for Secondary and primary</li> </ul>	Primary Schools Half Term 1	Secondary Schools Half Term 1	Special schools Half Term 1	89%	88.4%	78.8%
Primary Schools Half Term 1	Secondary Schools Half Term 1	Special schools Half Term 1						
89%	88.4%	78.8%						



**Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment.**

Understand, and respond to, the additional challenges, which Covid19 has presented, including loss of employment, impact on business and on the progress, achievement and wellbeing of both mainstream and vulnerable learners.

**Supports Wellbeing Objective 1 – To improve skills, education and employment opportunities.**

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
	<p>in Newport. This increased to 156 by the end of September 2020. Education Welfare Officers are contacting all families within 10 days of this notification to provide reassurances about the mitigations schools are putting into place to help reduce the transmission of the Covid-19 virus and to ensure that families understand the requirements related to home education.</p>	<p>age pupils and parents. Their service now provides community counselling and drop-in session for pupils up to the age of 19, tele-play therapy and virtual sessions for pupils aged 6-19 years, and parent consultations and block therapy.</p>
<p>Support schools to enhance and develop digital skills; digital teaching and learning platforms; and enhanced support for digitally excluded learners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to improve the IT infrastructure is continuing. 14 schools have migrated to the SRS Schools Edu network to date.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links have been established with Maindee Unlimited who are seeking to provide digital devices to primary pupils in Maindee Primary School and Lliswerry Primary School. The project was officially launched at the start of December with the schools participating in an interview with BBC Wales as part of this event.</li> <li>• Work to improve the IT infrastructure is ongoing. 19 schools have migrated to the SRS Schools Edu network to date.</li> </ul>
<p>Support and enable people that are digitally excluded to access community IT programmes, Council services and other public services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Community Learning courses have recommenced but will be paused during the firebreak period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Community Learning courses are operating again after the firebreak. Additional funding has been sourced from the Welsh Government for a pilot loan scheme to provide IT equipment and data to eligible ACL students.</li> <li>• Community Regeneration is working in partnership with Digital Communities Wales to deliver a Welsh Government project which will loan IT equipment and provide data for eligible clients on the Communities for Work (CFW) and CFW Plus projects.</li> </ul>
<p>Support people who have been affected by unemployment to access new opportunities through training and re-employment required for post Covid 19 businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCC continue to offer redundancy support to employers and their staff whose jobs are under threat. NCC Employer liaison officers are in regular contact with them to arrange appointments with employment mentors so they can help them to secure subsequent employment.</li> <li>• Plans are in place to create new delivery locations in the city centre to offer employability support. We have existing locations across the city to offer assistance with additional locations ready for any surges in referrals.</li> <li>• The Reach/Restart project continues to source tablets and WIFI dongles so we can continue to offer support to refugees in Newport. We're working closely with partner organisations, offering integration and employability advice and guidance. This includes equipment that is used to attend ESOL classes and accredited work related qualifications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCC are completing a bid for DWP's Kickstart Scheme which is designed to improve employability and chances of sustained employment for those at risk of long term unemployment in the 16-24-year-old age group. It provides grant funding to employers to support the creation of new jobs that would not otherwise exist.</li> <li>• Face to face appointments for work and skills support has also recommenced after the firebreak, on an appointment basis. Support remained available via virtual meetings and telephone calls during the firebreak.</li> </ul>

**Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment.**

Understand, and respond to, the additional challenges, which Covid19 has presented, including loss of employment, impact on business and on the progress, achievement and wellbeing of both mainstream and vulnerable learners.

**Supports Wellbeing Objective 1 – To improve skills, education and employment opportunities.**

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CfW+ Programme - Additional £142k funding secured from WG to support with the increased numbers of unemployed when Furlough Ends. Four x Employment Mentors and One Employment Liaison officer to be employed on a 6 month contract.</li> <li>• I.T. Loan scheme to be launched in October – 10 Laptops with internet for each hub to support CfW and CfW+ customers who are seen to be job ready.</li> </ul>	
<p>Ensure our diverse communities are appropriately supported through tailored interventions specific to their needs, including consideration of language, culture and points of access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Reach/Restart project continues to source tablets and WIFI dongles so we can continue to offer support to refugees in Newport. We're working closely with partner organisations, offering integration and employability advice and guidance. This includes equipment that is used to attend ESOL classes and accredited work related qualifications.</li> <li>• BAME specific business support proposal currently being considered by Business Support/Connected Communities Team.</li> <li>• Representative Workforce group established and scheduled to meet in November.</li> <li>• Leader's BAME forum continues and members engaged with work across the council.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot project being rolled out by WG and Digital Communities Wales to provide free BT Wifi vouchers to asylum seekers and refugees across Newport, providing six months of unlimited internet access.</li> <li>• BAME specific business support proposal being progressed with Business Wales and independent consultant.</li> <li>• Representative workforce group has met and agreed an action plan/priorities.</li> <li>• Leader's BAME forum continues and support has been provided to the Newport Cultural Hub in preparation for launch on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.</li> <li>• Work in partnership with EYST has commenced in relation to supporting BAME and other vulnerable communities to develop digital literacy skills, supported by Digital Communities Wales.</li> <li>• The Reach/Restart project continues to offer support to refugees across the city via virtual meetings, email, phone service. Face to face appointments were suspended during the firebreak but have now recommenced for clients who do not have I.T equipment. Android Tablets and WIFI dongles are being provided to some clients but this is not suitable for all. The Reach project has started a peer-mentoring scheme called Perthyn. The aim of the scheme is to coach clients so they can offer support and advice and help to fellow refugees who are new to the city.</li> <li>• The Families First and Flying Start programmes supporting a range of services to underrepresented groups have restarted, including the following: -</li> <li>• Language and Play team delivering speech and language support in polish (6-week evidence based programme) and delivering chatty children; a speech, language and communication group as a bilingual service.</li> <li>• Currently working within the North Hub with Gwent Police as a partnership engaging with survivors of sexual and domestic violence,</li> </ul>

**Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment.**

Understand, and respond to, the additional challenges, which Covid19 has presented, including loss of employment, impact on business and on the progress, achievement and wellbeing of both mainstream and vulnerable learners.

**Supports Wellbeing Objective 1** – To improve skills, education and employment opportunities.

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
		<p>using their lived experiences and feedback to change and improve the service the police force provides. We will be linking up with the Survivor Engagement Co-ordinator for Gwent Police.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We continue to support early identification of mental health through the ante natal and post-natal mental health support within the Flying Start initiative as part of the Healthy Child Wales programme. The FS programme funds a Clinical Psychiatric Nurse who supports the Health offer undertaking listening visits and implementing the Edinburgh Post Natal Depression assessment.</li> <li>• Families First contract Newport Mind, Serennu and Barnados all continue to provide services both via group and one to one support (post firebreak) to underrepresented groups across the City</li> </ul>

**Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy**

Understand and respond to the impact of Covid19 on the city's economic and environmental goals to enable Newport to thrive again.

**Supports Wellbeing Objective 2** – To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment.

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
Maintain our focus on regenerating Newport to deliver existing and new investment projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Businesses are submitting their applications for approval for the Transforming Towns funding which seeks to make the City Centre Covid-safe. This involves funding for canopies, awnings and outdoor heaters to increase outdoor customer space over the winter period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction work on Market Arcade continued over the firebreak period.</li> <li>• Planning application submitted for the Information Station Building to operate as co-working office &amp; creative space.</li> <li>• A total of 25 grant applications approved for Transforming Towns Fund to support businesses to trade throughout the winter with Covid 19 restrictions.</li> <li>• A larger Transforming Town Fund supporting the renovation of city centre properties to improve or bring back in to use empty properties as commercial or residential units has applications submitted for approval.</li> </ul>
Enable and support the construction industry to re-establish the supply of new and affordable housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We continue to deliver the planned development programme and have been working with RSL partners to identify schemes that could be brought forward at short notice to meet current demand should additional funding become available. We have been engaging with a number of national house builders to offer support in bringing developments forward.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have been successful in securing over £1million of additional funding for affordable housing in Newport. This will support the development of units on two RSL developments.</li> <li>• We have continued to deliver the planned development programme and together with RSL partners have submitted a list of schemes to</li> </ul>

**Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy**

Understand and respond to the impact of Covid19 on the city's economic and environmental goals to enable Newport to thrive again.

**Supports Wellbeing Objective 2** – To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment.

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
Enable and support businesses to re-establish normal operations whilst maintaining the health and safety of their workers and customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Businesses are submitting their applications for approval for the Transforming Towns funding which seeks to make the City Centre Covid-safe. This involves funding for canopies, awnings and outdoor heaters to increase outdoor customer space over the winter period.</li> <li>• The Business Support Team continue to process Welsh Government support grants, including the Freelancer grant and the pending third phase of the Economic Resilience Fund.</li> </ul>	<p>the Welsh Government that we have identified as priorities for slippage funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support businesses in Newport, all NCC owned car parks are free over December and January to encourage visitors to safely shop and eat in the run up to Christmas.</li> </ul>
Enable and support businesses to prepare for future trade arrangements resulting from Brexit negotiations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the previous Brexit update provided to Cabinet in October 2020, the UK Government and the EU have continued to negotiate a future trade agreement. However, it is now likely that the UK will leave the EU Single Market on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 without an agreement in place.</li> <li>• The Council's Brexit Task &amp; Finish group is awaiting the outcomes of the negotiations and are already increasing communication to businesses to prepare for new arrangements and to continue to encourage EU Citizens living in UK before 31<sup>st</sup> December to apply for EU Settled Status.</li> <li>• A separate Brexit report is being presented to Cabinet in November with an update on the Council's preparations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brexit preparations is provided in a separate Cabinet Report for December.</li> <li>• The Council's Brexit Task &amp; Finish group is continuing to monitor the position and prepare for post transition at the end of the year.</li> <li>• Newport Council is collaboratively working with WLGA, Gwent Councils and other public bodies to understand the risks and issues to the EU transition at the end of the December 2020.</li> </ul>
Protect and improve the environment, including air quality and decarbonisation of the city for its residents, businesses and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electric Vehicle Charging Points - Discussions and site visits have taken place to plan for the installation of the infrastructure.</li> <li>• Solar Installation - All phase 1 &amp; 2 sites are now complete. Further sites are being scoped for suitability for solar PV. The long term aim to install solar PV on 100% of our suitable sites.</li> <li>• Building efficiency programme - A soft market test for an energy efficiency partner has been completed, internal approvals / consultation ongoing.</li> <li>• Public Electric Vehicle Charging Points - Commissioning will be complete and charge points will be in operation in November. Three further sites developed by the Carbon Reduction Team – Installation to be managed by City Services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newport City Council along with a range of Public Services Board Partners have signed up to the Gwent Healthy Travel Charter. Twenty-one organisations across the Gwent area have signed up to the charter so far. Organisations who sign up to the charter sign up to 15 commitments and four targets promote active travel, public transport and agile working for staff with the view of reducing carbon emissions.</li> <li>• The community solar installations have come to an end. A further method of delivery within current restrictions on smaller sites is being identified.</li> <li>• Work on the Public Electric Vehicle Charging Points project has progressed over the firebreak period and contracts are now being finalised.</li> </ul>
Continuing support and safe delivery of the Council's City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results from the Covid-19 perception survey with Citizen's Panel that communities have valued refuse and recycling services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Services continue to operate normally, though response times may be longer than normal.</li> </ul>

**Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy**

Understand and respond to the impact of Covid19 on the city's economic and environmental goals to enable Newport to thrive again.

**Supports Wellbeing Objective 2** – To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment.

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
services including waste, cleansing and highways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>during this period, and also the maintenance of cleansing services.</li> <li>City Services continue to operate normally, though response times may be longer than normal.</li> <li>HWRC has reopened via a booking system only to manage social distancing requirements (though will close for 2 weeks during firebreak)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans are in place for prioritisation of essential services (waste collections, HWRC highway and drainage essential maintenance and winter service response) over the Christmas period and beyond should it be needed.</li> <li>To support businesses and encourage safe shopping in Newport, parking at NCC car parks will be free for visitors in December and January.</li> </ul>

**Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens**

Promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people, safeguarding the most vulnerable, and building strong, resilient communities

**Supports Wellbeing Objective 3** – To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
Support people to remain living independently in their homes and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home First continue to support people to return home if they do not need to be admitted to hospital at RGH and NHH. The Grange Hospital is anticipated to open in November and Home First will be expanded to provide a service from the new A&amp;E based there.</li> <li>The First Contact teams works in a flexible way and provides face to face assessment when necessary and social distancing requirements and when required use of PPE is strictly adhered to.</li> <li>The OT service is experiencing some staffing challenges and recruitment is underway. They continue to provide urgent assessments and provide an IAA service with First Contact. DFG work continues but only for the most urgent adaptations.</li> <li>There has been a significant increase in the number of people need assessment under the Mental Health Act which is statutory requirement. We are monitoring this situation carefully and working closely with colleagues in ABUHB.</li> <li>A range of support for people with difficulties with their mental wellbeing in the context of the pandemic has been developed in partnership with ABUHB and the voluntary sector and through Housing Support.</li> <li>Carer breakdown is a concern as the pandemic continue into the winter. Social Workers are in contact with the people we support and their Carers and are closely monitoring the situation.</li> </ul>	<p>Further to the updated provided in November:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Support has been extended to assist homeless people to move into temporary accommodation. NCC's Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator has facilitated co-ordination of outreach services and partnership working across has been strengthened through the multi-agency response.</li> <li>Carer breakdown is a concern as the pandemic continue into the winter. Social Workers are in contact with the people we support and their Carers and are closely monitoring the situation.</li> <li>Carers Rights Day was on the 25<sup>th</sup> November and an information bulleting will be sent to over 500 people registered as part of the carer's network.</li> </ul>

**Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens**

Promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people, safeguarding the most vulnerable, and building strong, resilient communities

**Supports Wellbeing Objective 3 – To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient**

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Day Opportunities based in Bryn Glas continues to support people in the community rather than providing a building based service.</li> <li>• We are able to access domiciliary care and support and are able to broker new packages.</li> </ul>	
<p>Fully restore Children and Adult Services, supporting partners that have been impacted by Covid 19 and ensuring service users and staff are supported and protected.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The in-house care homes have a small number of vacancies and are able to take admissions.</li> <li>• We are looking at the availability of emergency respite as a number of care homes are reluctant to accept short term placements unless the person has tested negative for COVID19.</li> <li>• The Social Services Training Team continues to support the teams and services including new starters to access any essential training through on-line courses and in-person training when necessary e.g. moving and handling.</li> <li>• Community Support for those people who have been shielding remains in place and we have extended the contract with Volunteering Matters who can provide support for people who for example, live some distance from their family and need help with shopping etc.</li> <li>• Community Connectors are also active in the communities and in particular the hard to reach groups who may need additional support to access TTP for example.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No further update.</li> </ul>
<p>Assess the impact and the long-term sustainability of the social care sector in Newport informing future service requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Contracts &amp; Commissioning Team work closely with colleagues in Environmental Health, PHW and ABUHB to support the Care Homes in Newport to manage the stringent requirements on infection control and PPE to keep their residents safe.</li> <li>• The £500 payment to frontline social care staff had been distributed to all those who meet the Welsh Government criteria. We have also gathered the names of staff across the sector who will be a high priority group to receive the vaccination when it becomes available. Access to the flu vaccine are restricted as supplies are limited but it is hoped this will change in the coming weeks and we can support frontline staff to access the vaccine via their community pharmacy.</li> <li>• Newport is working collaboratively with the other Local Authorities in Gwent to support the sector mitigate the impact through the distribution of the COVID Hardship Fund.</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to the update provided in November 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commissioning team will administer the additional payments to social care providers (SSP enhancement scheme) to ensure any staff member required to self-isolate will receive their full pay.</li> <li>• In order to enable visits to care homes to be reinstated, further guidance is being developed to assist homes to safely facilitate visits for relatives. Commissioning are maintaining regular contact with Domiciliary Care providers and agencies to monitor capacity.</li> </ul>

**Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens**

Promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people, safeguarding the most vulnerable, and building strong, resilient communities

**Supports Wellbeing Objective 3 – To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient**

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting to Care Homes has been limited to essential only visits such as end of life since Newport was placed under further restrictions by WG. We have supported the homes to use technology.</li> </ul>	
Safeguard and support children and young people to remain safely with their families.	<p>November 2020 – No further updates since September 2020</p> <p><i>September 2020 update:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Children Services are now conducting their work with families and young people applying necessary social distancing measures.</i></li> <li>• <i>Children's homes / settings have remained open and the team continues manage caseload accordingly.</i></li> <li>• <i>Development of Windmill Farm and Rosedale developments are still proceeding.</i></li> </ul>	No further update.
<p>Improve opportunities for Active Travel and work towards improved air quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Active Travel schemes being delivered this financial year are ongoing and the review of the Active Travel network map is also continuing.</li> <li>• The Council is also awaiting the report from SEWTC which will be released in November.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Service Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gwent Healthy Travel Charter was launched across 21 organisations committing to promote active travel across the region.</li> </ul> <p><b>SEWTC Final Recommendations Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SEWTC Final Recommendations November 2020 Report has now been published with specific recommendations for Ministers. The overarching recommendations are for a “network of Alternatives” in South East Wales, delivered through 5 work packages (infrastructure, policies, behavioural change, governance and land use planning)</li> <li>• There is capacity through all 5 work packages for the delivery of active travel and subsequent air quality improvements for the city.</li> </ul> <p><b>Active Travel Schemes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numerous Active travel schemes are being developed, implemented and completed this year. This includes Coed Melyn route, Devon place Footbridge, Monkey Island bridge, Gaer fort link, Tredegar park and former golf course.</li> <li>• Covid response Active travel schemes are being implemented throughout the city centre this winter including additional cycle provision and wider footways. Schemes are being implemented as part of suite of measures.</li> <li>• As part of the sustainable access to the city centre further Electric Vehicle charging points are being implemented and new lighting in</li> </ul>

<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health &amp; Wellbeing of Citizens</b> Promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people, safeguarding the most vulnerable, and building strong, resilient communities		
<b>Supports Wellbeing Objective 3 – To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient</b>		
<b>Strategic Aim Step</b>	<b>Update (November Cabinet 2020)</b>	<b>Update (December Cabinet 2020)</b>
		<p>areas such as under George Street Bridge and Heidenheim drive to provide safe walking and cycling connections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and stakeholder engagement has begun and the consultation exercise on the new Active travel Network Map will begin in late January 2021 and run for two months. This will take the form of interactive on line mapping which has been developed externally, to enable people to have their say in the development of new and improvement of existing walking and cycling routes across the city. Further consultations will be held in the summer and the final mapping will be submitted to the Welsh Government in December 2021.</li> </ul>
Regulate businesses and support consumers / residents to protect and improve their health.	<p><b><u>Last update October 2020</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Test, Trace and Protect Service has been supporting public services with the current outbreak in Newport.</li> <li>• Regulatory services continue to support businesses on their Covid-19 secure environments and continue to ensure necessary compliance arrangements are being adhered to for both workers and customers.</li> </ul>	No further update.
Work with key partners to safely re-open cultural and leisure facilities including the promotion of the city's parks, open spaces and coastal paths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Riverfront theatre remains closed during this period.</li> <li>• Newport Centre has remained partially open until the firebreak announced by the Welsh Government. The centre will close for the 2 weeks.</li> <li>• The Museum and Art Gallery have remained open for visits via an appointment system but will close on 23rd October as required by Welsh Government.</li> <li>• The Transporter Bridge is a seasonal attraction and has now closed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Museum Central Library and larger branch libraries have re-established the appointment only access system as per the pre firebreak arrangements.</li> <li>• The Riverfront theatre remains closed during this period.</li> <li>• Newport Centres are open and Newport Centre is partially open.</li> </ul>
Sustain a safe, healthy and productive workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further to the progress reported in October, additional training has been sourced to provide longer term support for remote working. The objective is to provide support on keeping connected with others and maximising productivity whilst remote working.</li> </ul>	Internally, the workforce has continued to be supported through provision of DSE assessment and provision of equipment where necessary, in addition to a range of wellbeing toolkits, support and training.



**Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19**

Provide people with the resources and support that they need to move out of the crisis, considering in particular the impact that Covid 19 has had on our minority and marginalised communities.

**Supports Wellbeing Objective 4 – To build cohesive and sustainable communities**

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
<p>Work together with our partners to reduce poverty, address homelessness and support our most vulnerable people as a priority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional units of emergency temporary accommodation are being sourced and allocated to meet continuing demand.</li> <li>• Resources made available to project manage homelessness phase 2 capital projects.</li> <li>• Proposals for phase 2 revenue funding, to deliver mental health and substance misuse services agreed being progressed with partners</li> <li>• Working with private sector accommodation providers to ensure the supply and use of accommodation during fire breaker,</li> <li>• We continue to work with our third sector support partners to support the ongoing provision of temporary accommodation at Mission Court.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foodbank working group has been established, bringing together foodbanks working across the city to develop a cohesive approach to support and maximise resources.</li> <li>• Ongoing acquisition of further temporary accommodation units to meet demands.</li> <li>• Phase 2 capital project progressing with regular communications between partners and WG</li> <li>• Psychological support post being recruited within ABUHB with phase 2 revenue funding</li> <li>• Ongoing delivery of an Assertive Outreach team within substance misuse services to support homeless clients</li> <li>• Hotels and B&amp;B's now open following firebreak and being utilised as emergency accommodation</li> <li>• Ongoing use of Mission Court and other units of accommodation to support homeless clients with complex needs</li> <li>• Accommodation pathway developed in partnership with RSL partner and 3rd sector organisation to provide move on accommodation for those granted asylum and those with No Recourse to Public Funds</li> <li>• Partnership working with RSL's to facilitate move on accommodation into social housing tenancies</li> <li>• Winter provision arrangements for rough sleepers explored and further meetings set with other Welsh cities to determine best practice</li> <li>• Continuation of rough sleeping services coordination, incorporating humanitarian groups.</li> </ul>
<p>Assess and address the inequalities that Covid 19 has highlighted or contributed to within our communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAME specific business support proposal currently being considered by Business Support/Connected Communities Team</li> <li>• Representative Workforce group established and scheduled to meet in November</li> <li>• Leader's BAME forum continues and members engaged with work across the council</li> <li>• People &amp; Business Change finalising the Community Impact Assessment (CIA) following the stakeholder engagement work completed with the Fairness Commission. A Participatory Budgeting Steering Group has been formed and included nearly 30</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot project being rolled out by WG and Digital Communities Wales to provide free BT Wifi vouchers to asylum seekers and refugees across Newport, providing 6 months of unlimited internet access</li> <li>• BAME specific business support proposal being progressed with Business Wales and independent consultant</li> <li>• Representative workforce group has met and agreed an action plan/priorities</li> <li>• Leader's BAME forum continues and support has been provided to the Newport Cultural Hub in preparation for launch on 23/11</li> <li>• Work in partnership with EYST has commenced in relation to supporting BAME and other vulnerable communities to develop digital literacy skills, supported by Digital Communities Wales</li> </ul>

**Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19**

Provide people with the resources and support that they need to move out of the crisis, considering in particular the impact that Covid 19 has had on our minority and marginalised communities.

**Supports Wellbeing Objective 4 – To build cohesive and sustainable communities**

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
	<p>people, most of who are representatives of the most affected groups (Covid19).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Impact Assessment complete and informing decision making through the equality impact assessment process – further work to be undertaken to embed findings across service areas</li> <li>• PB steering group now receiving training in preparation for funding scheme</li> <li>• Work re-commencing around promotion of EUSS and wider support for migrant communities who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic</li> <li>• No Recourse to Public Funds group has been established with partners</li> </ul>
<p>Identify, develop and seek to sustain any positive developments emerging during the crisis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Newport (Public Services Board) bulletin has been highlighting the positive work of the Council and its partners in supporting the city to recover and various initiatives across communities. This has been re-enforced by ongoing promotion of partners' work through the One Newport Twitter and Instagram accounts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Newport (Public Services Board) bulletin has been highlighting the positive work of the Council and its partners in supporting the city to recover and various initiatives across communities. This has been re-enforced by ongoing promotion of partners' work through the One Newport Twitter and Instagram accounts.</li> </ul>
<p>Developing opportunities for people to access suitable and affordable housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newport has been accepted onto Welsh Governments Private Rented Sector pathfinder project and have obtained grant funding to acquire units of accommodation to facilitate move on from temporary accommodation.</li> <li>• We continue to deliver the planned development programme and have been working with RSL partners to identify schemes that could be brought forward at short notice to meet current demand should additional funding become available.</li> <li>• Bids have also been submitted to the Innovative Housing Programme (phase 4) which supports developments that use modern methods of construction to meet identified housing need. No further updates since October 2020.</li> <li>• Additional Phase 2 funding received and will allow the Team to progress schemes submitted as part of the Phase 2 bid.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have been successful in securing over £1million of additional funding for affordable housing in Newport. This will support the development of units on two RSL developments.</li> <li>• Despite the current challenges, we have continued to deliver the planned development programme and together with RSL partners have submitted a list of schemes to the Welsh Government that we have identified as priorities for slippage funding.</li> </ul>
<p>Deliver a community cohesion programme that effectively responds to community tensions and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black History Wales supported during October with the launch of a yearlong programme of activities, anti-racism resources developed and shared with schools, Q&amp;A sessions with BLM and Dragons Rugby and themed internal staff news</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hate crime training delivered to staff by Victim Support</li> <li>• Online hate speech event hosted in partnership with Hope not Hate and Centre for Countering Digital Hate</li> <li>• Ongoing messaging provided to communities in a range of formats and languages</li> </ul>

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<b>Strategic Aim Step</b>	<b>Update (November Cabinet 2020)</b>	<b>Update (December Cabinet 2020)</b>
creates a shared sense of identity across the city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hate Crime Charter signed and publicised, with training planned for staff in November</li> <li>• Collaboration with Hope not Hate and Centre for Countering Online Hate to deliver a seminar for communities and professionals focussing on addressing online hate speech and the hostile environment</li> <li>• Ongoing messaging and support is being provided to BAME communities, including the development of multilingual voice notes</li> <li>• Foodbank working group, Disability Group and EU Citizens meeting continue to meet virtually</li> <li>• Hate crime community training sessions and school workshops scheduled for November.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in partnership with PHW and ABUHB to ensure TTP is developed in a way that caters for socially vulnerable groups</li> <li>• School workshops delivered in partnership with Puppet Soup focussing on valuing and embracing difference</li> <li>• Hate crime workshops in Hungarian and Polish planned for December</li> <li>• Foodbank working group, Disability Group and EU Citizens forum continue to meet virtually</li> <li>• WG hate crime in schools project being delivered across schools, raising awareness of identity based bullying and equipping children with critical thinking skills</li> </ul>
Prevent and address instances of antisocial behaviour impacting upon the residents and the business community of Newport	<p><b>Safer Pill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safer Pill (sub group of Safer Newport) has now met on two occasions and has an action plan in place, based on the police's most recent problem profile. Work is ongoing to ensure this reflects positive (and negative) lessons learned from previous work in Pill, and other areas of the city.</li> <li>• The Safer Pill Steering Group has also been established, bringing local community members together to consult on planned activities and shape priorities. Initial focus will be adult exploitation, ASB, violent crime, fly-tipping and waste.</li> <li>• An additional sub-group of Safer Pill has been established to address issues associated with Gypsy and Traveller sites across the city.</li> </ul> <p><b>Anti-social Behaviour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This year during Halloween/Bonfire Night the usual outreach work and diversionary activities will be curtailed due to Covid 19. Due to government guidelines, large organised gatherings are also restricted. The concern is some communities will proceed regardless. The police and fire service are taking a "zero tolerance" approach to this period. The Council Community Safety Wardens are working with SWF&amp;R to identify bonfire sites to take</li> </ul>	<p><b>Safer Pill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safer Pill (sub group of Safer Newport) has now met on two occasions and has an action plan in place, based on the police's most recent problem profile. Work is ongoing to ensure this reflects positive (and negative) lessons learned from previous work in Pill, and other areas of the city.</li> <li>• The Safer Pill Steering Group has also been established, bringing local community members together to consult on planned activities and shape priorities. Initial focus will be adult exploitation, ASB, violent crime, fly-tipping and waste.</li> <li>• An additional sub-group of Safer Pill has been established to address issues associated with Gypsy and Traveller sites across the city.</li> </ul> <p><b>Anti-social Behaviour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the Halloween/Bonfire night period, "zero tolerance" was followed, along with the offer of diversionary support on a 1:1 basis through Youth Services (remotely) and Newport Live working with referred individuals on a 1:1 basis.</li> <li>• The Op Bang report has not been finalised. However, initial feedback is that there were was not a significant increase on the previous year. The</li> </ul>

**Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19**

Provide people with the resources and support that they need to move out of the crisis, considering in particular the impact that Covid 19 has had on our minority and marginalised communities.

**Supports Wellbeing Objective 4 – To build cohesive and sustainable communities**

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
	<p>preventative action. Positive Futures will provide some targeted outreach activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urgent work will be carried out via the Corporate Communications team to ensure that the message encourages a safe Halloween and Bonfire night period. We are likely to see a rise in ASB complaints.</li> <li>• Youth Justice Service is picking up all ASB referrals and are working with the police to offer this as a diversionary intervention on a preventative basis.</li> </ul>	<p>SWFRS also show that there was no increase on calls for deliberate fire setting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff from NCC, NCH, SWFRS and Police were attacked, through the use of throwing of stones and fireworks. A referral process is in place to help identified Young People at risk of offending or being involved with Anti-social behaviour.</li> <li>• The partners felt that Op Bang was a success this year, due to strong partnership working, improved communication and a “zero tolerance” approach to the period. It has also provided an opportunity to look at how we work with communities during the same period next year and understanding what Young People want as alternative activities.</li> <li>• Additional feedback from the ASB Opps Group, for 2021 further work is required to look at alternative events for communities, adopting the same zero tolerance approach and the earlier use of social media as a partnership.</li> </ul>
<p>Re-establish Community Regeneration facilities and services where it is safe to do so for staff and its service users.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Regeneration services have restarted in a limited and safe way. Face to face services have been provided for employment support and the Aspire and Youth Academy work.</li> <li>• Play scheme for Flying start age and 5-12yrs will be offered to identified groups for October half term.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspire and youth academy projects resumed and operating at pre firebreak levels.</li> <li>• During the National Lockdown, we were unable to deliver any face-to-face parenting support or groups. An online provision has been developed and Family Intervention Workers have attended training with Family Links on Delivering the Nurture programme via Teams. This has enabled staff to provide a menu of online support to families in Newport in the future. Currently we have 15 virtual parenting groups being offered across the City.</li> <li>• Speech and Language Support continued to be carried out over the firebreak period, via telephone consultation, including welfare calls to our most vulnerable families.</li> <li>• During the firebreak staff supported families by delivering food parcels. We also linked in with Save the Children to provide Baby Boxes to those in need and provided crisis grants via Save the Children to those affected by the Covid crisis.</li> <li>• Flying Start childcare continued to be offered in the second half of the firebreak period. We currently offer 712 childcare spaces during term time for 2-3 year olds across the City. Play provision for vulnerable children was offered during the first week of firebreak (half term).</li> </ul>

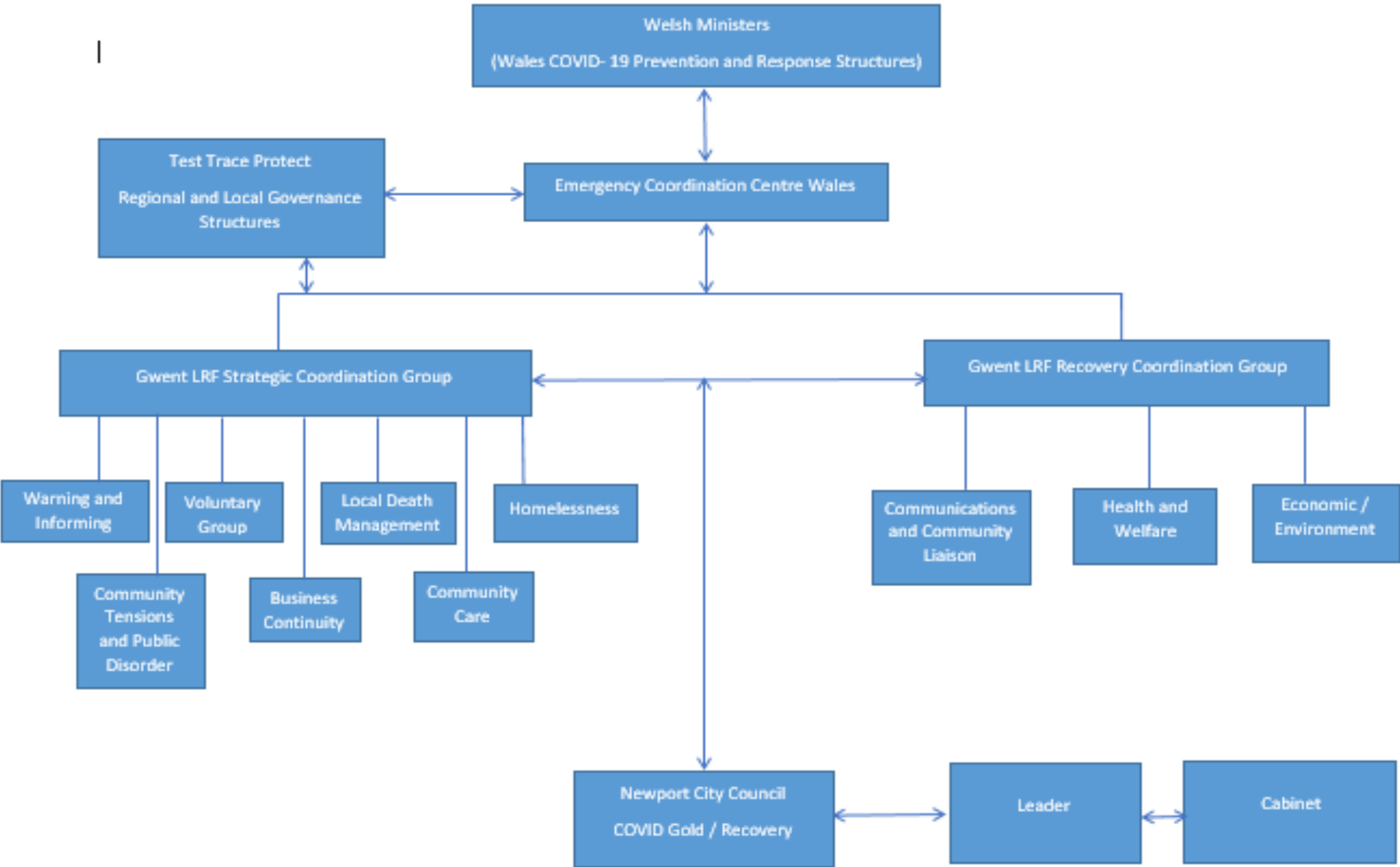
**Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19**

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Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families First - A range of projects continue to be offered through Families First referrals. Allocations have increased compared to last year 183 referrals were reported in October 2019 with 228 referrals within 2020.</li> </ul>
Develop opportunities for community involvement and participation and engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The survey suggests that public perception of the Council's pandemic response was in the main positive, particularly in terms of support for households, the wider community and in maintaining service provision. Responses were particularly favourable in terms of refuse and recycling services, support for people shielding and key workers and maintaining/cleansing the public realm. The more negative responses focussed on the closure of parks, cemeteries, libraries and public toilets. There was a mixed response towards the information provided on services and public health messages.</li> <li>The survey is currently being extended using bus Wi-Fi technology which should greatly increase the responses received to date</li> <li>The participatory budgeting programme commenced in October with the formation of a Steering Group mostly made up of representatives of the most affected communities, who will oversee the running of the PB process in terms of eligibility, funding decisions, fairness and participation.</li> <li>This process now follows a strategic path from the Community Impact Assessment, to community engagement, participation of stakeholder and ultimately involvement in decision making and funding new projects to tackle Covid19.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The perception survey is currently being extended using the 'bus wifi' technology which will increase responses and broaden the demographic spread. Results should be available in December.</li> <li>The participatory budgeting (PB) programme is now underway with the formation of a Steering Group mostly made up of representatives of the most affected communities, who will oversee the running of the PB process in terms of eligibility, funding decisions, fairness and participation. Training has commenced on a cohort of individuals who will be able to run their own PB projects in the future.</li> <li>Discussions are underway to identify additional sources of funding and support for community and voluntary organisations/projects who take part in the PB programme.</li> <li>Steps are being taken to reduce digital exclusion and allow more people to participate in the PB programme whilst Covid-19 restrictions remain in place.</li> </ul>

Appendix 2 – Covid 19 Prevention and Response Structure





# Report

## Cabinet

### Part 1

Date: 16 December 2020

**Subject** **Brexit Transition / Trade Negotiations – Newport City Council Preparations Update**

**Purpose** To present an update to Cabinet on the current situation with UK Government Trade Negotiations with the EU and Newport City Council preparations since the last Cabinet Report in November 2020.

**Author** Chief Executive  
Head of People and Business Change

**Ward** All

**Summary** At the time of this report, the UK and EU were locked into the final stages of negotiations with no decision made on whether a trade deal would be agreed or not in time for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. For Wales and Newport the uncertainty is making it difficult for businesses and organisations to effectively prepare. From the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, new arrangements will also come into place for people travelling into and out of Europe as well as new immigration laws.

For Newport Council and communities, like many other organisations the full impact of these arrangements after 1<sup>st</sup> January are not fully known both in the short term and the longer term. It is widely anticipated that the Council will see cost increases in the price of goods and in some areas potential supply chain issues. This is also likely to have an impact on vulnerable and low income households. For EU Citizens that have been living in the UK prior to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 it is now imperative for them to apply for Settled Status, before the 6 month grace period that commences on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, when it may become increasingly difficult for applicants to prove their right to remain.

**Proposal** Cabinet is asked to consider the contents of the report and note the Council's Brexit preparations.

**Action by** Corporate Management Team

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Heads of Service and officer Brexit 'Task and Finish' officer group

**Signed**

## Background

Following the UK public vote to leave the EU in 2016, the UK Government (UKG) and European Union (EU) spent over 3 years negotiating and agreeing a withdrawal agreement that was formally ratified on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. This meant that the UK no longer participates in the EU Council and Parliament and no longer part of the Customs Union and Single Market. However, the UK and EU entered into a transition period to enable the UK and EU implement a future trading relationship by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. At the point of this Cabinet Report and Cabinet meeting in December 2020, there is less than two weeks until the deadline. At the time of this report the key deadlines and process for agreeing a deal is fluid as the UKG and EU are locked into final negotiations and it remains unclear whether a trade deal will be agreed by both sides. It has been widely reported by the media that significant differences remained on fishing, business competition rules and governance of any deal.

In November 2020, the Welsh Government (WG) published its '[End of Transition Action Plan](#)' which sets out the WG priority areas in the run up to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The priority areas are:

**Supply of critical goods** - WG has identified food supply and medical supplies as the key areas of concern;

**Business readiness and support** - business readiness to comply with regulations and data requirements and understanding potential skill shortages if there is a reduction in migration from EU nationals. The Welsh Government continue to update their websites 'Preparing Wales' and 'Business Wales' to get the necessary advice and guidance to businesses and residents living in Wales;

**Public services and communities** – This is focused on supporting EU and Welsh residents including supporting Settled Status, public data resilience, providing citizens with advice and supporting continued transport and travel;

**Operational activities** – This area is ensuring ports and traffic management arrangements are in place, energy and climate change, future EU programme participation and domestic replacements; and

**Welsh Government resourcing and responsibilities** – WG negotiations with HM Treasury on funding, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, legislation and new functions.

As noted in last month's Cabinet Report, the Council's primary focus has been on the Covid-19 crisis and adapting to the fluid changes in legislation that the Council, businesses and residents have to adhere to, to manage the outbreak in the City and across the region. In the Audit Wales assessment of progress against the [Well-being of Future Generations Act](#) it has identified four challenges that public bodies will face over the next five years: the impact of Covid-19; climate change and biodiversity loss; tackling inequality; and the UK's departure from the EU. The report acknowledges that all public bodies including Newport Council will need to carefully manage immediate, medium and longer-term effects that will pose a wide range of new challenges, risks and opportunities.

Through the Council's Civil Contingencies role, the Gwent Local Resilience Forum has also been monitoring and reviewing the Brexit preparations for the region. This has included assessment of the national and regional risks / issues in the run up to and post transition period. This work is being shared across local authorities and multi-agency partners as part of their preparation. The Council's Brexit Task & Finish group also continues to monitor the ongoing situation and notifications in changes to regulatory requirements. Since the last report in November, similar to public sector bodies and organisations across the UK, we have been awaiting the completion of the negotiations to obtain the necessary clarity, legislative requirements and guidelines to implement. Further guidance and support has also been provided by the Welsh Local Government Association which is being incorporated into the Brexit Task & Finish Group. A summary of the Council's preparations is below:

**Communication (Internal / External)** – The Council has been publishing reminders to staff about the new requirements for travel for 2021 and also reminding EU citizens working for the Council to apply for EU Settled Status. Additionally the Council's Brexit page has been updated to support businesses and residents, signposting them to the Welsh Government and UK Government sites.



**Human Resources (HR)** – From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, new immigration laws will be in place which means that EU citizens wishing to travel to work in the UK will have to apply for a Visa. Organisations wishing to employ EU citizens who do not already have settled status must apply to the Home Office for a Sponsorship Licence. The Council's HR team are reviewing the requirements to apply and ensure future compliance. Specific guidance in relation to recruiting and managing teachers and school staff who are EU citizens has been produced by the Home Office and shared with all schools.

**Finance** – As part of the Council's budget preparations and Medium Term Financial Planning, service areas have been asked to consider the impacts of leaving the EU trade arrangements. The Council participates in one major European funded scheme (Inspire to Achieve) which is delivered across the south east region of Wales. The programme will continue to run until December 2023 and will await the outcomes of how European schemes will be delivered by Welsh Government in the future.

**Procurement** – The Council's Procurement team have been in contact with the Council's key suppliers and services where no significant supply chain issues have been identified. However, there is a high probability of some price increases but it is difficult to fully assess this impact in the short to medium term. No issues have been identified with food or medical supplies and the Council's IT provider (SRS) has been identifying supply issues but these have been predominantly due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the increase in demand for IT equipment.

**Regulatory Services** – The Council's Regulatory services including Environmental Health are awaiting the guidance on the exact regulatory requirements post 31<sup>st</sup> December. Due to Covid-19 the resources of Regulatory Services are being stretched as it manages the Test Track and Protect service and now also the Brexit arrangements. This is being monitored through the Council's Gold Command process.

**Community Cohesion / EUSS** – Covid-19 has already impacted on many vulnerable and marginalised communities in Newport, including EU communities, many of whom now face additional challenges, including insecure tenancy and unemployment. It is also recognised that the post transition period could exacerbate the position of low income households should food and fuel prices increase. Ongoing work is being undertaken with Food Banks, third sector partners and community groups to understand and respond to emerging issues. A weekly EU drop in has been recommenced to offer advice and support to EU citizens on the EUSS and wider support needs. Additional work is taking place across schools and with third sector partners to engage EU communities where there are low numbers of EUSS applications. It is also recognised that tensions are increasing in relation to wider immigration matters, and that impending changes may lead to further spikes in hate crime, and discrimination directed at EU citizens.

The full list of areas being monitored by the Task & Finish group are included in Appendix 1 of this report. The areas covered above and in Appendix 1 are being undertaken within existing resources.

### Financial Summary

As part of the Council's financial monitoring, the Council's Finance team are monitoring any impacts on budgets due to Covid-19 and Brexit. The Council's Finance team are aware of the situation relating to the potential VAT and tariff implications on goods and services should the UK fall back to WTO conditions.

### Risks

The Council's Brexit risk is recorded on the Council's Corporate Risk Register which is presented to Cabinet and Audit Committee every quarter. At the end of quarter 2 of 2020/21 the Brexit risk score has increased to 16 to reflect the increased probability of the UK leaving without a deal. This will be reported to Cabinet in December 2020.

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (1-5)	Probability of risk occurring (1-5)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
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Brexit	4	4	See Report.	Corporate Management Team and Brexit Task & Finish Group
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### **Links to Council Policies and Priorities**

Corporate Plan  
Strategic Recovery Aims  
Risk Management Strategy

### **Options Available and considered**

1. To consider and note the contents of the report and for Cabinet / Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.
2. To request further information or reject the contents of the report

### **Preferred Option and Why**

1. To consider and note the contents of the report and for Cabinet / Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.

### **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

The financial impact of Brexit is uncertain, however, there are indications that there could be an impact on prices and supply of goods that may further impact on both capital and revenue budgets. Budget / Service managers, with finance team colleagues, will continue to monitor these on a regular basis and any issues arising will be highlighted through the regular monitoring and budget setting processes.

Any negative financial impact arising from Brexit, whether it be through price increases or funding reductions could present a significant challenge to the Council. There are no specific reserves or contingencies currently that deal exclusively with Brexit but the Council's budget includes a 'general budget contingency' of £1.5m to deal with short term / in-year budget pressures and consideration will need to be given to any specific reserves/contingencies required as part of 2021/22 budget setting.

### **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report, which provides an update for Cabinet regarding the Council's Brexit preparations. The specific risks associated with the withdrawal cannot be identified until the ongoing negotiations have been concluded and there is clarity about the future trading arrangements. Any legal implications for existing contracts for supplies, services and care provision, data security matters and any regulatory enforcement issues, particularly in relation to port health, will be addressed once the consequences of the withdrawal become clearer.

### **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

The outcomes from the Brexit Trade Negotiations could have an impacts on the City of Newport and the Council's services. With Covid-19 still prevalent there is a risk that the economy and communities could be impacted by the UK falling back to World Trade Organisation tariffs. It is encouraging to see a large uptake in the number of residents applying for EUSS and the Council is making every effort alongside its partners to encourage those that have yet to apply, to do so by the deadline. The Council's Brexit Task and Finish group will continue to monitor and report on the progress being made by the Council and to raise any further risks and issues as they arise.

The employment of new starters without settled status after 1st January 2021 will be subject to the Council being an approved sponsor for the level of visa tier required and a decision will need to be made on

whether the Council wishes to apply for approved sponsorship with the Home Office. During the grace period of 1st January to 30th June 2021 existing right to work checks should continue – Home Office guidance reminds employers of the duty not to discriminate against EU, EEA or Swiss citizens by requiring them to prove their status under the EUSS during this time. EU citizens who have settled status in the UK are not affected by any employment restrictions.

### **Comments of Cabinet Member**

The Leader of the Council is briefed on all aspects of risk management within the Council and related Brexit issues and work.

### **Local issues**

Members to be aware the impacts that Brexit can have on our Local Communities and business.

### **Scrutiny Committees**

The Council's Audit Committee receives regular risk register updates on the Council's Risk Register which includes the Brexit Risk.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

A paper is being prepared for consideration by the Brexit task and finish group which will assess the potential impact on communities post-December, as well as identifying risks associated with the changes to immigration rules.

### **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

Not applicable.

### **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

There are potential long term impacts of Brexit Trade Negotiations which could affect the future demand on our services to provide the necessary support, advice and guidance. There may also be opportunities that could arise and the Council will need to make preparations to accordingly. In preparation we have been working collaboratively across the Council and with our partners to make sure that our services to prevent any scenario where services are disrupted and to provide resilience across the City and to our local partners.

We have also been involving our stakeholders and where necessary providing the necessary advice and guidance to those that need our support. Going forward we will continue to monitor and report where necessary any impacts which Brexit could have on the delivery of our services.

### **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Not applicable.

### **Consultation**

Corporate Management Team  
Brexit Task & Finish Group

### **Background Papers**

Welsh Government website '[Preparing Wales to leave the EU](#)'

Welsh Local Government Association '[Brexit Website](#)'

Newport City Council's '[Brexit Webpage](#)'

Dated: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## Appendix 1 – Summary actions taken through the Task & Finish Group

Theme	Progress of Activity completed by Newport Council to 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<b>Your Organisation (Communications)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council's internal communications team have included a section on EU Settled Status to staff and to remind all EU citizens working for the Council to apply for Settled Status.</li> <li>The Council have an external Brexit webpage for all residents and businesses in Newport signposting visitors to the necessary Welsh Government and UK Government information / websites.</li> </ul>
<b>Your Organisation (Human Resources)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, a new immigration system will be implemented in the UK that will be a points based system for all non UK citizens. If the Council is employing someone living in the EU, the Council will have to apply to a Home Office Sponsorship Licence.</li> <li>For teams such as GEMS where a significant proportion of staff are from the EU and are employed to support children and their families where English and/or Welsh is not their first language.</li> <li>The Council's HR team are reviewing and ensuring the necessary requirements are met.</li> </ul>
<b>Your Organisation (Finance and Funding)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council's Finance team are closely monitoring the financial situation that will be dependent on the final outcome(s) of the trade deal. Service areas have been asked to consider any Brexit implications as part of the Council's annual budget preparation, capital monitoring and Medium Term Financial Savings.</li> <li>There is likely to be financial impacts should tariffs and VAT prices change. However, it is currently very difficult to forecast what the impact of this will be until there is clarification on the negotiations.</li> <li>The Council participates directly in one EU funded programme, Inspire to Achieve that is funded until December 2023. This programme covers the South East Wales Region and the Council is awaiting further decision from Welsh Government on the arrangements after 2023.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplies and Services (including social services and ICT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council's Procurement team have contacted key suppliers and monitoring their current preparation and situation.</li> <li>To date, suppliers have not identified any significant supply chain issues but we are aware that there could be potential price increases and wider global supply chain issues.</li> <li>The Council's Social Services Commissioning team are not aware of any significant medical and/or food supply chain issues.</li> <li>The Council's ICT provider (Shared Resource Service) has identified ICT supply issues, but these have been mainly related to the Covid-19 impact and increase in global demand for video conferencing, home working / schooling and general IT demand.</li> </ul>
<b>Security / Data Protection arrangements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Globally, there has been significant increase in cyber-attacks on public bodies and other organisations.</li> <li>To mitigate against this threat the Council's ICT provider has recently upgraded their firewalls to mitigate against potential ransomware attacks.</li> <li>The Council's Information Management team has audited key IT suppliers and agreements ensuring data is being stored in the UK and meeting the necessary requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplies and Services (Regulatory Services)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council's Regulatory and Environmental Health services have been focused on supporting businesses and consumers impacted by the Covid-19 requirements.</li> <li>The teams are awaiting confirmation of the final legislative requirements and guidance from the respective government departments.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Community (Newport Business Community)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is ongoing communication and information being disseminated to local Small to Medium sized businesses in Newport.</li> <li>The Council's website also includes necessary information and signposting businesses to Welsh Government and UK Government websites.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Community (Civil Contingencies)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council's Civil Contingencies team has been focused on the Covid-19 response and have also been monitoring the Brexit preparations as part of the Gwent Local Resilience Forum.</li> </ul>

Theme	Progress of Activity completed by Newport Council to 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<b>Local Community (Community Cohesion)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Settled Status / EU communities</li> <li>• Food Poverty</li> <li>• Homelessness (EU Citizens)</li> <li>• Community cohesion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final arrangements are being put in place for post transition arrangements identifying key risks and responses for the Gwent region.</li> <li>• Continuous work is being undertaken by the Council's Community Cohesion team and partners to encourage residents to apply to the EU Settled Status scheme.</li> <li>• The Council and partners have identified key communities and to encourage and increase the number of applications before the deadline.</li> <li>• Food Poverty has been exacerbated during the Covid-19 and has impacted on low income/vulnerable households. The Council participates in working group with food banks and local groups working towards establishing longer term solutions.</li> <li>• Welsh Government has diverted resources to support the homeless during Covid-19 and working with Council's / Registered Social Landlords to implement longer term solutions to support the homeless into accommodation, health and social support.</li> <li>• The Council is undertaking an Equalities Impact Assessment to examine the impact the post transition arrangements on communities in Newport.</li> </ul>

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# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Subject:** City Centre Leisure and Learning

**Purpose** To seek approval to consult on plans for a new leisure and wellbeing facility in the city centre and the release of land to Coleg Gwent for the creation of the Newport Knowledge Quarter.

**Author** Head of City Services & Acting Head of Regeneration, Housing & Investment

**Ward** All

### Summary

The city centre Masterplan adopted in January 2019 identifies key areas of the city as priority locations for regeneration, linked by commonalities of use and economic drivers. The ongoing regeneration of Usk Way is critical to the City Core.

At the heart of the regeneration proposals is the development of the Newport Knowledge Quarter, which will re-locate the provision of further education into the city centre, close to the city's existing higher education provision. Early development work has been on-going with Coleg Gwent to relocate their campus from Nash Road to the city centre, creating an enhanced learning offer as well as bringing footfall into the city centre.

The existing Newport Centre building, constructed over 35 years ago, is now suffering from a range of structural issues and requires significant investment to bring it up to modern day standards. Following closure of the centre as a result of the Covid lockdown, inspections of the pool roof have found it requires investment up to £2.5 Million to enable the pool area to be re-opened to the public. Following wider survey work, it is estimated that an additional investment of approximately £9.1 Million will be needed in the medium term to maintain the site within operational standards. The existing Newport Centre building configuration is neither efficient nor sustainable and changes in demand over the decades mean that it is no longer able to compete with modern facilities.

It is therefore proposed to build a new environmentally sustainable and energy efficient leisure and wellbeing facility on a brownfield site overlooking the River Usk, near the existing centre. The land on which Newport Centre is currently located will then be released to facilitate the relocation of Coleg Gwent's further education campus into the city centre. As part of the proposals for a new leisure and wellbeing facility, the opinions of residents and stakeholders are welcomed in order to ensure that the development delivers a scheme which is ambitious, fit for purpose and reflective of the needs of our residents.

**Proposal** Cabinet are requested to commence a public consultation for plans to build a new leisure and wellbeing facility in the city centre, enabling the release of land to Coleg Gwent to support the creation of the Newport Knowledge Quarter.

**Action by** Head of City Services & Acting Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Executive
- Head of Law and Regulation
- Head of Finance
- Head of People & Business Change
- Head of Education
- Newport Live
- Coleg Gwent
- Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Investment
- Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure
- Cabinet Member for Assets
- Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
- Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development

**Signed**



## **Background**

### **Newport Centre**

The Newport Centre, is the oldest facility within the Newport City Council leisure estate. Built in 1985, the facility originally comprised of a range of leisure facilities, a swimming pool and a multifunctional sports hall. Over time, the condition of many of the facilities has deteriorated due to their age and some are at the end of their usable lifespan. Changes in legislation now also prevent the viable use of the sports hall as an events venue without major investment, compounded by an events world where the business model for events has been transformed with the development of significantly bigger facilities. As a result of these factors and coupled with the increasing cost of maintenance, staffing and energy overheads, the facility is no longer commercially viable.

The configuration of the existing structure and pool, together with the complex plant systems and infrastructure makes modernisation problematic and costly. The building shell itself is in poor condition, with the roof requiring significant repair and water ingress evident throughout the structure; the bespoke mechanical and electrical plant is nearing the end of its life, requiring complete renewal.

During the building's closure throughout the summer months, a structural report has been undertaken and identified significant corrosion of the steel frame around the swimming pool roof. This would require major investment before the pool could re-open. The mezzanine floor surrounding the pool has also decayed due to water ingress and would also need to be replaced

It is the most expensive NCC owned leisure facility to operate and is incapable of generating sufficient commercial return to justify the capital investment required to modernise it. Its level of participation and commercial growth is regressive and it is no longer positively contributing to the wellbeing of Newport residents in the way it was designed and intended for.

Due to the aging offer at Newport Centre, and a deterioration in the quality of the fabric of the building, Newport Live has recently advised the Council that it has seen a large decrease in demand from customers (both families and individuals) compared to previous usage. This further significantly undermines the financial viability of the Newport Centre as a fit for purpose, sustainable community facility. There is no longer a 'do nothing' option in respect of Newport Centre's continuing operation.

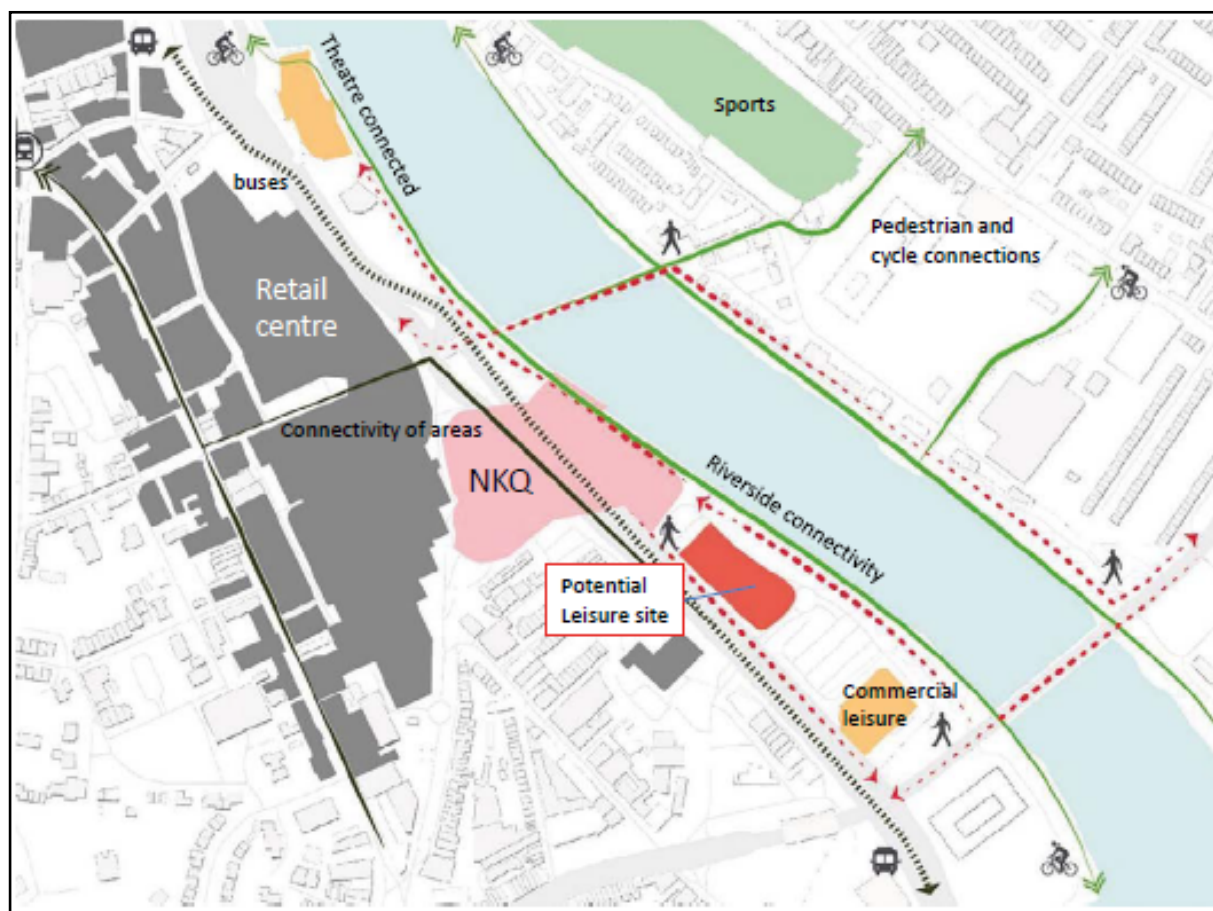
### **Regeneration of the City Core**

The Friars Walk development in 2015 and the subsequent adoption of the city centre Masterplan in 2019, kick started a significant period of regeneration and an aspiration to deliver a number of strategic regeneration projects. This included the development of new hotels and office space aimed at bringing economic resilience, creating opportunities and raising the profile of the city to those wishing to visit or invest. New mixed tenure housing has been created to enable more people to live in a city centre location and plans for the refurbishment of the Newport Indoor Market have taken a significant step forward following the grant of planning permission. The council has committed to ongoing growth and regeneration of the city centre as highlighted in the Corporate Plan.

### **Newport Knowledge Quarter**

Within the city core 'area of focus', the city centre Master Plan identifies the opportunity to create a Newport Knowledge Quarter in the area around Friar's Walk and the USW campus. The redevelopment of a new leisure facility on land opposite the Newport Centre presents us with an opportunity to release the existing site to relocate Coleg Gwent's Nash Campus into the city centre. The current Nash campus is in need of significant investment and the provision of Further Education and Higher Education in the city centre provides Coleg Gwent with an opportunity to provide a new, modern and fit for purpose facility

in a more accessible location as well as enabling the Council to deliver upon the Council's vision of delivering a Newport Knowledge Quarter in the heart of the city centre.



The Newport Knowledge Quarter offers very significant benefits. It will positively:

- **Boost the economy of Newport and the wider region** – increasing footfall and associated spend on local goods and services in Newport city centre – approximately 2,000 learners and 200 staff daily. At an estimated cost of £90m, the new facility will result in significant economic benefits for local suppliers and contractors, both during construction and operation.
- **Improve educational outcomes** - grouping curriculum elements in a landmark building, providing modern training facilities and equipment and establishing seamless 'learning pathways' to Higher Education.
- **Improve community cohesion** – supporting those dependent on locally provided FE and HE for cultural, social and economic reasons and providing new opportunities for those returning to study as mature students.
- **Improving community resources** – providing new and modern facilities and access to learning and enrichment for all ages; and as a centre for the local community for part-time, adult education, employability skills and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Language)
- **Improve the physical infrastructure of Newport city centre** – through continued transformation, supporting the development of Newport as a focus for growth as identified in Welsh Government's draft 'Future Wales', and building on the momentum and impact of regeneration projects which have been delivered in all areas of the city centre to date.

## Proposals

### a) New Leisure and Wellbeing Facility

For the reasons outlined above, renovation and reconfiguration on the existing Newport Centre site is not a viable option. It is therefore proposed to build a state of the art modern, energy efficient and flexible leisure, health and wellbeing facility on a vacant brownfield site on the riverfront. The proposed location is close to the existing Newport centre, in an accessible location, as indicated on the plan below:

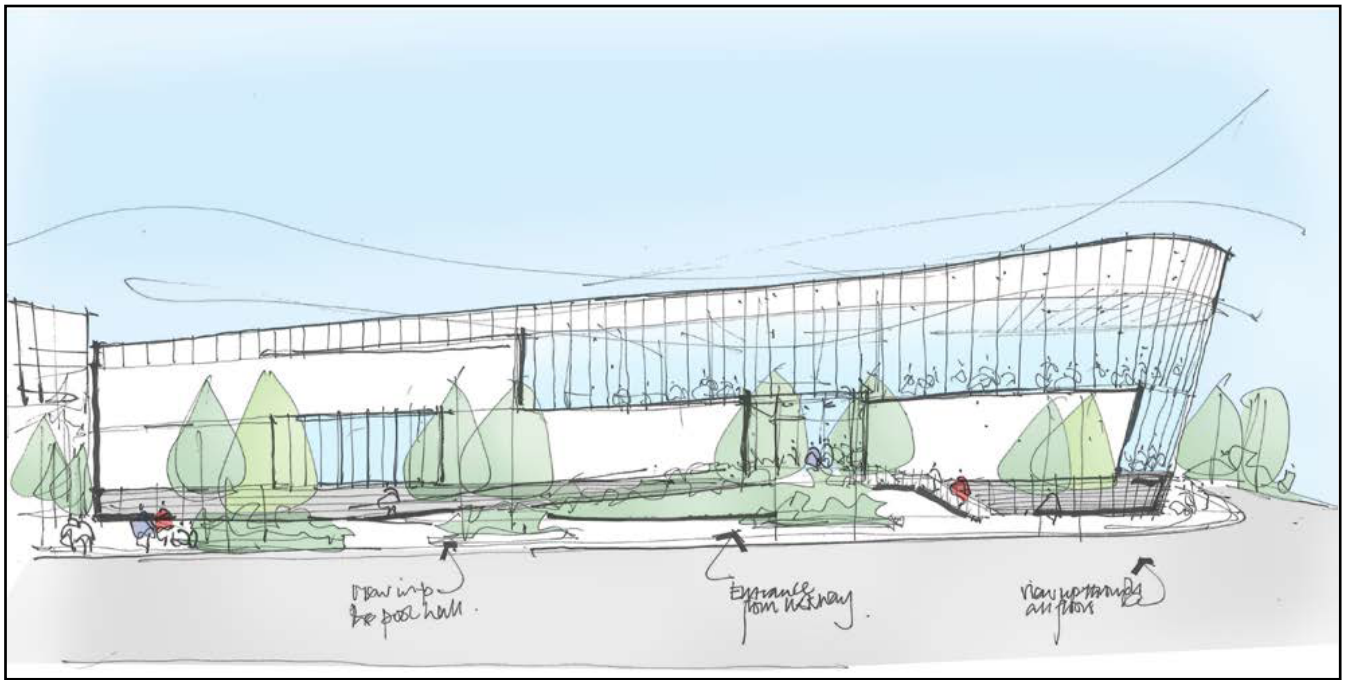


The new facility will include:

- A modern leisure pool
- Conventional pool
- Family friendly wet changing facilities
- Fitness Suite and studios and dry changing facilities
- Roof garden / active roof
- On site café and relaxation areas
- On site bike storage/active travel connectivity
- Enhanced accessibility for all users

Building on the proposed site opposite the existing Newport Centre will allow the new development to proceed at pace. The site is jointly owned by Newport City Council and Welsh Government, is currently vacant and benefits from an outline planning permission, which includes leisure as an option.

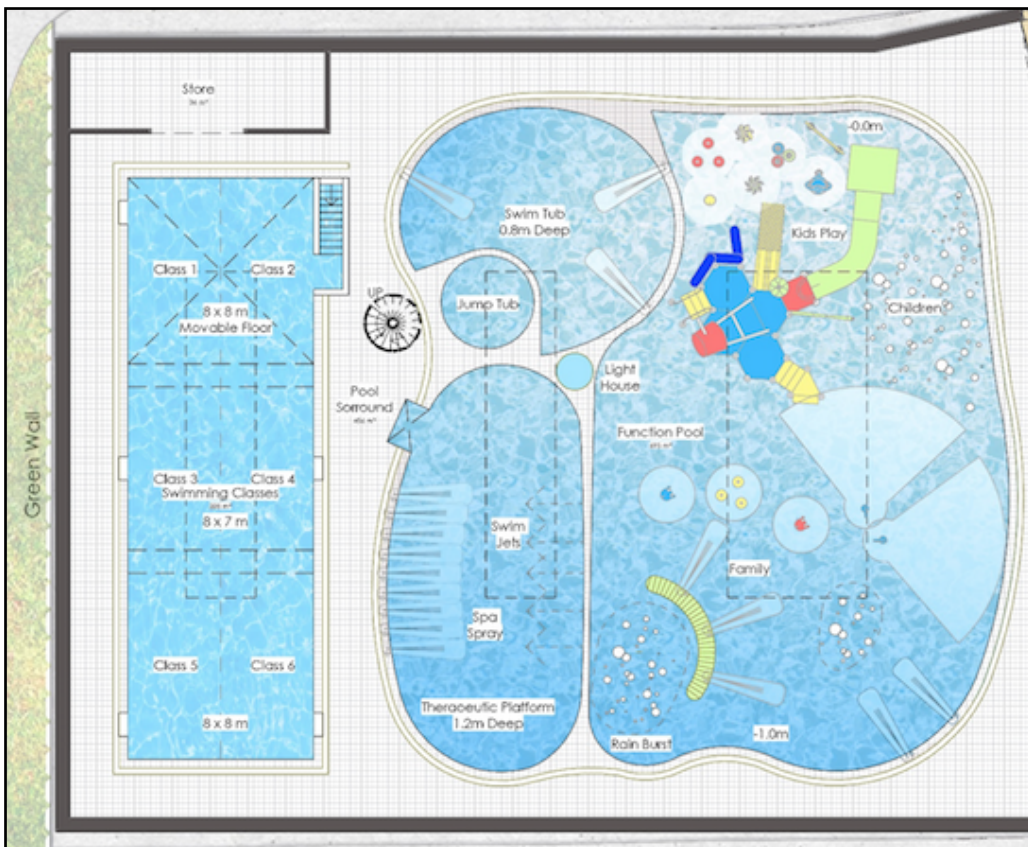
By progressing the development of new leisure facilities on the new site, this potentially releases the Newport Centre site for redevelopment for further educational purposes. The provision of both a new leisure and education facility will deliver new landmark buildings in the city centre, resulting in increased footfall and generating confidence in Newport as a result of public sector-led major investment. The images below are indicative of the type of new facility which could be constructed.



During the concept planning stage, two outline concepts have been developed.



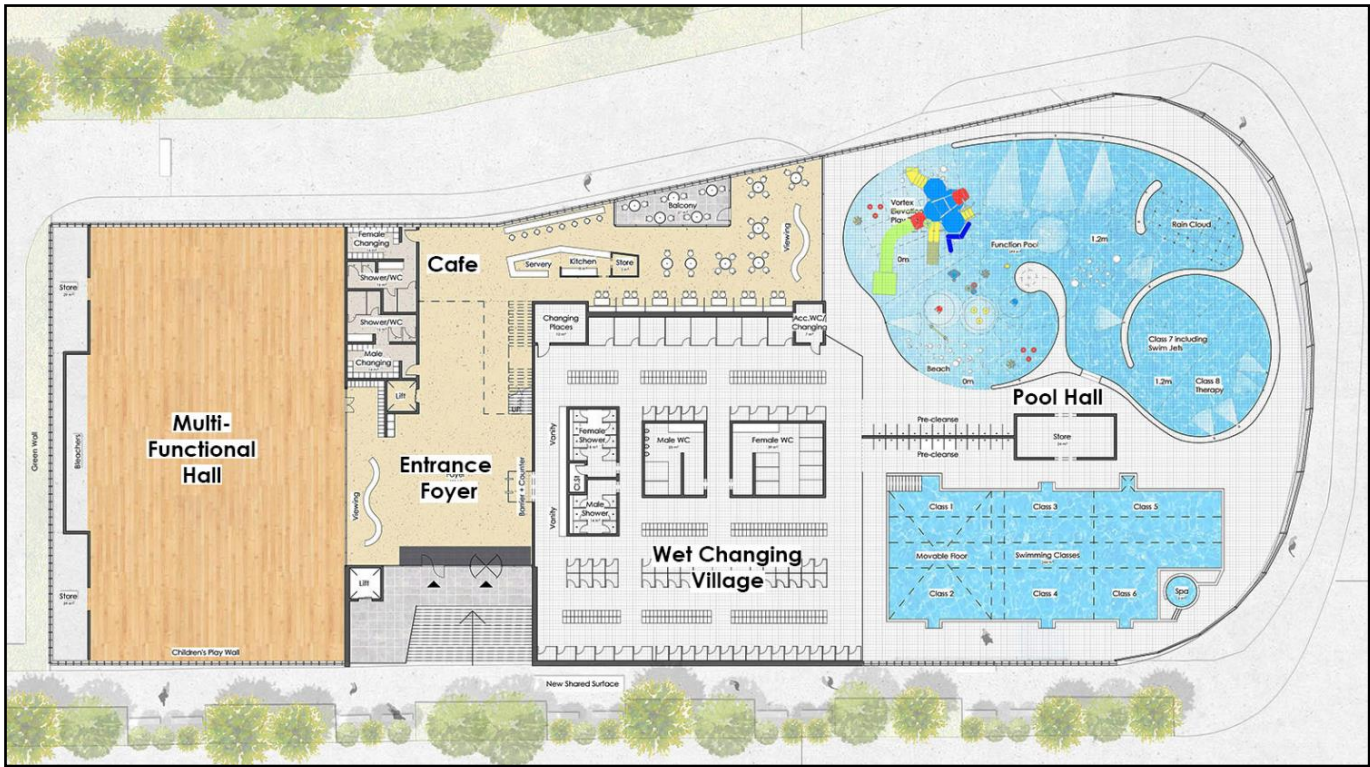
Provides a larger swimming pool and health and wellbeing facilities but with smaller sports facilities.





# Option 2

Proposes a smaller pool with health and wellbeing facilities but includes a multi-functional hall.



The size details of both options compared to the facilities at the Newport Centre are summarised below:

	Current Newport Centre	Option 1	Option 2
Pool Hall	1,215m2	+11%	+3%
Wet Changing	416m2	+60%	+50%
Sports Hall	1,150m2	-100%	-45%
Fitness Suite	354m2	+273%	+254%
Multi-Functional Studios	419m2	+184%	+133%
Café	267m2	Same	-13%

It is important to reiterate that the final design details are yet to be agreed pending a period of public consultation.

Any new facility will be built to BREAM excellent standards, with sustainability and future proofing at its core. Together with the new Coleg Gwent building, enhancements to Usk Way and the active travel connectivity, this will create a high quality place and green lung, right at the heart of the city centre.

## **b) Coleg Gwent Relocation**

As highlighted above, the Council's proposals for city centre leisure will enable the existing Newport Centre land to be released to Coleg Gwent, facilitating the delivery of a modern further education offer in the city centre – the Newport Knowledge Quarter.



*Artist's impression*

The brand new facility would be in the region of 20,000sqm, comprising teaching space, science and technology labs, hair, beauty and catering facilities, staff and welfare areas, together with workshop space for a wide range of courses. The site is clearly in an accessible location, with excellent access to existing transport nodes, particularly the bus station. Approximately 2,000 students would be based at the new campus and whilst Covid-19 has affected the way courses are currently being delivered, Coleg Gwent have confirmed that there is still a need for face-to-face tuition, particularly in relation to vocational courses.

The relocation of the Coleg Gwent campus will replace the Nash College site and Coleg Gwent have confirmed there is no requirement to operate both sites. The existing Nash site would continue to provide a teaching facility for learners whilst the new facility is being built, subject to planning approval. This would ensure there is no disruption to learners and no loss of provision or access to courses in the interim period.

## **Benefits of proposals**

Recent years have seen a significant increase in the number of new housing developments across the city. The 2018-based local authority population projections published in June 2020 indicate that Newport's population up until 2043 could grow by 5.1%, the highest increase in Wales. The number of households is also set to increase by 6.9% over the same period. Since the start of the Newport Local Development Plan period in 2012, nearly 6,000 new homes have been built and a further 4000 homes required over the next 4 years. With such growth in population and household numbers, there is clearly a need for additional capacity within learning, leisure and fitness services within accessible and sustainable facilities.

Together with the development of the Knowledge Quarter, the new leisure and wellbeing facility will:

- Enable the regeneration of long-standing brownfield site in the city centre
- Create a fit for purpose, modern leisure and wellbeing facility for the people of Newport
- Promote health and wellbeing, encouraging people to engage and become more active
- Provide a state of the art Further Education learning environment
- Create better learning pathways between schools, further and higher education in Newport
- Provide a new attraction and reason for people to visit Newport
- Serve to increase footfall in the city, creating vibrancy and wider economic benefits for city centre businesses
- Generate confidence in the future of Newport through public sector-led investment
- Support the sustainability of the Council's operating model for leisure

## **Consultation and Engagement**

These proposals will be subject to extensive community and stakeholder consultation including existing user groups. The purpose of the engagement will be:

- To consult on whether the citizens of Newport would like to see a new, environmentally sustainable and accessible health and well-being facility to replace Newport Centre
- To ensure a fair and open consultation that informs the Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment and Cabinet decision making
- To seek the views of Newport residents and stakeholders, including those from protected equalities groups
- To enable stakeholders to take part in the consultation safely during a period of Covid19 restrictions engagement will be online with an option to submit a response by post.

## **Timescale**

Community and stakeholder consultation will run from 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 until 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## **Financial Summary**

The total cost of the project has been estimated at £19.7m. The final, detailed financial model is in development and the Council is currently exploring a range of funding options. This includes the Council's capital reserves, Welsh Government funding and its operating subsidy arrangements with



Newport Live. The following table provides a summary of the current headline cost estimates and potential funding sources

<b>CAPITAL (£'000s)</b>	
Capital Investment required	£19,721
<b>Funded by</b>	
Capital borrowing (financed by reduction in Newport Live subsidy)*	£8,194
External funding(not yet approved)**	£7,027
Earmarked Capital Reserves***	£3,500
Capital Receipts***	£1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£19,721</b>

\*Newport Live have identified an annual saving of £450K would be generated by moving the provision of city centre leisure services to a new more efficient facility. This saving reduction would impact on the Council's subsidy to Newport Live, which when capitalised, generates the £8.1m identified above).

\*\*The Council has submitted an application to Welsh Government

\*\*\*It is proposed that the remaining costs will be met from the Council's existing capital programme, (capital receipts and borrowing).

## Risks

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)</b>	<b>What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect</b>	<b>Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?</b>
Not enough capital to finance the build.	H	M	Submitting a Transforming Towns Funding Bid to partially cover the capital costs of the project	Head of Finance
WG declines to award funding	H	L	The provision of a Newport Knowledge Quarter has been established through the adopted city centre Master Plan and has been included on forward funding programmes with Welsh Government. Whilst the funding is for the new leisure facility, the relocation to the Expansion Site will release the Newport Centre site for the Knowledge quarter initiative and a potential investment of £90m.	Head of Finance
Not enough demand in the future for the facilities provided in the build	H	L	The multi –purpose dry areas will be flexible enough to meet any changing future demand	Head of City Services
WG do not agree to the release of the	H	L	Welsh Government have been kept fully informed of the proposals for the Expansion	Acting Head of Regeneration,

joint venture land for leisure purposes			Site and are aware of the benefits which are derived from not only an improved leisure offer but also the relocation of Coleg Gwent campus into the city centre.	Investment and Housing
Reputational risk	L	L	Detailed communication and consultation strategies involving citizens in the development of the offer	Head of City Services
Cost escalation Delays in starting the build and any other ongoing delays due to external factors which result in escalating costs -	H	M	Working within the pre-agreed financial envelope and a robust contract management approach.	Head of City Services

### Links to Council Policies and Priorities

This development would be in keeping with the adopted Local Development Plan, Economic Growth Strategy, city centre Master Plan, Corporate Plan and Local Well-being Plan.

### Council Commitments / Priorities

This proposal meets the following commitments and well-being objectives of the council as specified in the Corporate Plan 2017 – 2022

#### Thriving City

- Real progress on transforming Newport city centre through redevelopment

#### Aspirational People

- The City has modern, increased Tertiary education capacity that meets the needs of Newport's future economic and social changes

#### Well-being Objectives

##### 1. To improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities

The opportunity offered by the new build will enhance the development of the Newport Knowledge Quarter. This will provide residents with enhanced FE and HE opportunities in an accessible and modern facility.

##### 2. To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment

The new build will attract people into the city centre to use the facilities, which will increase footfall in the city centre. Because of the central location many residents will be able to walk, cycle or uses other sustainable forms of transport to access the building. Any new facility will be built to BREAM excellent standards, with sustainability and future proofing at its core. Together with the new Coleg Gwent building, enhancements to Usk Way and the active travel connectivity, this will create high quality place and green lung, right at the heart of the city centre.

##### 3. To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient

The building will provide a wide range of activities aimed at promoting improved physical and mental health and wellbeing as well as offering community facilities where people can meet. The offer will be affordable and delivered in an attractive, accessible location with good transport links.

#### **4. To build cohesive and sustainable communities**

Cohesive communities are those which are able to meet and support each other. The building can act as a focal point for local groups and individuals to come together.

### **Options Available and considered**

- 1) Commence a public consultation for plans to build a new leisure and wellbeing facility in the city centre, enabling the release of land to Coleg Gwent to support the creation of the Newport Knowledge Quarter.
- 2) Do not agree to undertake a public consultation on the plans to build a new leisure and wellbeing facility in the city centre.

### **Preferred Option and Why**

- (1) To commence a public consultation for plans to build a new leisure and wellbeing facility in the city centre, enabling the release of land to Coleg Gwent to support the creation of the Newport Knowledge Quarter. The views of Newport residents and stakeholders are important to ensure that the Council provide residents and visitors with both appropriate and ambitious facilities which are environmentally sustainable and accessible for all users. This engagement will ensure that the Council is confident it has undertaken its commitment to provide residents with facilities they want. It will also reflect our meet our responsibility under the Well-being for Future Generations Act in terms of Integration and Collaboration.

#### **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

This report is to open up the consultation on the proposals; the decision on the sources of funding and implications will be set out in a report following consultation and a final decision is made. The reduction in the Newport Live subsidy will fund c£8.1m of Council borrowing as the report shows and the use of capital reserves/receipts has a relatively small additional revenue cost associated with it as shown in the report. There remains a shortfall in funding currently and the request from Welsh Government for support in funding the proposal is important in terms of the affordability of the Councils overall capital programme.

#### **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

The Council has a discretionary power to provide sports, leisure and recreational facilities under section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and can acquire and dispose of land and property for the purposes of these function and in connection with its regeneration powers, in accordance with sections 120 and 123 of the Local Government Act 1972. The management and operation of the Council's existing sports and leisure facilities have been outsourced to an arm's length charitable trust, Newport Live. The Trust operates the Newport Centre under the terms of a long lease at a peppercorn rent, to enable them to provide these services under a long-term agreement. The council remains liable for the maintenance and repair of the premises and pays a management fee or subsidy to Newport Live for the provision of the sports and leisure services.

The existing facilities at the Newport Centre are no longer fit for purpose and would require significant investment to bring them up to a satisfactory standard. The costs of the necessary repairs and refurbishment mean that this is not considered to be an affordable or economically viable option for the Council. Therefore, the report sets out alternative options for the re-provision of sports and leisure facilities on an alternative city centre site adjacent to the university building and the regeneration benefits of releasing the existing Newport Centre site for the purposes of relocating Coleg Gwent.

At this stage, Cabinet are only being asked to agree a preferred option, or options, for the purposes of public consultation and engagement with key stakeholders. A final decision will be made in February 2021 in the light of the consultation responses.

Although there is no express statutory duty to consult in relation to the provision of sport and leisure facilities, the Council has always undertaken full public consultation and stakeholder engagement before taking any decision which may impact upon the delivery of any public service, in accordance with the principles of fairness and legitimate expectation. In addition, when taking decisions of this nature and in exercise of its functions, the Council is required to have due regard to its public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. In particular, Cabinet will need to have regard to any impact caused by the re-provision of sports and leisure services at the new facility. Therefore, the public consultation process will need to identify the nature and extent of any such impact and, in particular, whether there is any disproportionate impact on any user groups who have “protected characteristics” under the Equality Act, such as the elderly or the disabled. The consultation responses will help to inform the final Fairness and Equality Impact assessment, for Cabinet to consider before taking any final decision.

For the purposes of fair, meaningful and proper consultation, Cabinet is entitled to identify a preferred option, or options, and the reasons for that preference. Relevant considerations will include the cost and affordability of the options, the impact on service delivery and the wider regeneration benefits of the new College development. However, Cabinet must have due regard to the outcome of the public consultation and the Council’s public sector equality duty before taking any final decision.

The purpose of the public consultation is to identify any impact in terms of the proposed service provision change and to inform the FEIA, on which Cabinet will base their final decision. The wider public engagement about preferences for new sports and leisure facilities does not form part of the legal consultation process, although the views expressed can help to inform the final Cabinet decision.

### **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

This report proposes that Cabinet commence public consultation on plans to build a new leisure and wellbeing facility in the city centre and dispose of land to Coleg Gwent to support the creation of the Newport Knowledge Quarter. A full programme of consultation with stakeholders will be undertaken to contribute to the redevelopment options and inform the Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment. The report identifies major potential wellbeing social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits arising from a modern city-centre leisure facility alongside the opportunity for a new college campus.

There are no human resources implications at this stage and staffing would be provided by Newport Live.

### **Comments of Cabinet Members**

#### **Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Investment:**

The benefits associated with this opportunity cannot be underestimated, from increased footfall to sustain our businesses, new environmentally sustainable, modern and accessible leisure and learning facilities, and the delivery of the Council’s commitment to provide a Knowledge Quarter in the heart of our City. This is an exciting opportunity for our citizens, businesses and stakeholders to engage in this consultation and inform Cabinet of what is important to them in a new leisure and wellbeing facility. I would encourage everyone to help us shape the future leisure offer in the City Centre.

#### **Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure:**

I fully support the proposed consultation. Newport residents deserve a City Centre leisure facility which is fit for purpose, modern, energy efficient and accessible for all users. I look forward to seeing the results of the consultation. It’s a very exciting plan going forward, I have no doubt Newport residents will be fully engaged with the consultation.

**Cabinet Member for Assets:**

The development of new leisure, wellbeing and learning facilities in the City Centre is a positive proposal and an effective use of Council assets. The existing Newport Centre has served the people of the City from all backgrounds. Therefore, it is only right that the Council seeks the views of our residents as they are always important to Cabinet's decision making and I welcome the proposed consultation on these exciting and bold plans for our City Centre.

**Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:**

This exciting proposal to relocate Coleg Gwent's Nash campus into the City Centre is very welcome and will provide young people with the opportunity to learn in a modern, state of the art facility. The development will align with the Council's commitment to deliver a Newport Knowledge Quarter where world class further education and higher education facilities are provided in a central location that is accessible via sustainable public transport and active travel routes.

**Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development:**

The development of a new, environmentally sustainable, accessible health and well-being facility is an exciting opportunity to ensure that new Council developments are energy efficient and contribute towards the Council's commitment to reduce our carbon footprint. I welcome the requirement that the new facility is built to BREAM excellent standard and would encourage the use of green walls and roofs in order to maximise environmental benefits right at the heart of the City Centre. I would encourage all of our residents to share their views.

**Local issues**

The provision of new city centre Leisure and Learning facilities will affect residents in all wards in Newport.

**Scrutiny Committees**

None

**Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010**

A statement on potential equality impact and considerations being made in relation to this proposal is included with this report. A full Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment will be developed prior to, and inform, final decision making. The FEIA will be based on findings from public consultation.

**Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

Targeted consultation will take place specifically aimed at children and young people through promotion of the consultation with schools and the Youth Council. People replying to consultations will be requested to provide their age and other personal data for equalities monitoring purposes.

**Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

The Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act seeks to improve the social, economic environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Public bodies should ensure that decisions take into account the impact they could have on people living in Wales, in the future. The Council has always sought to engage with residents before taking any decision which may impact upon the delivery of any public service, in accordance with the principles of fairness and legitimate expectation.

The 5 main considerations in respect of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are set out below with an explanation of how this project meets these objectives:

- Long term: An investment in modern leisure facilities and the Knowledge Quarter will contribute to the ongoing regeneration of the city centre, the promotion of the health and wellbeing agenda, and

the provision of environmentally sustainable and accessible facilities which are well integrated with public transport provision.

- **Prevention:** The Newport Centre is no longer considered commercially viable and the facilities are at the end of their life. The new facility will be built to BREEAM excellent standards, with sustainability and future proofing at its core. Together with the new Coleg Gwent building, enhancements to Usk Way and the active travel connectivity, this will create high quality and sustainable place and green lung, right at the heart of the city centre which will contribute to the ongoing wellbeing of residents.
- **Integration:** The redevelopment plans are intended to secure integrated wellbeing gains, particularly through the selection of a city centre location and the potential to include a new college campus. This aligns with the ambitions set out in the Corporate Plan and city centre Master Plan.
- **Collaboration:** Working alongside partners including Coleg Gwent and Newport Live will help ensure that wellbeing gains are achieved through the redevelopment proposals.
- **Involvement:** An extensive programme of engagement and consultation with stakeholders will inform the redevelopment options and help ensure that the wellbeing gains are maximised.

### **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is considered that there would be no significant or unacceptable increase in crime and disorder as a result of the proposed consultation.

### **Consultation**

Community and stakeholder consultation will run from 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 until 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### **Background Papers**

City Centre Master Plan (adopted January 2019)

Dated:



# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: 16 December 2020

**Subject** Cabinet Work Programme

**Purpose** To report and agree the details of the Cabinet's Work Programme.

**Author** Cabinet Office Manager

**Ward** All Wards

**Summary** The purpose of a work programme is to enable Cabinet to organise and prioritise the reports and decisions that are brought to each meeting. Effective forward planning by Cabinet also impacts positively upon the Council's other Committees, in particular Scrutiny, because work needs to be coordinated on certain reports to ensure proper consultation takes place before a decision is taken.

The current work programme runs to May 2021, but it is a working document. It is important that the work programme is owned and prioritised by Cabinet Members directly, so each month the Cabinet Office Manager brings a report updating Cabinet on any changes, so that the revised programme can be formally approved.

The updated work programme is attached at Appendix 1.

**Proposal** To agree the updated work programme.

**Action by** Cabinet Office Manager

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Officers
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Finance
- Head of People and Business Change

## Background

The purpose of a work programme is to enable Cabinet to organise and prioritise the reports and decisions that are brought to each meeting. Effective forward planning by Cabinet also impacts positively upon the Council's other Committees, in particular Scrutiny, because work needs to be coordinated on certain reports to ensure proper consultation takes place before a decision is taken.

The Wales Audit Office's Corporate Assessment of Newport City Council, published in September 2013, highlighted the need to "strengthen committee work programming arrangements to ensure they are timely, meaningful, informative, transparent, balanced, monitored, and joined up". Since that report was published, these monthly reports have been introduced to provide Cabinet with regular updates on its work programme, and the opportunity to comment upon and shape its priorities as an executive group. The Democratic Services team have also been working to improve the links between this and other work programmes under its management (e.g. Council, Scrutiny, Audit) to ensure the various programmes are properly coordinated.

The current work programme runs to May 2021, but it is a working document. It is important that the work programme is owned and prioritised by Cabinet Members directly, so each month the Cabinet Office Manager brings a report updating Cabinet on any changes, so that the revised programme can be formally approved.

The updated work programme is attached at Appendix 1.

## Financial Summary

There is no direct cost to adopting a programme of work.

## Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
No action taken	M	L	Work programming arrangements are in place to ensure they are timely, meaningful, informative, and transparent, balanced, monitored, and joined up.	Head of Democratic Services
The process is not embraced by report authors and members	M	M	If there is proliferation of unplanned or late items, the opportunity to ensure work programming is timely, meaningful, informative, and transparent, balanced, monitored, and joined up will diminish	Head of Democratic Services

## Links to Council Policies and Priorities

These proposals will help the Council provide the best possible service to members and will provide information to the public and elected members.



### **Options Available and considered**

- To adopt the process and adopt or amend the work programme
- To consider any alternative proposals raised by Cabinet members
- To take no action

### **Preferred Option and Why**

To adopt the proposals which should help to ensure work programming arrangements are timely, meaningful, informative, and transparent, balanced, monitored, and joined up.

### **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

There are no financial implications in adopting a programme of work.

### **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

There are no legal implications in adopting a programme of work.

### **Staffing Implications: Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

There are no specific staffing implications in adopting a programme of work.

### **Comments of Cabinet Member**

The Chair has approved the report for consideration by cabinet.

### **Local issues**

There are no local issues as this report relates to the Council's processes

### **Scrutiny Committees**

Monthly update reports allow the Scrutiny and Cabinet work programmes to be better coordinated. The Scrutiny team and Members are currently developing new ways of working through the new Committees, and continually reviewing the work programmes to focus more on risk, and ensure all scrutiny activity has a defined purpose and constructive outcome.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010**

This does not apply to this procedural report.

### **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

This procedural report does not impact on Children and Young People although certain reports contained in the programme may do and will need appropriate consultation and comment when they are presented to cabinet.

### **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

This is a procedural report but reports contained within the programme will need to show how consideration has been given to the five things public bodies need to think about to show they have applied the sustainable development principle put into place by the Act.

### **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

This does not apply to this procedural report

### **Consultation**

As set out above

### **Background Papers**

[Newport City Council Corporate Assessment](#), Wales Audit Office (September 2013)

[Newport City Council – Corporate Assessment Follow Up 2015](#), Wales Audit Office (May 2015)

Dated: 7 December 2020

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**NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL: CABINET/COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME JUNE 2020 – MAY 2021**

MEETING	AGENDA ITEMS	LEAD OFFICER
CABINET 03-JUN-20	Treasury Management Year End Report (moved to July Cabinet)	HoF
	Corporate Risk Register Update (Q4) (moved to September Cabinet)	HP&BC
	Risk Management Strategy (Leader signed off as a CM report during COVID 19)	HP&BC
	Forecast Numbers of LAC (moved to September Cabinet)	SD People
	Work Programme	COM
COUNCIL 21-JUL-20	NNDR Relief Scheme (moved to September Council) Treasury Management Year End Report (moved to September Council)	
CABINET 29-JUL-20	29 July Cabinet rearranged to take place on 22 July 2020	
22 JUL 20	2019/20 Revenue Budget Outturn	HoF
	Capital Outturn and Additions	HoF
	Treasury Management Outturn	HoF
	Revenue Monitor 2020/21	HoF
	Schools' Recovery	CEO
	Western Gateway	Acting HRIH
	Remote Meetings	HL&R
	Strategic Equalities Plan 2020/2024	HP&BC
	Welsh Language Annual Report (moved to September Cabinet)	HP&BC
	Performance Update – Early Year End PI Analysis (moved to September Cabinet)	HP&BC
	Work Programme	COM
COUNCIL 28-JUL-20	AGM	
SPECIAL CABINET 19-AUG-20	Business case for the Test, Trace Protect Service	HL&R
	Work Programme	COM
CABINET 16-SEP-20	Capital Programme Monitoring July 2020	HoF
	Revenue Budget Monitor July 2020	HoF
	Welsh Language Annual Report	HP&BC
	Risk Report Q4 (2019/20)	HP&BC
	End of Year Performance Review 2019/20	HP&BC
	Transport Update	HCS
	COVID-19 Recovery - Update	CX
	PSB Summary Document (for information/awareness)	HP&BC

	Work Programme	COM
COUNCIL 29-SEP-20	NNDR Relief Scheme (moved from April Council) Treasury Management Year End Report (moved from April Council) Strategic Equalities Plan 2020-24 (moved from April Council)	HL&R HoF HoF  HP&BC
CABINET 14-OCT-20	Corporate Plan Annual Report	HP&BC
	Risk Report Q1 (2020/21)	HP&BC
	Pay and Reward Policy (moved from April Cabinet)	HP&BC
	SRS Data Centre	HP&BC
	Forecast Numbers of LAC (moved from June Cabinet)	HC&YPS
	LDP Annual Monitoring Report and LDP Review	HRIH
	COVID-19 Recovery - Update	CX
	Brexit Update Report	HP&BC
	Work Programme	COM
CABINET 11-NOV-20	Revenue Budget Monitor	HoF
	Capital Budget Monitor	HoF
	Audit Wales Financial Sustainability Report	HoF
	Audit Wales Certificate of Compliance 1	HP&BC
	Strategic Equalities Plan Annual Report	HP&BC
	COVID-19 Recovery - Update	CX
	Well-Being of Future Generations: Commissioner's Report and progress	HP&BC
	Annual Report on Compliments, Comments and Complaints Management 2020	Customer Services Mgr
	Local Toilet Strategy (moved from April Cabinet)	HL&R
	Brexit Update	HP&BC
	Work Programme	COM
	PSB Summary Document (for information/awareness)	HP&BC
COUNCIL 24-NOV-20	Democratic Services Annual Report Standards Committee Annual Report Pay and Reward Policy (moved from April Council)	
CABINET 16-DEC-20	Treasury Management 6 monthly Report	HoF
	Quarter 2 Corporate Risk Register Update	HP&BC
	Audit Wales – Audit of Newport City Council's Assessment of 2019-20 performance (Certificate of Compliance 2)	HP&BC
	Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report (moved from April Cabinet - t.b.c.)	HC&YPS
	Director of Social Services Annual Report	SD - People
	LDP Review Report & Draft Delivery Agreement (and seeking approval for public consultation)	HRIH
	Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill Consultation	HL&R/HP&BC
	COVID-19 Recovery - Update	CX
	Brexit Update	HP&BC

	Work Programme	COM
<b>CABINET</b> <b>08-JAN-21</b>	Revenue Budget and MTFP: Draft Proposals	HoF
	Revenue Budget Monitor	HoF
	Capital Budget Monitor	HoF
	Mid-Year Performance Analysis 2020/21	HP&BC
	Verified Key Stage 4 and 5 Pupil Outcomes (Or February Cabinet??)	CEO
	MIM Strategic Partnership Agreement	CEO
	New Socio Economic Duty	HP&BC
	LG Bill Report – Consultation on Performance and Governance of Principal Councils	HP&BC
	New Normal	HP&BC
	COVID-19 Recovery - Update	CX
	PSB Summary Document (for information/awareness)	HP&BC
	Work Programme	COM
<b>COUNCIL</b> <b>26-JAN-21</b>	Mayoral Nomination 2021/22 Council Schedule of Meetings Treasury Management 6 monthly report Council Tax Reduction Scheme Revised Statement of Licensing Policy Director of Social Services Annual Report	
<b>CABINET</b> <b>22-FEB-21</b>	Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy	HoF
	Revenue Budget and MTFP: Final Proposals	HoF
	Key Stage 4 Outcomes (Or January Cabinet??)	CEdO
	COVID-19 Recovery - Update	CX
	Work Programme	COM
<b>COUNCIL</b> <b>03 MAR-21</b>	Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy National Non-Domestic Rates: Discretionary Relief: High Street Relief Scheme 2021-22	
<b>CABINET</b> <b>10-MAR-21</b>	Pay and Reward Statement 2021/22	HP&BC
	2020- 2024 Strategic Equalities Plan Approval	HP&BC
	EAS Business Plan 2020/21	CEdO
	National Categorisation of Schools	CEdO
	Band B: Capital Investment of Schools	CEdO
	LDP Review, Delivery Agreement and Review Report	HRIH
	Corporate Risk Register Update (Quarter 3)	HP&BC
	COVID-19 Recovery - Update	CX
	Work Programme	COM
<b>CABINET</b> <b>07-APR-21</b>	Risk Management Strategy (or May Cabinet??)	HP&BC
	Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report	HC&YPS

	Provide feedback on Review Report & Delivery Agreement and seek permission to formally send to WG (formal commencement of an LDP Review) – t.b.c.	HRIH
	COVID-19 Recovery - Update	CX
	Work Programme	COM
	PSB Summary Document (for information/awareness)	HP&BC
COUNCIL 27-APR-21	IRP Annual Report NNDR Rate Relief Pay and Reward Statement 21/22 Provide Feedback on Review Report and Delivery LDP Review, Delivery Agreement and Review Report	
CABINET 05-MAY-21	COVID-19 Recovery - Update	CX
	Work Programme	COM
COUNCIL 11-MAY-21	AGM	

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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