

Agenda

Cabinet

Date: Wednesday, 7 April 2021

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting

To: Councillors J Mudd, R Jeavons, R Truman, G Giles, P Cockeram, D Harvey, D Davies, M Rahman, D Mayer

Item		Wards Affected
1	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>	
2	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	
3	<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting (Pages 3 - 12)</u>	
4	<u>Outcomes 2019-2020: Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 (Pages 13 - 24)</u>	All Wards
5	<u>Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan 2021-2022 (Pages 25 - 58)</u>	All Wards
6	<u>Replacement Local Development Plan: Post Consultation Endorsement of Review Report and Delivery Agreement (Pages 59 - 104)</u>	All Wards
7	<u>Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy Statement (Pages 105 - 118)</u>	All Wards
8	<u>Code of Corporate Governance - Update (2020) (Pages 119 - 142)</u>	All Wards
9	<u>Covid 19 Recovery Update (Pages 143 - 158)</u>	All Wards
10	<u>Brexit Update Report (Pages 159 - 166)</u>	All Wards
11	<u>Work Programme (Pages 167 - 174)</u>	
12	<u>Click on link below to view the meeting: Cabinet Meeting, 8 April 2021 - YouTube</u>	

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Date of Issue: 30 March 2021

Minutes



Cabinet

Date: 10 March 2021

Time: 4.00 pm

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

1 Apologies for Absence

Councillor G Giles.

2 Declarations of Interest

None received.

3 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes from 22 February Cabinet were approved as a true record.

4 Pay and Reward Policy

The Leader introduced the report to Cabinet for consideration. The Council's Pay and Reward Policy for the workforce was an annual report that required adoption by Council. The policy set out the internal mechanisms for remunerating Council officers and provided any changes since the last adoption.

The policy was last approved in November 2020 and there were no proposed changes to it this year. The Leader however highlighted the annual gender pay gap that would also be published on the Council's website. The Leader was pleased to report that the mean pay gap decreased for a second year to 1.92% from last year's reported 3.6%.

At November's Cabinet, it was reported that the 2019 median gap had closed entirely as the analysis of the data showed that the median point of hourly pay was the same for both men and women. There was a very slight change to this and there was a median pay gap of 0.57% for 2020. The Council's gender pay gap continued to compare favourably with other Councils across Wales and the UK average of 17% but Newport would maintain efforts to eliminate the pay gap between men and women employed by the Council.

The Council was committed to conducting equal pay audits on a three yearly basis. This audit would be carried out once the gender pay gap for 2021 was established.

Comments from Cabinet Members:

Councillor Mayer noted the good progress on the gender pay gap and the real living wage, which was part of the Council's policy and much needed. In light of the cuts over the last decade, the council had done very well to address the gender pay gap and maintain wages for staff during the difficulties faced regarding pay conditions.

Councillor Rahman commended the Cabinet Member, colleagues and officers for reducing the pay gap. It was noted that Newport City Council had one of the smallest gender pay gap by comparison to most councils in Wales. This also compared favourably to the national average which was 17% considering, that Newport City Council was one of the largest employers in Newport it would be setting a positive trend for other businesses. There was a need for a real living wage for all residents across country as well as Newport.

Decision:

That Cabinet approved the updated Pay and Reward Policy in order to meet the statutory requirement for a pay policy statement to be approved and published by Council on an annual basis.

5 **WG White Paper and Consultation - Rebalancing Care and Support**

The Leader presented the report to Cabinet Member colleagues. The Welsh Government published a White Paper on *Rebalancing Care and Support* and was consulting on proposals to introduce new legislation to improve social care arrangements and strengthen partnership working to achieve the vision set out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

As a member of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board it was important for the Council to contribute towards the consultation that would assist in shaping and developing the future partnership arrangements across health and social care.

The delivery of social care services (Adults and Children) made significant progress in the last ten years transforming the delivery of social care through the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016. Both of these Acts were aligned and shaped by the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 which strived towards the Well-being Goal 'A Healthier Wales' and having a health and social care system that works for everyone.

There were four specific proposals set out in the paper for consultation, these were:

1. The Development of a **national commissioning framework** which would standardise commissioning processes for care services including the method for determining the fees paid to care providers in the independent and voluntary sector.
2. To establish a **national care commissioning office** either within Welsh Government or through setting up a small arms-length body.
3. Introduce a **Chief Social Care and Social Work Officer** located within Welsh Government to function as the national, professional voice for Social Care and Social Workers.
4. Establish **Regional Partnership Boards as corporate legal entities** and enhanced their functions to enable RPBs to directly employ staff; ensure transparent accountability in relation to pooled budgets and joint commissioning by local authorities and health boards; hold integrated budgets; undertake direct commissioning of health and care with agreement from local partners; establish a planning and performance monitoring framework within each RPB; and be required to report to Welsh Ministers on progress of joint delivery against their integrated priorities.

The Consultation set out by The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services sought views on the proposals to introduce the new legislation to improve social care arrangements and strengthen partnership working. The Deputy Minister was seeking views that would be considered in developing any new legislation and responses needed to be submitted by 6 April 2021 at the latest. The consultation set out 12 questions covering all aspects of the proposals. The Council's proposed response to the Consultation questions were outlined in Appendix 1.

The Leader invited the Corporate Director – People/Head of Adult and Community Services to say a few words to Cabinet.

The Corporate Director highlighted that the paper was a significant step forward in indicating the direction of travel to deliver the ambitions in the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. The thread running through this was greater integration with health and social care. Discussions with colleagues at the WG also indicated this as well as wanting to hear the views of the public. It was however important to understand how it shaped the future relationship between the local authorities and the regional partnership board and with WG itself. It represented a significant step in that direction and it was important that we contributed to the consultation, as this was the second biggest budget area for local authorities and would have a significant impact on the future arrangements in relation to social care.

Comments from Cabinet Members:

Councillor Cockeram raised some issues relating to the consultation. The social services policy group met with the minister and felt positive about the prospect of a framework being put in place, along with funding pot, however the Cabinet Member was disappointed with white paper. There were mixed thoughts on this and the regional partnership board chairs were also disappointed, as they were doing particularly well with new ways of working. The Cabinet Member was concerned about the impact on sustainability if the funding depleted. The paper was also very extensive, with a lot of pressure on the WG. There was an increase in the older age population, dementia was also on the increase, these were issues that would need to be tackled. The Cabinet Member questioned where did social services fit into this and what contribution would the Council be making. The Cabinet Member did however applaud the move by the WG to put a Chief Officer for Social Services in the WG. There were some good aspects within the paper however, he did have concerns regarding the future of the regional partnership board. The deadline of 6 April was also a short period to do the White Paper justice.

Councillor Truman stressed that there was an opportunity to express any views or concerns during this consultation period. There were many points to consider in particular how the national framework would operate and a lot of clarification on how the proposal put by the WG.

The Leader echoed comments of her colleagues and agreed that the regional partnership board, under the guidance of the Cabinet Member for Social Services was working well and in light of this, there was concern that there may be issues regarding governance. Considering the consequences of the White Paper, it was therefore important that Cabinet shared their views with Welsh Government.

Decision:

That Cabinet considered the contents of the report and agreed the consultation response for submission by the closing date of 6 April 2021.

6 Quarter 3 2020/21 Corporate Risk Register Update

The Leader introduced the next item to Cabinet Member colleagues, which was an update of the Council's Corporate Risk Register for the end of Quarter three (31 December 2020).

Members were asked to consider the contents of the report and note the changes to the Council's Corporate Risks.

The Council's Risk Management Policy and Corporate Risk Register enabled this administration and officers to effectively identify, manage and monitor the risks which could prevent the Council from achieving its objectives in the Corporate Plan (2017-22) and undertake its statutory duties as a local authority.

The Quarter three risk report would also be presented to the Council's Audit Committee at the end of March to review the Council's risk management process and governance arrangements.

At the end of quarter three the Council had 52 risks recorded across the Council's eight service areas. Those risks that were deemed to pose the most significant risk in the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and services were escalated to the Council's Corporate Risk Register for monitoring.

At the end of quarter three 18 risks were recorded in the Corporate Risk Register:

- Ten Severe Risks (15 to 25);
- Six Major Risks (7 to 14); and
- Two Moderate Risks.

One risk (Pressure on Housing Risk) was closed in quarter three as it was amalgamated with the Pressure on Homelessness Risk (in the Corporate Risk Register). This was in response to the close links between both risk areas and the mitigating actions that the service area (including partners) was taking to support people and families needing affordable and secure housing in the City.

In addition, quarter three of the Corporate Risk Register had seen two risk scores increased, three decreased and 13 risks remained at the same score in quarter two.

In relation to the demand for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Special Education Needs provision (SEN) (Risk Score 12 to 16), this risk score increased from 12 to 16 as the service had seen a growing number pupils with complex needs entering schools due to the pandemic. Special schools and primary Learning Resource bases were at capacity and the ALN implementation group would reconvene in the spring to review SEN funding to schools.

Newport Council's Property Estate (Risk score increased from 8 to 12). The Council's partners Newport Norse had undertaken condition surveys of its operational estate and identified increased number of works that were required to repair and maintain the condition of its assets.

The post transition Brexit (Risk score decreased from 16 to 12), following the approval of the trade agreement between the UK and the EU. There remained however risks to the post Brexit arrangements to ensure EU Citizens living in the UK applied for EU Settled Status by the 30 June deadline.

Additionally, the economy remained in a precarious position due to Covid and the implementation of the new trade arrangements, which could impact on the short to medium term stability of the economy, labour market and consumer confidence.

Education Out of County Placements (Risk score decreased from 12 to 9), this budget was very carefully monitored on a monthly basis. Additional local placements were commissioned from Newport Live and Catch 22.

Plans were being developed to expand Ysgol Bryn Derw to provide additional Foundation Phase placements.

Schools Finance / Cost Pressures (Risk score decreased from 16 to 12). Total sector budgets were now £2M in surplus due to schools being closed for prolonged periods of time. Without careful budget management however, schools were still at risk of developing deficit positions. The total number of schools in deficit remained the same.

Comments from Cabinet Members:

Councillor Rahman, as Cabinet Member for Assets gave a brief background information on this and referred to a survey conducted in 2019 on the Council's property estates and although we were hit by pandemic, the team had been proactive during lockdown. Issues were identified on buildings such as schools and corporate buildings with similar findings to that of the leisure centre. Building Regulations and Health and Safety Regulations had also changed since many of these properties were built therefore safety of the residents were of the utmost importance and finding alternatives was being considered. The risk was being mitigated and managed by using funding from the capital maintenance programme of £1.5M per annum. The Cabinet Member was also having regular meetings with the estates team to keep updated on any issues. It was therefore not a surprise that the property score risk and increased but this being identified. Other sources of funding were also being sought from WG with Norse partners. It was therefore important that the council invested heavily into maintaining the safety of schools for children going forward, hence the provision of £5M from the recent budget.

Councillor Jeavons referred to the risk concerning the major works being carried out recently due to ash die back disease to trees in Caerleon area and City Services were looking at other areas of Newport to address this. There was similar risk across Wales and therefore it was important that this was addressed.

Councillor Mayer referred to the risk area surrounding digitisation issues. The digital programme has significantly improved since the pandemic including enabling staff to work from home. There would always be cyber risks such as phishing attacks and computer viruses, which unfortunately went with the territory. It was therefore good that the risk was red, as it kept the us on our toes to stay one step ahead.

Councillor Harvey was pleased to see the education portfolio move from red to amber and thanked the Chief Education Officer for her hard work, as well as school staff.

Councillor Cockeram referred to stability of social services providers which was a possible risk due to minimum wage pay of Domiciliary care providers which meant that there was a high turnover of staff. The WG needed to make it a more of a professional employment and this should be a priority. The real living wage was also hopefully a step in the right direction. Other pressures in social services were on adult services; as previously mentioned people were living longer and dementia was on the increase. Elderly residents and family were also favouring home care packages which were not cheap; up to £1K per week, people therefore needed to be aware of the cost implications. Pressure on delivery of children services being reduced due to homes such as Rose Cottage, reducing children being homed out of area and being brought back to Newport. There would also be a high volume of referrals due to the pandemic.

The Leader concluded by adding that she was proud of the work in Newport in terms of modernising services and making buildings fit for purposes in the 21st Century and was bowled over by refurbishment of property for children within Newport providing them with the security of a real home.

Decision:

That Cabinet was asked to consider the contents of the quarter three update of the Corporate Risk Register

7 Covid Recovery Update

The Leader presented the report, advising colleagues that this was an update on the Council's and partner's response to the Covid-19 crisis supporting the City (Residents and Businesses) to comply with the current restrictions and progress in the Council's Strategic Recovery Aims.

It was over a year since Newport received its first confirmed case of Covid-19 and the City has been in some form of Covid-19 restrictions.

Due to this, Cabinet and Council over the last year had faced many difficult decisions, seeing many of our loved ones lose their lives and some of our most vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens impacted by the crisis.

The Council had also seen the best in people across Newport going above and beyond to help others in times of crisis and on many occasions the Council and our Partners supported people and businesses across Newport.

In the Council's response and recovery from this crisis, it endorsed four Strategic Recovery Aims that ensured we could position ourselves to respond to immediate and future needs of our communities and businesses, such as:

- Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment;
- Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy;
- Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens; and
- Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19.

It was now over eleven weeks (20 December 2020) since the Welsh Government put Wales into Alert Level Four restrictions. The last few months were difficult for us all and impacted on normal ways of life, such as visiting close friends and family, children and young people going to school, colleges and University; and non-essential businesses having to close.

As we moved into spring and the weather improved the Council understood the frustration and willingness of people to get back into normal ways of life. People were urged however, to keep to the social distancing measures and to comply with the Welsh Government guidance to keep the case rate as low as possible to allow the NHS can recover.

The Leader thanked Newport Live for their contribution, with vaccination centre in the City Centre.

The rollout of the vaccine had seen over 900,000 people receive their first dose and over 40s were already being offered the vaccine.

The Leader encouraged residents of Newport to take up the vaccine when it was offered and encourage friends and family to do the same to get to normal as soon as possible.

Newport Council and its partners supported schools in seeing the return of foundation children back into schools and remaining primary school children returning back on 15 March. It was important that all parents and guardians helped their schools by maintaining social distancing rules and to report as soon as possible any potential Covid cases.

Newport's economy had seen significant setbacks as businesses closed, residents lost their jobs and/or were on Furlough. Newport Council and its partners were committed to supporting people to get back into work, to reskill and/or train. The Council was also committed to supporting the businesses to return as restrictions were eased and encourage everyone in Newport to support their local business.

A recent Estyn report on how local authorities and regional education consortia have supported pupils (most vulnerable) during the crisis was in circulation. The recommendations raised in the report were already being addressed by the Council and Newport's schools.

Ongoing economic activity on major projects were progressing well and announcements of Heritage Lottery Funding for the Transporter Bridge was welcomed.

There was also ongoing progress being made with Housing projects and provision of affordable housing across the City.

The Council continued to offer services online and where not possible in line with social distancing restrictions.

Further updates on the Council's progress will be provided next month.

Comments from Cabinet Members:

Councillor Davies echoed the key points raised and understood that it was a tremendously difficult time for residents. The Cabinet Member thanked everyone for adhering to the principles of isolation; working from home during lockdown. The Cabinet Member wanted to focus on how difficult it was for the economy and that Newport City Council made a huge difference providing help and advice. The achievement by Newport in relation to strategic recovery aims was very positive, the indoor market project commenced along with the Capital City Region investment, which was progressing. Newport and Conwy were successfully selected in a recent bid as pilot for an all Wales local area energy plan project to help us look at ways to improve carbon reduction. The WG aimed to be carbon neutral by 2030 this should therefore be applauded during this difficult time.

Councillor Harvey thanked everyone in Newport who largely abided by the rules during the pandemic. The Cabinet Member was pleased to remind colleagues of the recent introduction of new electric buses purchased by Newport Transport. In addition to this, Newport Transport was now a Dementia Friendly Company with the first Dementia Friendly bus in Wales, this was another step in the right direction. The Cabinet Member was pleased to announce that Newport City Council and its partners were putting all the residents first.

Councillor Truman echoed comments of colleagues and was pleased to see the community spirit shown by Newport residents thrive during the pandemic. The Cabinet Member thanked environmental officers and trading standards officers for keeping Newport safe. All Newport staff deserved a pat on the back for their hard work.

Councillor Rahman mentioned that Newport had come a long way as an authority and as a community and the recovery was encouraging. Newport City Council continued to provide services thanked all council staff risking their lives and their family to keep Newport services running. The Riverfront was busy and full of life, taking advantage of the infrastructure and the active travel routes. Also mentioned the 143,259 people who had died from the pandemic, which was equivalent to the residents in Newport, which put it into perspective. Newport acted swiftly to limit impact of the pandemic to our communities. BAME groups were also vulnerable and swift action limited lives being lost and helped the livelihood of these people with grant money with the help of partners and WG, by comparison to other local councils. The Cabinet Member thanked the Leader and council officers and urged residents to take up the vaccine if offered.

The Leader highlighted the grants for business provided by the Council who were quick to act, supporting small business and start-ups as well as large businesses. The Council tried really hard to help those businesses and the guidance and support was still there for these businesses.

Councillor Cockeram referred to Newport Transport and that every bus driver would have a badge on their bus to show that they were dementia friendly and would be receiving a national award for their achievement. It was hoped that this would have a positive knock on

effect other modes of public transport such as taxis. The Cabinet Member was pleased for Councillor Harvey and Newport Transport board members.

The Leader hoped that all partnerships would be ready to facilitate excellent public transport in light of the UK Government considering investment in the South East Wales corridor.

Councillor Jeavons welcomed the positive news in the report and hoped that more good news would be delivered by WG on Friday at the end of the three-week period. Thanked all members of staff within council and echoed comments of cabinet members. The Deputy Leader urged people to proceed with caution to bring infections down.

Councillor Mayer mentioned the role of the community hubs who had provided wonderful support from day one, delivering food packages. They would have also matured enormously as a service for the council and would enhance public provision in the future.

The Leader added that in her role as Leader she had met almost daily since the pandemic with officers and colleagues. No one was immune to the dreadful disease and some of us had been touched by this pandemic in one way or another, without a proper opportunity to say goodbye, which was difficult. With this in mind, the Leader advised that the council would be lighting up the Civic Tower, in yellow, on 23 March for a national day of reflection, which was right and proper to reflect on our losses during this period.

Decision:

That Cabinet was asked to consider the contents of the report and noted the progress being made to date the risks that were still faced by the Council.

8 **Brexit Update**

The Leader presented to Cabinet the Brexit report, which was an update on the progress in the post Brexit / trade arrangements since 31 December 2020.

Since the last Cabinet Report, it was nine weeks since the United Kingdom officially left the European Union (EU) and the Single Market. Under the new tariff free trade agreement businesses (importers / exporters) on both sides (UK and EU) were required to comply with the new custom arrangements.

It had already been widely reported that some businesses were struggling to meet these requirements with reports of goods failing to be delivered and/or accepted due to paperwork and overall loss of income.

Whilst it was anticipated that there would be short term disruptions, in the medium to long term, it was important that ongoing support was provided to ensure that this became less burdensome on businesses.

The future economic resilience of Newport and South East Wales was vital to ensure that existing and new businesses could sustainably thrive. As the Council's administration, it was also important that we promoted the 'Newport Offer' to home grown entrepreneurs as well as global businesses.

Having a diverse and sustainable economy that was able to provide sustainable growth would enable Newport's communities not just to 'level up' but also provided opportunities for communities to thrive in the long term for Newport's future generations.

The Leader added that it was important that Cabinet act as a voice for Newport and worked with its Partners (Cardiff Capital Region, Public Services Board, Western Gateway) to ensure

Newport's most disadvantaged communities and groups were able to access these opportunities to level up and enable Newport to recover from this pandemic.

What made Newport a great City to live, work and visit was its diverse communities and groups. Newport was and would always be a welcoming City for people from all nations no matter their race, sexuality, and religion.

For EU citizens already living in Newport, it was important that they, family members and friends applied for EU Settled Status before 30 June 2021.

- Newport Council and the Welsh Government had all the relevant information to help residents to apply.
- Newport Council was working with its partners to ensure people were supported throughout the process.

It remained a concern for Newport City Council that EU citizens were reporting issues relating to their rights, issues of hostility and access to public funds. As representatives of Newport's wards it was important that the Council supported its communities.

Newport Council's communications team continued to share Welsh Government information on the new trade arrangements, business requirements and information for EU citizens. This was being shared through Social Media, Business newsletters and the Council's website.

In the first two months of the new arrangement, Newport Council's services had not reported any initial issues and/or concerns in the supply of goods and services.

The Council's finance team (including Procurement) reported some increases in the cost of procurement but overall supply operated as normal.

As part of the Council's financial prudence, contingencies were in place to manage Brexit / Covid impacts and as the risk stabilised in time this allocation would be re-prioritised.

The Regulatory Services continued to offer support to businesses and Environmental Health staff completed necessary training to complete health certificate checks.

The Council's Community Cohesion officers continued to work with EU communities and offering support for vulnerable communities. Local groups / charities were also being offered the opportunity to access Food Poverty support that have been impacted by Brexit / Covid.

Decision:

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

9 **Work Programme**

This is your regular monthly report on the work programme.

Please move acceptance of the updated programme.

Decision:

That Cabinet accepted the updated programme.

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Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 7 April 2021

Subject Outcomes 2019-2020: Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5

Purpose Inform Cabinet of 2019/20 academic Outcomes

Author Chief Education Officer

Ward All

Summary The report provides pupil performance data for Newport schools

Proposal Cabinet are asked to:

1. To acknowledge the position regarding pupil performance.
2. To consider any issues arising that the Cabinet may wish to draw to the attention of the Chief Education Officer

Action by Chief Education Officer

Timetable Not applicable

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
- Chief Education Officer
- Chief Financial Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of People and Business Change

Signed

Background

In response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, the Welsh Government cancelled all statutory data collections that would have been due to take place in Summer 2020. This was initially announced in the Minister for Education's written statements of 18 March 2020 and 3 July 2020 and enacted in the Relaxation of School Reporting Requirements (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020. The latest update is included as Appendix 1: Welsh Government: School Performance Reporting Arrangements Important Update (10 August 2020).

Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

The School Performance Information (Wales) Regulations 2011 has been amended to remove the duties on governing bodies and local authorities to provide data to local authorities and Welsh Ministers, respectively, on teacher assessment outcomes and authorised or unauthorised absence for the pupils registered at schools in the 2019/20 school year.

This means that no end of phase / key stage data was submitted. Therefore no data is available for this report. Many schools will have made their own internal assessments of learners, but these will have been undertaken 'virtually' and there will have been no moderation processes, therefore even if submitted, would not be suitable for any form of meaningful analysis.

Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5

Outcomes this year should not be used for school accountability purposes, in line with agreements between each LA and their headteachers made prior to the collection of the data.

Due to the cancellation of summer 2020 GCSE, AS and A level examinations, the Welsh Government will not be reporting on school performance measures for 2019/20 or providing All Wales Core Data Sets. Following the provision of this year's centre estimated grades by schools, the school performance information regulations have been disapplied to remove the requirements for the usual flows of performance data between headteachers, governing bodies, local authorities and the Welsh Government. This means that schools and governing bodies should not include school performance measures in any published report. It will not be appropriate to make year-on-year comparisons of this information or consider it as part of trend data in inspection and accountability activities.

The content of this scrutiny report is intended to provide a contextual view of anonymised school outcomes, rather than analyse performance at Local Authority (LA) or individual level. It cannot contain any aggregated LA data, or individual school performance data, other than anonymised school level data for key stage 4 and key stage 5.

It is important that the information below is used sensitively during these unprecedented times. The information should be used within the context of a wider range of information and a range of regional processes that the local authority will use to evaluate individual school performance.

National Context

The WJEC data reports on overall GCSE / GCE A Level pass rates. It cannot report at individual pupil level, as schools do, as not all the data would be available. For example some vocational qualifications, which would be included in each individual learner's 'points scores' for some measures, may not be accessible to the WJEC. For definitions of how each measure is calculated see Appendix 2.

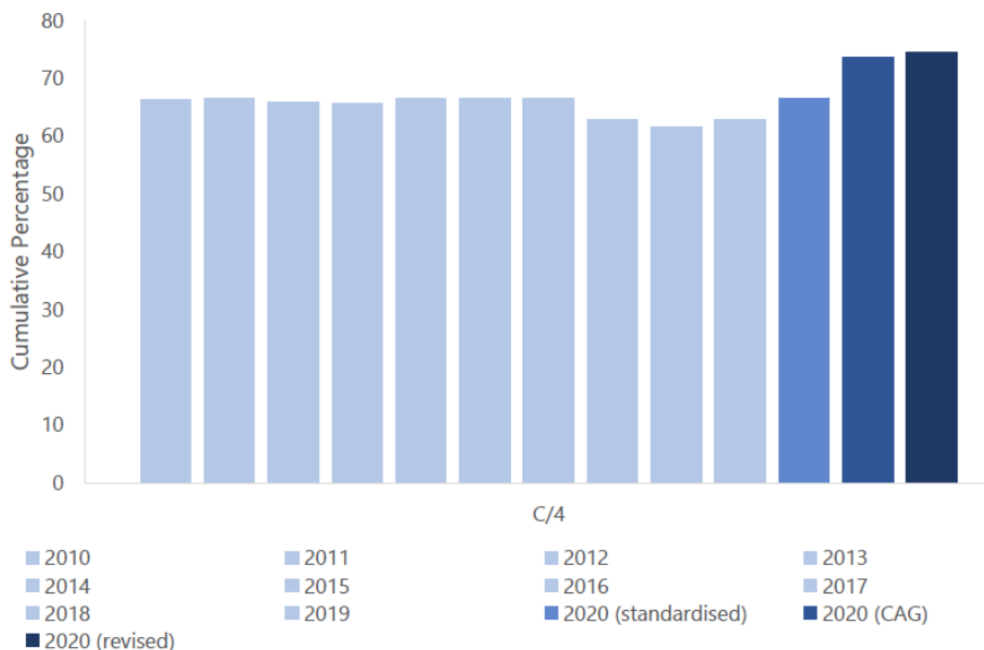
Because of these variations it is not possible to directly compare like for like, year on year progress. What is clear however is that at both key stage 4 and key stage 5, there have been significant increases in the percentage of A*-C grades awarded, and even more significant increases at A*-A and A*

Despite not being able to directly compare, it is clear that within the national context this year, we would expect to see significant increases in individual school outcomes. It is not possible using outcomes alone to determine whether this represents sustainable improvement.

Qualifications Wales have provided an initial analysis of national outcomes Results for A Level, AS, GCSE and the Skills Challenge Certificate in Wales – Summer 2020. This has been included as Appendix 3, but a sample of changes for a selection of national indicators are included in the charts below.

Key Stage 4 – GCSE – Grade C and above

Figure 7.2: National GCSE summer cumulative C/4 results 2010-2020¹⁾⁽²⁾



Results labelled as ‘2020 (revised)’ are best estimates of final national results.

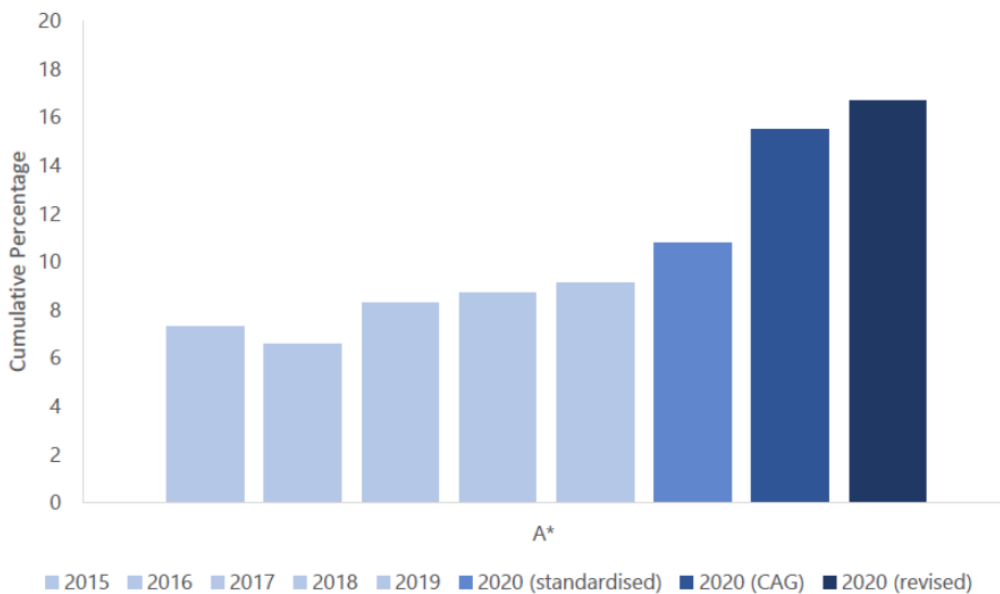
Results labelled as ‘2020 (standardised)’ are the results that were calculated by the standardisation model. For A level, AS and the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate, these are the calculated results released on 13 August. For GCSE and the Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate, these are the results that were due to be published on 23 August before the decision to base results on centre assessment grades.

Results labelled as ‘2020 (CAG)’ are the results that would have been awarded if only centre assessment grades had been used.

Between 2010 and 2016 overall grades C and above remained stable at approximately 65%. Over the next 2 years this declined to approximately 61%, before increasing to approximately 75% in 2020.

Key Stage 5 – A Level – Grade A*

Figure 5.1: National A level summer A* results 2015-2020

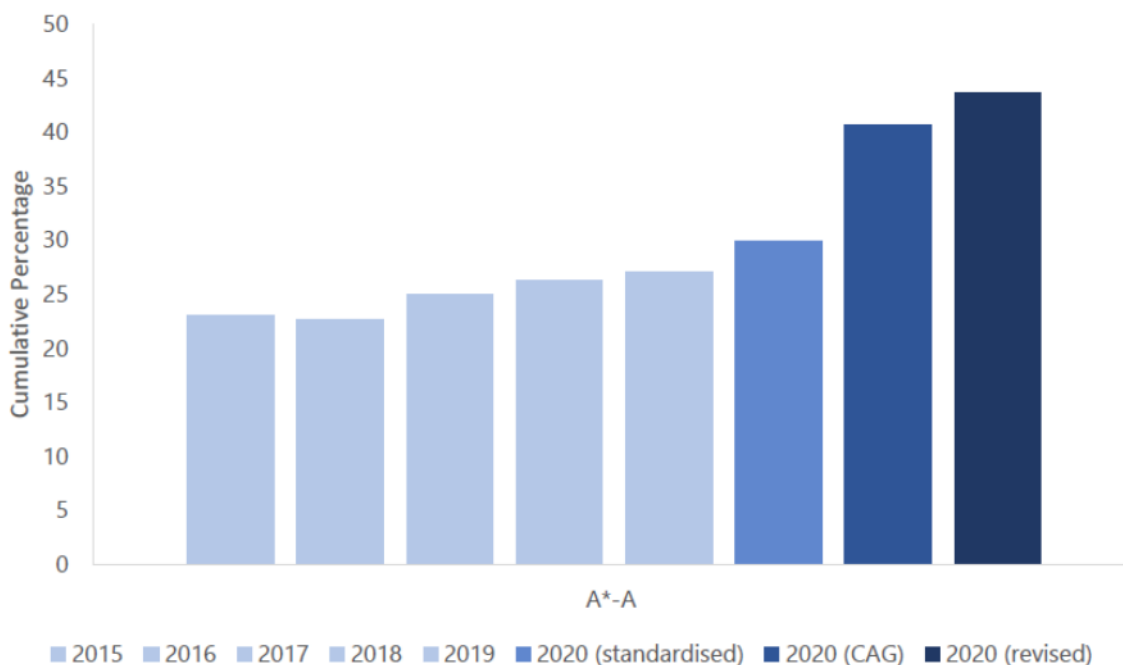


Source: 2015 to 2019 and 2020 (standardised): JCO; 2020 (CAG) and 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

Between 2015 and 2019 overall A* grades remained stable at between approximately 6-9%. In 2020 approximately 17% of grades were A*.

Key Stage 5 – A Level – Grade A* and A

Figure 5.2: National A level summer cumulative A results 2015-2020



Source: 2015 to 2019 and 2020 (standardised): JCO; 2020 (CAG) and 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

Between 2015 and 2019 overall A* or A grades remained stable at between approximately 22-27%. In 2020 approximately 44% of grades were A* or A grades.

Summary of Outcomes

Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

As explained in the context section, no data has been submitted.

Key Stage 4

Outcomes on the 5 Welsh Government measures and 2 legacy measures was requested and 5A*-A was requested.

- The Capped 9 measure
- Literacy measure
- Numeracy measure
- Science measure
- Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate measure
- Percentage of learners achieved 5 A*-A GCSE

The reported outcomes are based on revised results, following the Welsh Government decision to award the best of 'Standardised Grade' and 'Centre Assessed Grade' for each individual learner.

Summary of LA Outcomes

The tables below provide an overview of performance for the schools in the LA, compared with regional lowest, median and highest for 2020 (anonymised and non-aggregated).

The first table is sorted from highest to lowest Capped 9 outcomes. Each row represents a single school. The columns 'L1 Threshold' and '5A*-As' both reflect the percentage of learners attaining this performance measure.

School	Capped Point 9	Average points for best of Literature or first Language Welsh or English GCSE	Average points for best of Mathematics or Mathematics - Numeracy GCSE	Average points for best Science GCSE	Average points for Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate	L1 Threshold	5 A*-As
School 1	422	46	47	45	39	97	41
School 2	416	45	46	46	42	99	37
School 3	414	46	46	44	43	98	39
School 4	372	39	38	38	31	99	12
School 5	369	41	38	37	40	95	16
School 6	351	41	39	35	37	95	19
School 7	348	40	36	31	35	94	17
School 8	318	36	34	30	35	87	13
Region 2020							
Highest	422	46	47	46	48	100	41
Median	376	41	39	38	41	97	21
Lowest	318	35	34	30	31	87	10

The following table is sorted from highest to lowest Capped 9 outcomes for FSM pupils. Each row represents a single school.

School	Capped 9		Average points for best of Literature or first Language Welsh or English GCSE		Average points for best of Mathematics or Mathematics - Numeracy GCSE		Average points for best Science GCSE		Average points for Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate		L1 Threshold		5 A*-As	
	eFSM	Non	eFSM	Non	eFSM	Non	eFSM	Non	eFSM	Non	eFSM	Non	eFSM	Non
School 1	395	420	44	46	43	47	42	46	40	43	97	99	32	38
School 2	360	417	42	46	40	46	30	45	29	44	100	98	33	39
School 3	358	385	36	40	36	38	35	39	27	33	100	99	3	15
School 4	340	426	41	46	39	47	31	46	27	40	82	98	9	42
School 5	322	362	38	42	35	40	32	37	35	38	98	94	10	23
School 6	302	383	33	42	30	40	28	39	33	41	81	98	9	18
School 7	274	331	33	37	26	37	23	37	33	36	87	86	3	16
School 8			35	40	31	38	25	33	30	36			9	19
Region 2020														
Highest	395	426	44	47	43	47	42	46	44	49	100	100	48	42
Median	329	389	36	42	33	40	31	40	35	41	93	98	9	23
Lowest	272	331	28	36	26	37	23	33	27	30	50	31	0	8

Key Stage 5

This analysis is based on initial data voluntarily reported by schools in August 2020 and includes Level 3 Threshold performance and A level performance.

School submissions on results day did not indicate whether a school had made any adjustment for the Welsh Government guarantee that no pupil will receive a lower grade than their AS level outcome.

Given the priority for schools to ensure a safe return of pupils, no additional requests for this voluntarily submitted data have been made.

Please note: One school in the authority did not submit their KS5 results due to challenges in obtaining results from an exam board.

School	Level 3 Threshold	% 3 A*-E	% 3 A*-C	% 3 A*-A	% Welsh Bacc. SCC	% Welsh Bacc.
School 1	100	97	62	16	98	100
School 2	100	92	44	0	75	63
School 3	100	99	70	16	89	98
School 4	100	98	67	6	76	100
School 5	100	94	40	0	86	100
School 6	98	94	62	18	89	93
School 7	88	71	38	12	76	100
School 8						
Region - 2020						
Highest	100	100	84	28	100	100
Median	100	94	62	13	87	99
Lowest	88	54	26	0	64	63

Appendix 1: Welsh Government: School Performance Reporting Arrangements Important Update (10 August 2020)

<https://gov.wales/school-performance-reporting-arrangements-important-update-0>

As set out in Written Statements dated [18 March 2020](#) and [3 July 2020](#), the Minister for Education has announced changes to the publication of qualification awards data and performance measures due to coronavirus.

In addition, [The Relaxation of School Reporting Requirements \(Wales\) \(Coronavirus\) Regulations 2020](#) have been made to reduce burden on schools and local authorities for 2019/20.

What are the key points?

- We have suspended the calculation and publication of Key Stage 4 and legacy sixth form performance measures for the 2019 to 2020 and 2020 to 2021 academic years.
- Qualification awards data will not be used to report on attainment outcomes at a school, local authority or regional consortium level and must not be used to hold schools to account for their learners' outcomes.
- Post-16 performance measures have also been suspended for 2019/20. We will consider the best approach for 2020 to 2021, in view of the range of providers and different types of programmes that are affected in different ways. The sector will be consulted, before any firm decision is taken, in order to consider what would be useful to help their own monitoring and quality assurance processes.
- There will be a direct impact on the usual data releases provided by the Welsh Government, with some releases suspended for one or both years and/or still to be determined for 2020 to 2021. You can find a table below showing what information, with provisional timings, will be released by the Welsh Government. Where activities are marked to continue for 2020/21 reporting, this is the planning assumption at the time of publication, which could be subject to change if these are affected by further disruption to school operations.
- All schools and post-16 providers will continue to be required to undertake effective self-evaluation to support continuous improvement. Our evaluation, improvement and accountability arrangements require consideration of a broad range of information relevant to a school's own context when undertaking self-evaluation and identifying improvement priorities. This will involve schools, with support from local authorities and regional consortia, using the learner level information they have on attainment and other outcomes to reflect on and improve their existing arrangements.
- The Relaxation of School Reporting Requirements (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 came into force on 7 August 2020. These Regulations revoke one set of Regulations and amend a number of others, which place duties on headteachers, governing bodies and local authorities to produce pupil and school reports:

Regulations	Description of Regulations	Impact of Amending Regulations	Further details
The School Performance and Absence Targets (Wales) Regulations 2011	Require schools to set and publish targets which are agreed by local authorities.	Revoked	No longer required.
The Head Teachers' Reports to Parents and Adult Pupils	Require headteachers to make a report available to all parents or adult pupils about the educational achievements of	Amended (to a "reasonable endeavours" basis)	Duties imposed on headteachers for reports relating to the 2019/20 school year are to be treated as discharged, if the headteacher has used reasonable endeavours to discharge the duty.

(Wales) Regulations 2011	pupils, each school year.		The exception to “reasonable endeavours” is regulation 5(1) of the Reporting Regulations; the requirement to provide a school leaver’s report, which needs to remain an absolute duty, so that this cohort of learners are not disadvantaged this year.
The School Information (Wales) Regulations 2011	Require local authorities to publish a composite school prospectus and schools to publish their own individual prospectus, and prescribes the school information that must be included	Amended	Provision made to exclude data on authorised and unauthorised absences in respect of pupils registered at the school in the 2019/20 school year from being published in any school prospectus.
The School Governors’ Annual Reports (Wales) Regulations 2011	Require school governing bodies to produce an annual report, including information about school performance against published targets.	Amended	Modified the content of reports produced in relation to the 2019/20 academic year so that information may not be included in any school governors’ report. The statutory duty for governing bodies to produce a report will remain. Information to be disapplied/excluded in relation to pupils registered at the school in the 2019/20 school year: *the most recent Summary of Secondary School Performance (SSSP); *the number of authorised and unauthorised absences in the school year; and *any information in relation to performance and absence targets, including improvements set by the governing body in respect of performance of learners, or for reducing the level of absence.
The School Performance Information (Wales) Regulations 2011	Provide for the reporting of teacher assessment and examination outcomes (from schools and governing bodies to local authorities and Welsh Ministers).	Amended	Removes the duties on governing bodies and local authorities to provide data to local authorities and Welsh Ministers, respectively, on teacher assessment outcomes and authorised or unauthorised absence for the pupils registered at schools in the 2019/20 school year.

Appendix 2: Definitions of the 5 Welsh Government Measures

The Capped 9 measure:

- Average of the scores for the best awards for all individual pupils in the cohort, capped at a specified volume of GCSEs or equivalent qualifications. In 2019, the interim measures version will remain capped at 9 GCSEs or equivalent.
- Three of the nine slots are for specific subjects and qualifications - one GCSE in size:
 - The best grade from any of the literature or first language Welsh or English GCSEs.
 - The best grade from either of the mathematics or mathematics – numeracy GCSEs.
 - The best grade from a science GCSE (currently this is limited to awards in the WJEC suite of science GCSE qualifications: biology, chemistry, physics, science (double award) applied science (double award) and applied science (single award))
- For each learner, the remaining six slots will reflect the points attached to their best six qualifications other than those awards that are contributing towards the subject-specific slots.

There is no limit to the range of vocational qualifications that can contribute, to these non-subject specific slots.

- The Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate qualification will count towards a non-subject-specific slot of the Capped 9 measure where it features in a pupil's best results.

The literacy measure:

- Average of the scores for all pupils in the cohort, taking the best grade from any of the literature or first language Welsh or English GCSEs awarded to a pupil.

The numeracy measure:

- Average of the scores for all pupils in the cohort, taking the best grade from either of the mathematics or mathematics – numeracy GCSEs awarded to a pupil.

The science measure:

- Average of the scores for all pupils in the cohort, taking the best grade from a science GCSE awarded to a learner (currently this is limited to awards in the WJEC suite of science GCSE qualifications available to learners: biology, chemistry, physics, science (double award) applied science (double award) and applied science (single award).

The Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate measure:

- Performance measure calculating the average of the scores for the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate awards for all pupils in the cohort, whether it is the Foundation (Level 1) or the National (Level 2) award.

Appendix 3: Results for A Level, AS, GCSE and the Skills Challenge Certificate in Wales – Summer 2020.

<https://qualificationswales.org/media/6483/gq-summer-overview-revised-4-september-eng.pdf>

Financial Summary

This report is for information only

Risks

This report is for information only.

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Corporate Plan

Education Service Plan

Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015

Options Available and considered

Not applicable. This report is for information only.

Preferred Option and Why

Not applicable. This report is for information only

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no financial implications to this report

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no legal issues arising from the report.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

Following the unprecedented disruption to schools and education and the decisions to cancel summer 2020 examinations and statutory data collections, educational outcomes this year should not be used for school or Local Authority accountability purposes.

Whilst year on year outcome comparisons cannot be made the report does note the significant increases in the number of higher grades awarded for key stages 4 and 5, although it is not currently known whether this reflects sustainable improvements for schools.

Education and learning remain hugely important for individual, family and societal wellbeing and the continuity of learning and the safe return of pupils to schools has been a key recovery priority for the City Council.

There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

Comments of Cabinet Member

The introduction of interim Welsh Government performance measures, which focus on individual schools rather than aggregated local authority data, ensure that school leaders give equal importance to all subject areas and that the delivery of a quality broad and balanced curriculum for all learners is the priority of every school.

As a result of the Covid pandemic, cancellation of external examinations, and changes to the process where grades were awarded in 2020 it is not possible to evaluate the outcomes of individual schools related to previous years. Officers continue to work closely with school leaders to evaluate the outcomes of individual schools to ensure each school receives the bespoke support they require from both the Local Authority and the Education Achievement Service (EAS).

Local issues

Not applicable.

Scrutiny Committees

These data have been shared with People Scrutiny as a briefing paper.

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.

An FEIA has not been prepared as this report is for information only.

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

All local authorities have a long-term duty to develop a prosperous Wales by developing skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities. Enabling and facilitating academic attainment for all learners provides a foundation for access to employment and helps break a cycle of deprivation.

Furthermore, regardless of the socio-economic demographic of an individual school community, all schools will be challenged and supported to improve pupil attainment with a view to create “more equal wales” that enables pupils to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.

Improvement of pupil outcomes is supported by collaboration of schools, the Local Authority and the regional school improvement service (EAS) including the involvement of pupils, teachers, governors and wider community members.

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

Not applicable

Dated: 7 April 2021

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Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 7 April 2021

Subject Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan 2021-2022

Purpose This report seeks agreement from members for the EAS Business Plan 2021-2022

Author Debbie Harteveld, Managing Director, Education Achievement Service (EAS)

Ward All

Summary The EAS is required to submit an annual overarching regional Business Plan on an annual basis. This report asks for members to consider the full contents of the EAS Business Plan. This document contains the main priorities that the EAS believe will be relevant to focus upon in the next iteration of the regional Business Plan for 2021-2022.

Proposal Members are requested to:

- Ensure that the Business Plan enables appropriate support and challenge for schools and that it addresses the areas for improvement that have been identified within Newport's Education Strategic Plan; and
- Approve the EAS Business Plan 2021-2022.

Action by The Education Achievement Service in partnership with the LA

Timetable The Business Plan will commence from 1 April 2021

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Sarah Morgan (Chief Education Officer)
- Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships, 24 February 2021.

Signed

1. Background and Report

- 1.1. The EAS delivers, through an agreed Business Plan, a wide range of school improvement services to all schools (all key stages, including all through schools and special schools), pupil referral units and funded non-maintained nursery settings on behalf of each LA. This plan supports the role LAs have in delivering their statutory function, addressing their individual improvement priorities and promoting improved pupil outcomes.
- 1.2. In previous years the Business Plan has been accompanied by a LA Annex document. At a recent meeting of the Joint Executive Group it was agreed that the production of LA Annex documents would be paused for this year (2021/2022) as a result of changes to the accountability arrangements and the lack of available data / information e.g. categorisation, target setting. However, the main Business Plan will continue to contain LA specific priorities.
- 1.3. The EAS is required to submit an annual overarching regional Business Plan. This document contains the main priorities that the EAS believe will be relevant to focus upon in the next iteration of the regional Business Plan for 2021-2022. It is challenging to try to predict the way in which society will be operating from summer 2021 with regards to managing the spread of coronavirus. The priorities contained within this document assume that the EAS will build upon the learning and momentum from the past few months.
- 1.4. However, this plan will also need to consider how schools and settings will operate in a COVID-19 recovery phase and the support that will be required. Consideration will also be given to the priorities that were set and agreed prior to the pandemic in the previous Business Plan 2020-2021 depending on their relevance in the current climate.
- 1.5. The EAS will work collaboratively with local authority partners, schools and settings to implement the Business Plan. It is critically important that the EAS remains sensitive and responsive to the needs of the school workforce and will continue to be a highly supportive, reflective and responsive organisation.
- 1.6. The EAS will build upon what has worked well during this period, particularly the aspects of our role that have been successful within the virtual environment. The support that the EAS will offer will fully align to the expectations set by local authorities, Welsh Government (WG) and links to emerging research.
- 1.7. The EAS understands the need to over communicate with clarity to provide reassurance regarding advice, guidance, support and expectations. As a result, the EAS will work with local authorities to minimise any unnecessary bureaucracy for schools and settings to ensure they are able to focus on their important priorities and their support for learners.
- 1.8. The timing, delivery and focus of the support will be carefully considered considering the challenges that are likely to continue into the summer and autumn terms 2021.
- 1.9. Members were asked to take the opportunity to comment on the contents of the Business Plan as part of the consultation process and provide a written response as appropriate.
- 1.10. Please note that a mid-year evaluation of the current revised Covid Business Plan (2019/20) has been submitted to each of the EAS governance groups and has been available for local authorities to share as appropriate within their own democratic processes (created in January 2021).
- 1.11. The delivery model for the Business Plan is on a regional basis, the needs of each school and setting within Newport will continue to be met through bespoke work in line with their improvement priorities, both virtually and when safe to do so physically.
- 1.12. The EAS will offer an evolving Professional Learning Offer (PLO) to all schools and settings across the region, in order to meet development needs as we emerge from the pandemic. We

will continue to fund schools (grant permitting) to deliver a large proportion of the professional learning activity, where appropriate virtually.

- 1.13. All schools will continue to be provided with a bespoke support package that compliments the priorities identified within their own School Development Plans (SDPs) in line with the levels of support they require. There is a degree of flexibility within the deployment model to allow for in-year changes in circumstances and to allow for changes in light of the pandemic.
- 1.14. The talent and expertise that resides in schools within and beyond the region is incentivised and used effectively to support professional learning and school improvement activity. There has been inevitable fragility in the ability of schools to offer support beyond their own settings because of the pandemic, this situation will be managed with sensitivity and will be constantly reviewed.
- 1.15. For sustained school improvement to happen it is essential that all partners work together more closely than ever recognising that each partner (school, LA and EAS) has its role to play in providing support to secure improvements.
- 1.16. The Business Plan has been through a thorough consultation process. The Consultees are noted below:
 - EAS staff
 - Directors of Education (within South East Wales) and Diocesan Directors
 - Regional Joint Executive Group
 - EAS Company Board
 - EAS Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
 - Individual local authority education scrutiny committees
 - All Headteachers from within the region
 - All Chairs of Governors from within the region
 - School Councils from within the region
 - All school based Professional Learning Leads
 - EAS Supporting School Trade Union Group (SSTU Group)
- 1.17. The final version of the Business Plan will be supported by a range of supporting documents:
 - Detailed Business Plan 2021–2022
 - Regional Grant Mapping Overview 2021–2022
 - Regional Self-Evaluation Report (Executive Summary)
 - EAS Risk Register (Executive Summary)
 - Regional Professional Learning Offer 2021–2022
 - Local Authority Strategic Education Plans

The regional priorities and actions contained within this plan will support the implementation of each of the strategic priorities (that fall within the remit of the EAS) that have been identified by Newport City Council. The EAS will continue to work in partnership with local authorities to support additional local priorities, as appropriate, and those that arise from the changing local and national situation.

- 1.18. The improvements that are required at regional and local authority level require a strong commitment of partnership-working to be successful. Where local authorities and the EAS work in close partnership, there is evidence, that rapid and sustainable school improvement can be achieved. This joined up approach will be even more critical as we work in partnership to support schools and settings during this challenging time.

1.19. Newport Strategic Priorities 2021-22 (as provided by the LA):

Strategic priorities for 2021/2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address barriers to learning at home, particularly where this is due to a lack of access to suitable computers or adequate connectivity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve the quality of the distance and blended learning experiences for pupils by supporting more effective teaching across and within schools and PRUs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a coherent approach to improve progress in literacy, numeracy and personal and social skills of vulnerable pupils disproportionately affected by the pandemic, for example pupils eligible for free school meals.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish strategies to monitor and address the long-term impact of the pandemic on the physical and mental health of pupils.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create opportunities to take stock and evaluate the impact of policies and practices developed since the start of the pandemic to inform future ways of working and curriculum design

Regional Priorities 2021-2022

1.20 The EAS will endeavour to be a professional partner working with schools and settings. All schools and settings will be entitled to a range of professional learning and bespoke support which aligns to their school improvement priorities. Full consideration will be given to the current climate in which schools and settings are operating. Within this context the priorities of the EAS will be to:

1. Ensure that the wellbeing of practitioners and learners in schools and settings remains paramount. Regional professional learning will be provided to support the social and emotional needs of the workforce and learners.
2. Provide bespoke support to schools and settings to address the impact of the pandemic on individual learners, as appropriate, in line with their improvement priorities.
3. Continue to provide support to improve the quality of teaching and learning, including the continued use of, and evaluation of blended and distance learning approaches, particularly in identified secondary schools.
4. Continue to provide support to leaders on the identification and support for specific groups of disadvantaged and vulnerable learners including those who have been disproportionality affected by the pandemic.
5. Provide professional learning and bespoke support and guidance to schools and settings to help them realise Curriculum for Wales.
6. Provide access to a range of regional and national professional learning, including access to coaching and mentoring, for all educational practitioners in schools and settings that is appropriate to their role and responsibility.
7. Consolidate, promote and further develop regional practitioner networks, enabling effective routes of communication and support.
8. Continue to support the development of leaders at all levels in schools and settings.
9. Further build the capacity and capability of the knowledge and skills of governing bodies (as appropriate), through the regional professional learning offer and bespoke support.
10. Further develop a culture around accountability that identifies and values a broad spectrum of characteristics of effective schools and settings.
11. Embed the EAS internal evaluation model, continue to welcome external challenge and support, ensure the effective and efficient support to schools and settings and adheres to legislative requirements that fully supports the wellbeing of staff.

Ambitions for 2021-22

- 1.21 Working in partnership with local authorities, schools and setting the ambitions for 2021/22 and beyond are challenging to capture without having clarity around the changing nature of the pandemic and the effect it will have on schools and settings. In this regard, the ambitions below need to be read within the context they have been derived:
- The EAS has placed wellbeing at the forefront of its work and has provided a range of professional learning to schools and settings that has provided support to the social and emotional needs of the workforce and learners.
 - There is a clear strategy to improve the quality of distance and blended learning experiences for learners. There has been good engagement in the regional strategy and many opportunities have been provided for schools to share to develop more effective teaching across and within schools and settings.
 - Schools and settings receive the right type of support, as appropriate to help them make appropriate progress against their school improvement priorities.
 - Most schools can identify and provide the most appropriate support to specific groups of disadvantaged and vulnerable learners, including those who have been disproportionately affected by school closures, to help them to progress.
 - A regional strategy developed in collaboration with practitioners provides a coherent approach to improve progress in literacy, numeracy, digital and personal and social skills of learners who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, for example pupils eligible for free school meals.
 - The quality and impact of the provision for professional learning for educational practitioners and governors is good and those schools that have engaged are able to evidence the impact of this.
 - Refined and extended networks ensure effective collaboration and communication to support school improvement.
 - A range of professional learning and bespoke support provided to schools and settings helps them realise Curriculum for Wales.
 - Working with schools and local authorities, a regional model of support will be developed and implemented, focusing on accurate self-evaluation using a broad range of characteristics, aligned to school improvement priorities.
 - Evaluations of the impact of regional policies and practices developed since the start of the pandemic will be used to inform future ways of working and curriculum design.

2. Risks

- 2.1 EAS Regional Risks: As part of the internal EAS risk management process several aspects have been identified as potential barriers to the successful implementation of this Business Plan. These clearly set out the elements that will be important to ensuring optimum impact of the work of the EAS in partnership with LAs. These are:
- Full use is not made of consultation events to help shape the direction of the Business Plan to ensure collective regional ownership of priorities and actions for improvement.
 - Uncertain financial grant projections may destabilise the ability to deliver the agreed business plan.
 - The uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and the effect this will have on schools and settings.
- 2.2 These risks are mitigated through the identification of priorities as seen in the priority areas above and within the detailed within the EAS Business Plan, Newport LA Plans and the Education Strategic Plan.
- 2.3 Newport LA will have its own risks linked to the delivery of the strategic objectives within their corporate plans.

3. Resource Implications

- 3.1 The EAS is subject to a robust governance model that is underpinned by a Collaboration and Members agreement (CAMA) and Articles of Association. Ensuring that the EAS provides value

for money is of utmost importance. As recipients of public funding, it is important that budgets are allocated wisely. We will endeavour to deliver even better value for money through achieving financial balance and delivering services within the constraints of our budget, making further efficiency savings wherever possible and ensuring delegation rates to schools are maximised.

- 3.2 The EAS is funded on an annual basis from three sources: Local authority core contributions, regional school improvement grants and a service level agreement for governor support services. A spending plan will accompany the Business Plan and will be intrinsically linked to all actions contained within it. A detailed overview of the regional distribution of all grants will be available for all schools to view and compare allocations and rates of delegation through the regional grant monitoring tool.
- 3.3 Delegation rate to schools has increased to 94.4%, whilst the EAS staff profile has reduced by 53.1% since 2012.
- 3.4 The local authority's indicative core contribution for 2021/22 are as follows: Newport LA's contribution for 2021/22 is £787,227 compared with £803,293 in 2020/21 and £815,526 in 2019/20.
- 3.5 At the time of writing this report, there is uncertainty with regards to the regional grant funding from WG for 2021/2022. As a result of the pandemic, it is likely that there will be reductions in the regional grant profile. When the grant position has been confirmed the EAS detailed delivery plan will be updated accordingly.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. The Business Plan has been through a consultation process. The Consultees are noted below:
 - EAS staff
 - Directors of Education (within South East Wales) and Diocesan Directors
 - Regional Joint Executive Group
 - EAS Company Board
 - EAS Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
 - Individual local authority education scrutiny committees
 - All Headteachers from within the region
 - All Chairs of Governors from within the region
 - School Councils from within the region
 - All school based Professional Learning Leads
 - EAS Supporting School Trade Union Group (SSTU Group)

5. Background Papers

- A. Education Achievement Service: Regional Business Plan (Post Covid Recovery: April 2021-March 2022) (Final)

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The EAS Business Plan supports the Education Service Plan, the PSB Wellbeing Plan and the NCC Covid Recovery Plan.

Options Available and considered

- Accept the EAS Business Plan 2021/22
- Request amendments to the EAS Business Plan 2021/22

Preferred Option and Why

- Accept the EAS Business Plan 2021/22 following consultation with a range of partners

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

The contribution of £787,227 is included within the revenue budget for 2021/22, therefore there are no additional financial pressures arising from this report.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report. The EAS Business Plan reflects national priorities and standards for educational improvement and the final Business Plan will be approved as an EAS strategic document by the Company Board and the Joint Executive Group. The draft Business Plan has already been the subject of extensive consultation with key stakeholder, including Performance Scrutiny Committee (Partnerships). Cabinet are being asked to confirm that the specific elements of the plan properly reflect and are correctly aligned to the priorities for school improvement as set out in Newport's Education Strategic Plan.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

Newport City Council recognises that it is our duty to work with partners such as the EAS to provide future generations with the skills and knowledge they need to play a full and active role in their communities and wider society. Both Newport's and the nation's economic prosperity, social cohesion, fairness and wellbeing are built on the foundations of a strong effective education system. The EAS Business Plan sets out a framework for challenge and support to drive school improvement and raise pupil attainment whilst closing the gap between learners from different socio-economic backgrounds.

As required the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been considered in this report and the EAS will play a part in creating a fairer more prosperous Wales.

Comments the Chair of Cabinet

The local priorities for Newport schools detailed in the Business Plan align with the Newport City Council Covid recovery objectives, Wales-wide Estyn recommendations to support recovery from the Covid pandemic and dovetail with key objectives of teams within Newport City Council Education Services.

The focus on both the academic progression of learners and support for schools to promote the health and wellbeing of their community as part of the Covid recovery is a key component of this business plan. Within this, the prioritisation of support for vulnerable learners who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic is also highlighted.

I note that consultation is taking place with a range of stakeholders including Local Authority and Diocesan Directors, regional head teacher and governor strategy groups and teachers from across the region.

Local issues

Not applicable

Scrutiny Committees

The draft EAS Business Plan was examined by Partnerships Scrutiny in February 2021.

The Committee **agreed** to forward this Minute as a detailed record of its consideration of the EAS Business Plan 2021-21 to the Cabinet to consider, in particular the following comments and commendations:

- The committee wanted to extend a massive thank you to EAS and the Education department for all the work that has taken place
- The Committee remarked that it was very encouraging to hear of the strength of the partnership, and about the adaptability and what they are learning.
- The Committee noted that it was very clear that the EAS, Education Department and schools are learning together and taking steps forward. There is clearly a strong partnership between EAS and LA, who seem happy working together and this relationship is getting stronger and stronger.

- The Committee noted that both organisations know Newport schools well. It is evident that they do speak with each other about issues and have good understanding. Comment was made that historically it has not been that way- schools have wanted to improve by themselves. The Committee voiced that it was important to maintain this new outlook going forward.
- The Committee wanted to raise that it is important for governors to be well aware of the wellbeing and mental health of students. It is essential that schools should be very aware of the resources available there.

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

All local authorities have a long-term duty to develop a prosperous Wales by developing skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities. Enabling and facilitating academic attainment for all learners provides a foundation for access to employment and helps break a cycle of deprivation.

Furthermore, regardless of the socio-economic demographic of an individual school community, all schools will be challenged and supported to improve pupil attainment with a view to create "more equal wales" that enables pupils to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances. A specific focus of the draft EAS Business Plan is improving the attainment of vulnerable learners and closing the gap in attainment between those learners eligible for free school meals and those not eligible for free school meals.

Improvement of pupil outcomes is supported by collaboration of schools, the Local Authority and the regional school improvement service (EAS) including the involvement of pupils, teachers, governors and wider community members in the planning and implementation of school improvement initiatives.

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

The EAS Business Plan is currently undergoing consultation with all Local Authorities within the South East Wales Consortium (SEWC)

Background Papers

The South-East Wales Regional Mission: Business Plan (2020-2021) (First Draft for Consultation)

Dated: 7 April 2021

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EAS

Education Achievement Service
for South East Wales
Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg
i Dde Ddwyrain Cymru



Education Achievement Service

Regional Business Plan

April 2021 - March 2022

(Final Version)



The Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan has undergone a thorough consultation process. The consultees are listed below:

- EAS staff
- Directors of Education (within South East Wales) and Diocesan Directors
- Regional Joint Executive Group
- EAS Company Board
- EAS Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
- Individual local authority education scrutiny committees
- All Headteachers from within the region
- All Chairs of Governors from within the region
- School Councils from within the region
- All school based Professional Learning Leads
- EAS Supporting School Trade Union Group (SSTU Group)

The final version of the Business Plan 2021-2022 will be presented for agreement to the Regional Joint Executive Group and then to each LA Cabinet / Executive in March 2021. The plan will then be submitted to Welsh Government.

Cllr K Preston Chair of Education Achievement Service Company Board	
Cllr J Collins Chair of Joint Executive Group	
Ms D Harteveld Managing Director, Education Achievement Service	
Mr Will McClean Lead Director on behalf of South East Wales Directors Group	

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Section 1: Position statement

“Especially in times of uncertainty, it is important for the organisation to be agile and to be able to respond quickly to changing needs. In these times of challenge, continue to focus on staying close to schools, listening to the voice of school leaders and working closely with local authorities. Relationships and trust are crucial in times of uncertainty so in spite of the other pressures this needs to continue to be prioritised very strongly and time proactively put aside in diaries to do it.” (Steve Munby: Review of the EAS - October 2020)

Our Pledge: Continue to over communicate with clarity, to strengthen collaboration, support schools and settings to embrace change and promote innovation.

This document contains the main priorities that the EAS believe will be relevant to focus upon in the next iteration of the regional Business Plan for 2021-2022. It is challenging to try to predict the way in which society will be operating from summer 2021 with regards to managing the spread of coronavirus. The priorities contained within this document assume that the EAS will build upon the learning and momentum from the past few months.

However, this plan will also need to consider how schools and settings will operate in a COVID-19 recovery phase and the support that will be required. Consideration will also be given to the priorities that were set and agreed prior to the pandemic in the previous Business Plan 2020-2021 depending on their relevance in the current climate.

The EAS will work collaboratively with local authority partners, wider partners and schools and settings to implement the Business Plan. It is critically important that the EAS remains sensitive and responsive to the needs of the school workforce and will continue to be a highly supportive, reflective and responsive organisation.

The EAS will build upon what has worked well during this period, particularly the aspects of our role that have been successful within the virtual environment. The support that the EAS will offer will fully align to the expectations set by local authorities, Welsh Government (WG) and links to emerging research. The pandemic has reminded us that positive change is and has been possible. Schools, settings and the EAS have seized opportunities to explore innovative ways of working and delivering meaningful learning experiences through a creative blended learning approach. These experiences should be built upon to avoid a ‘snap back,’ keeping the positive learning that has been developed during this time.

During this period, the region has facilitated sharing opportunities to capture emerging practice and to discuss their developments and refinements via the Blended Learning task and finish groups and subsequent Masterclass events.

Whilst the challenges schools and learners have faced have been recognised, many leaders have acknowledged that not all learners have been adversely affected by the pandemic and many learners have had positive experiences. Practitioners have responded positively to this period of change, responding with resilience and agility, including evolving their use of technology innovatively to:

- improve communication with learners and the wider school community
- provide the opportunity for innovative pedagogy, enabling more flexible and tailored learning experiences
- enable and enhance collaboration, both internally and with a wider range of partners, broadening opportunities for Professional Learning across the school workforce.

At the start of the pandemic, no one could have foreseen or anticipated the disruption to the lives of learners, staff and school communities that would happen during the course of the year. Wellbeing will continue to be at the forefront of the regional approach.

Schools and their communities will have had their own unique set of circumstances and will require a bespoke and flexible approach to learning together through this next phase. Every learner will have differing requirements to engage successfully in their continued learning and to fully integrate into the whole school experience when the time is right.

We will continue to research, refine, respond and reflect to school needs. Our established networks will continue to be the mechanism of communicating with schools and settings. The Supporting our Schools website will continue to be the 'go to place' for all resources and guidance materials.

The EAS understands the need to over communicate with clarity to provide reassurance regarding advice, guidance, support and expectations. As a result, the EAS will work with local authorities to minimise any unnecessary bureaucracy for schools and settings to ensure they are able to focus on their important priorities and their support for learners.

The timing, delivery and focus of the support will be carefully considered in respect of the challenges that are likely to continue into the summer and autumn terms 2021.

Section 2: Regional Context

The centralised model of service delivery that has been adopted across the South East Wales region has enabled efficiencies to be realised, economies of scale to be secured, particularly in relation to avoiding duplication of functions and the ability to secure a range of educational expertise within the region.

The talent and expertise that resides in schools and settings within and beyond the region is incentivised and used effectively to support professional learning and school improvement activity. There has been inevitable fragility in the ability of schools and settings to offer support beyond their own settings because of the pandemic, this situation will be managed with sensitivity and will be constantly reviewed.

Key regional facts and figures



The number of pupils of compulsory school age within the region in 2020 was 73,090. This represents 19% of all pupils in Wales.



There are 233 maintained schools in the region, 16% of all maintained schools in Wales (EAS figure correct from September 2020, Wales figure from PLASC, 2020).



There are 20 Welsh medium primary schools, 3 Welsh medium secondary, 17 Roman Catholic and 11 Church in Wales schools within the region.



The percentage of pupils of compulsory school age who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) is 20.9%. This level of eligibility is the second highest of the four regional consortia with Central South Consortium highest with 21.3% (PLASC, 2020).



In the region, 10% of people aged three and over say that they can speak Welsh compared to the Wales average of 19% (2011 Census, ONS).



The percentage of pupils aged 5 or over from an ethnic minority background is 11.3%.




Based on local authority reported numbers (Summer 2019), 1024 children in the region are looked after (LAC) by a local authority and attend a school in the region. (No new information available and not included on PLASC for 2020)

Overview of school and settings
2021


Caerphilly (21.6% FSM)

- 14 Non-maintained Nursery settings
- 63 Primary (11 Welsh medium, 1 Roman Catholic)
- 6 Infant
- 4 Junior
- 11 Secondary (1 Welsh medium)
- 1 Special
- 1 Pupil Referral Unit
- 1 3-18




Newport (19.5% FSM)

- 23 Non-maintained Nursery settings
- 2 Nursery
- 43 Primary (3 Welsh medium, 2 Church in Wales, 6 Roman Catholic)
- 9 Secondary (1 Welsh medium, 1 Roman Catholic)
- 2 Special
- 1 Pupil Referral Unit




Blaenau Gwent (25.5% FSM)

- 3 Non-maintained Nursery settings
- 19 Primary (1 Welsh medium, 3 Roman Catholic, 1 Church in Wales)
- 2 Secondary
- 2 Special
- 2 3-16




Monmouthshire (13.1% FSM)

- 25 Non-maintained Nursery settings
- 30 Primary (2 Welsh medium, 6 Church in Wales, 2 Roman Catholic)
- 4 Secondary
- 1 Pupil Referral Service



Torfaen (25.0% FSM)

- 15 Non-maintained Nursery settings
- 25 Primary (3 Welsh medium, 3 Church in Wales, 3 Roman Catholic)
- 6 Secondary (1 Welsh medium, 1 Roman Catholic)
- 1 Special
- 1 Pupil Referral Service



Overview of regional school / PRU staffing		
Local Authority	Number of Teaching Staff	Number of Support Staff
Blaenau Gwent	506	554
Caerphilly	1,523	1,389
Monmouthshire	644	648
Newport	1,475	1,316
Torfaen	779	773
EAS	4,927	4,680

Overview of regional school governors	
Local Authority	Number of school governors*
Blaenau Gwent	327
Caerphilly	1063
Monmouthshire	429
Newport	768
Torfaen	396
EAS	2983

Section 3: Regional Priorities 2021-2022




The EAS will endeavour to be a professional partner working with schools and settings. All schools and settings will be entitled to a range of professional learning and bespoke support which aligns to their school improvement priorities. Full consideration will be given to the current climate in which schools and settings are operating. Within this context the priorities of the EAS will be to:

- A. Ensure that the wellbeing of practitioners and learners in schools and settings remains paramount. Regional professional learning will be provided to support the social and emotional needs of the workforce and learners.
- B. Provide bespoke support to schools and settings to address the impact of the pandemic on individual learners, as appropriate, in line with their improvement priorities.
- C. Continue to provide support to improve the quality of teaching and learning, including the continued use of, and evaluation of blended and distance learning approaches, particularly in identified secondary schools.
- D. Continue to provide support to leaders on the identification and support for specific groups of disadvantaged and vulnerable learners including those who have been disproportionality affected by the pandemic.
- E. Provide professional learning and bespoke support and guidance to schools and settings to help them realise Curriculum for Wales.
- F. Provide access to a range of regional and national professional learning, including access to coaching and mentoring, for all educational practitioners in schools and settings that is appropriate to their role and responsibility.
- G. Consolidate, promote and further develop regional practitioner networks, enabling effective routes of communication and support.
- H. Continue to support the development of leaders at all levels in schools and settings.
- I. Further build the capacity and capability of the knowledge and skills of governing bodies (as appropriate), through the regional professional learning offer and bespoke support.
- J. Further develop a culture around accountability that identifies and values a broad spectrum of characteristics of effective schools and settings.
- K. Embed the EAS internal evaluation model, continue to welcome external challenge and support, ensure the effective and efficient support to schools and settings and adheres to legislative requirements that fully supports the wellbeing of staff.


Local authority education strategic priorities 2021/22 (provided by each local authority)


The regional priorities and actions contained within this plan will support the implementation of each of the strategic priorities (that fall within the remit of the EAS) that have been identified by individual local authorities. The EAS will continue to work in partnership with local authorities to support additional local priorities, as appropriate, and those that arise from the changing local and national situation.

The improvements that are required at regional and local authority level require a strong commitment of partnership-working to be successful. Where local authorities and the EAS work in close partnership, there is evidence, that rapid and sustainable school improvement can be achieved. This joined up approach will be even more critical as we work in partnership to support schools and settings during this challenging time.

Local Authority	Strategic priorities for 2021/2022
<p>Blaenau Gwent</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the impact of COVID-19 on learner development and progress, including improving the digital competency of all learners and staff in the wider Blaenau Gwent school community. • Ensure high quality leadership and teaching that secures good progress for all learners, particularly the vulnerable and those who are eFSM. • Improve wellbeing for learners at all stages of development. • Secure strong progress in skills, particularly in English and mathematics at key stages 3 and 4. • Support schools who are identified as causing concern through regional protocols to secure improvement, in conjunction with the EAS.
<p>Caerphilly</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further improve the quality of leadership across all phases of education. • Address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on pupil wellbeing and engagement. • Endeavour to ensure the implementation of remote and blended learning strategies provide high quality support to pupils across all phases of education. • Further improve pupils' acquisition of digital competency skills.
<p>Monmouthshire</p> 	<p>Monmouthshire strategic priorities for 2020/21 aligned well with the following four recommendations from our Estyn inspection in February 2020. They are:</p> <p>R1 Improve outcomes for pupils eligible for free school meals.</p> <p>R2 Further strengthen the focus on increasing the number of pupils achieving excellent standards.</p> <p>R3 Articulate a clear strategy for SEN provision.</p>

	<p>R4 Strengthen the use of information gathered through self-evaluation to better inform improvement planning.</p> <p>The year that followed has been unprecedented and in managing our response to the global pandemic, our priorities have taken a step back. Instead, we have adopted key strategic aims that can be responsive to emerging needs in a rapidly changing environment. Whilst the current uncertainty remains, we continue to work towards addressing our Estyn recommendations, and prioritising emerging need.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Newport</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address barriers to learning at home, particularly where this is due to a lack of access to suitable computers or adequate connectivity. • Improve the quality of the distance and blended learning experiences for pupils by supporting more effective teaching across and within schools and PRUs. • Develop a coherent approach to improve progress in literacy, numeracy and personal and social skills of vulnerable pupils disproportionately affected by the pandemic, for example pupils eligible for free school meals. • Establish strategies to monitor and address the long-term impact of the pandemic on the physical and mental health of pupils. • Create opportunities to take stock and evaluate the impact of policies and practices developed since the start of the pandemic to inform future ways of working and curriculum design.
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<p style="text-align: center;">Torfaen</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the progress (ensure catch up) of all learners, with a particular focus on FSM and vulnerable learners at key stage 4 by ensuring LA services compliment and support regional provision. • Ensure all of Torfaen schools have a clear strategy for improving the quality of teaching and learning particularly in secondary schools to reduce within school variation so all pupils, including boys and vulnerable learners, make appropriate progress over time. • Ensure continued development and support for blended learning across all sectors in Torfaen. • Reduce the level of variability in the quality and impact of leadership at all levels in secondary schools in the authority to secure strong, sustained pupil outcomes.
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EAS Business Plan 2021/2022

The actions below have been developed in collaboration with our key partners, many of the actions have been refined from the originally agreed Business Plan 2020/2021 and the Revised Business Plan 2020/2021. This plan will be accompanied by a detailed delivery plan.

As noted above, the EAS will be sensitive and responsive to the changing priorities as a result of the pandemic and may need to change direction and repurpose priorities as required. The support will be made available to all schools and settings, there is an understanding that schools and settings are likely to be facing continuing challenges. It will be the decision of leaders to determine the most appropriate type and timing of at any of the support on offer in line with their priorities.

The content of this plan will continue to support the implementation of the priorities within the National Mission document and will seek to support the recommendations from Estyn's remit report: Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19 Update report from June to November 2020.

Priority A	Ensure that the wellbeing of practitioners and learners in schools and settings remains paramount. Regional professional learning will be provided to support the social and emotional needs of the workforce and learners.		
Link to National Mission	Enabling objective 3: Equity, excellence and wellbeing	Link to LA Strategic Priorities	BG,CCBC,NCC, TCC
Link to Estyn Recommendations: Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19 Update report from June to November 2020:			
Recommendations for the Welsh Government to work with regional consortia, local authorities, and other partners and providers to:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R4 Establish strategies to monitor and address the long-term impact of the pandemic on the physical and mental health of pupils 			
What will the EAS do?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine the regional Equity and Wellbeing Strategy (which encompasses strategies for all disadvantaged and vulnerable learners) to further develop multi-agency working, to build on the universal provision for all schools and settings. Enhance the regional wellbeing offer to practitioners and learners. Create an online interactive curriculum tool that captures the resources available to support schools in shaping their provision for Health and Wellbeing at a local and regional level. Provide a programme of professional learning to build the capacity within schools and settings to support learners with their emotional health and wellbeing based upon the principles of adverse childhood experiences. Support schools and settings to adopt the National Whole School Approach to Wellbeing and Mental Health. 			

Priority B	Provide bespoke support to schools and settings to address the impact of the pandemic on individual learners, as appropriate, in line with their improvement priorities.		
Link to National Mission	Enabling objective 1: Professional learning Enabling objective 2: Leadership Enabling objective 3: Equity, excellence and wellbeing	Link to LA Strategic Priorities	BG, CCBC, NCC, TCC
Link to Estyn Recommendations: Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19 Update report from June to November 2020:			

Recommendations for the Welsh Government to work with regional consortia, local authorities, and other partners and providers to:

- R2 Improve the quality of the distance and blended learning experiences for pupils by supporting more effective teaching across and within schools and PRUs
- R3 Develop a coherent approach to improve progress in literacy, numeracy and personal and social skills of vulnerable pupils disproportionately affected by the pandemic, for example pupils eligible for free school meals

What will the EAS do?

- Undertake professional dialogue with schools and settings to agree on school's improvement priorities and support.
- Work with schools and settings to develop a supportive regional approach to the development of a broad range of skills that is bespoke and flexible, ensuring learners receive the most approach provision to engage successfully in their continued learning.

Supporting a self-improvement system

- Refine the Challenge Adviser Role to reflect national model for school support identification and ensure key focus on support for school improvement.
- Identify lead schools and settings considering strengths in leadership capacity, curriculum design, learning culture and behaviour to support system wide improvement, including support for distance and blended learning.
- Broker school-to-school collaboration and cluster working.
- Refine the Learning Network Schools approach to reflect new and emerging service priorities.
- Develop a bespoke peer working model that builds mutual and reciprocal peer support to achieve increased levels of excellence across schools.
- Provide professional learning opportunities for schools, governing bodies and local authorities to understand the changing assessment and accountability arrangements within the reform agenda.

Supporting School Self Evaluation and Quality Assurance

- Further develop a broader range of evaluation criteria that do not focus solely on end of key stage outcomes but look at a wider range of school improvement information, including quality and effectiveness of distance and blended learning.
- Provide professional learning to all schools and settings to promote effective self-evaluation, improvement planning processes and effective strategies for formative and summative assessment.
- Further develop the regional approach of 'School on a page' so that a broader range of information is used for accountability purposes focused on pupils' wellbeing and attitudes to learning, the standards achieved, and progress made by all pupils including those in vulnerable groups, the quality of teaching and learning in schools and settings as well as the quality of leadership.
- Support Schools to effectively quality assure their processes for distance and blended learning.
- Establish mechanisms whereby schools may engage peers in the self-evaluation process to gain external perspective on improvement priorities including distance and blended learning.
- Support the continuing pilot of the national evaluation and improvement resource (NEIR) in identified regional schools as context dictates and ensure key learning is shared with all schools and settings.
- Further develop the use of pupil progress data at school level in line with national guidance taking into account the situation with the pandemic.
- Provide a comprehensive professional learning programme for elected members that supports the regional and national priorities around evaluation and quality assurance including distance and blended learning in order that they are able to hold schools to account more effectively.

Priority C	Continue to provide support to improve the quality of teaching and learning, including the continued use of, and evaluation of blended and distance learning approaches, particularly in identified secondary schools.		
Link to National Mission	Enabling objective 1: Professional learning Enabling objective 2: Leadership	Link to LA Strategic Priorities	BG, CCBC, NCC, TCC
Link to Estyn Recommendations: Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19 Update report from June to November 2020:			
Recommendations for the Welsh Government to work with regional consortia, local authorities, and other partners and providers to:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R2 Improve the quality of the distance and blended learning experiences for pupils by supporting more effective teaching across and within schools and PRUs 			
What will the EAS do?			
Teaching and Learning			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a range of delivery models and access to a wider range of blended professional learning across all areas of learning to support schools to improve the quality of teaching and learning within and beyond the region. Use the established network of school practitioners to further enhance the regional website as a mechanism to share effective whole school strategies for teaching and learning, including distance and blended learning. Support schools to use a range of first-hand evidence to improve the quality of teaching and learning, including distance and blended learning through a modelled, shared and guided approach. Continue to work in partnership with key partners, to include Welsh Government and Higher Education Institutions to offer a programme of professional learning to develop staff proficiency in the Welsh language. Review the regional Welsh Language Strategy to ensure this addresses the regional and national priorities. Continue to support and work collaboratively with school leaders, as appropriate, to develop and refine whole school teaching and learning strategies, using a team around the school model. Continue to provide a range of strategies to support leadership of teaching and learning e.g., school to school, research informed approaches, virtual professional learning and networking opportunities. 			
Targeted support for the secondary phase (in addition to above)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure schools are made aware of key messages from WG and from QW and WJEC on the assessment process for awarding centre determined grades for 2021. To promote the sharing of practice between schools regionally and nationally. To support schools through the process of CDG awarding, as identified by the Design and Delivery Advisory Group and the QW/WJEC agreed process and to facilitate Professional Learning in key features of assessment for qualification, in partnership with other organisations as appropriate. Supporting schools to ensure that curriculum pathways provide an appropriate choice for all learners. Engage with Career Wales to design a programme that offers learners career advice from year seven onwards to map their flightpaths to their desired destinations. Design and facilitate national online resources to complement the middle leadership programme for more able and SEREN school leads. To support schools with Sixth Forms to have access to Russell Group Universities to support them with their SEREN learners. 			

- Collaborate with schools and other sectors to share and analyse outcome and destination data at key stage 5 for all groups of learners.

Priority D	Continue to provide support to leaders on the identification and support for specific groups of disadvantaged and vulnerable learners including those who have been disproportionality affected by the pandemic.		
Link to National Mission	Enabling objective 1: Professional learning Enabling objective 2: Leadership Enabling objective 3: Equity, excellence and wellbeing	Link to LA Strategic Priorities	BG, CCBC, NCC, TCC

Link to Estyn Recommendations: Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19 Update report from June to November 2020:

Recommendations for the Welsh Government to work with regional consortia, local authorities, and other partners and providers to:

- R3 Develop a coherent approach to improve progress in literacy, numeracy and personal and social skills of vulnerable pupils disproportionately affected by the pandemic, for example pupils eligible for free school meals
- R4 Establish strategies to monitor and address the long-term impact of the pandemic on the physical and mental health of pupils

What will the EAS offer schools and settings?

Specific focus on improving the outcomes of Vulnerable Learners

- Implement the regional plan for Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards (RRRS) to provide appropriate support and guidance for identified learners to make progress.
- Design and facilitate professional learning for specialist teaching assistants in partnership with local authorities and settings.
- Evaluate the current range of enhanced curriculum opportunities funded via the pupil development and RRRS grants to share best practice across the secondary phase.
- Capture best practice of a range of curriculum offers that are provided in PRU and Special school settings.

Partnership Working: LA Inclusion Leads

- Implement a revised regional approach, as appropriate, to improve the monitoring and impact of the pupil development grant.
- Work in partnership with local authorities to analyse attendance and exclusions data for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners and support school leaders to share effective practice and to improve outcomes, as appropriate.
- Work in partnership with local authorities to analyse FSM and LAC data and provide additional advice and support for schools and settings who have an increase in these groups as a result of COVID.

Partnership Working: External Partners

- Continue to work in partnership with Challenge Education to support the 'RADY' network of schools engaged with the 'Raising the achievement of disadvantaged youngsters' programme.
- Commission and external evaluation of the impact of the RADY programme.

Partnership Working: ALN reform

- Work with local authority partners to explore and agree roles and responsibilities with regards to the EAS role in securing the effective regional provision for ALN.
- Support, as appropriate, the Regional ALN Transformation Officer to update stakeholders on ALN Reform and support the delivery of professional learning in line with the remit of the work of the EAS.

Targeted Support for Schools and Settings:

- Continue to provide support to school leaders on the identification and support for specific groups of disadvantaged and vulnerable learners including those who have been disproportionality affected as a result of COVID pandemic.
- Support schools to develop coherent approaches to improve progress in literacy, numeracy digital, and personal and social skills of vulnerable pupils and those learners disproportionality affected by the pandemic.
- Refine the current Teaching and Learning Strategy to include an annex supporting the teaching and learning of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of learners.
- Work in collaboration with schools to provide resources to support learners from non-Welsh speaking homes in welsh medium provision who have been disproportionality affected by the pandemic.
- Extend the Vulnerable Learner Lead Programme through primary and secondary settings.
- Refine the grant planning system and the processes in place to support the planning, reviewing and evaluating of impact of expenditure in line with the research from the Education Endowment Foundation.
- Provide a programme of professional learning through a 'Train the Trainer' approach that provides the foundations of universal provision across all schools and settings. This will include strategy development and professional learning for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of learners.
- Improve pupil voice and pupil participation across the region in partnership with the School and Super Ambassador Programme to influence school and regional priorities.
- Deliver a regional programme across all settings supporting More Able and Seren Learners.

Priority E	Provide professional learning, bespoke support, and guidance to schools to help them realise Curriculum for Wales.		
Link to National Mission	Enabling objective 1: Professional learning Enabling objective 2: Leadership Enabling objective 3: Equity, excellence and wellbeing	Link to LA Strategic Priorities	BG, CCBC, NCC, TCC

Link to Estyn Recommendations: Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19 Update report from June to November 2020:

Recommendations for the Welsh Government to work with regional consortia, local authorities, and other partners and providers to:

- R2 Improve the quality of the distance and blended learning experiences for pupils by supporting more effective teaching across and within schools and PRUs
- R5 Create opportunities to take stock and evaluate the impact of policies and practices developed since the start of the pandemic to inform future ways of working and curriculum design

What will the EAS do?

- Provide all schools and settings with access to the national professional learning programmes to support the implementation of the curriculum for Wales. Ensure that this professional learning reflects the priorities set out in the national implementation plan.
- Provide schools and settings with examples of effective school development actions for curriculum reform and provide bespoke support to schools and settings to implement these.
- Support settings to engage in the pilot of the non-maintained nursery curriculum, as appropriate.
- Encourage all schools and settings to be research informed by creating a network of lead enquirers to develop the capacity for professional enquiry in all schools.
- Review the regional Welsh language strategy in collaboration with school leaders and other partners, considering the findings for future delivery models.

- Encourage schools and settings to actively seek resources and experiences that support learners to understand the stories of different groups, including diverse and minority groups, and enable all learners to see themselves and their experiences and knowledge developed through the curriculum.

Priority F	Provide access to a range of regional and national professional learning, including access to coaching and mentoring, for all educational practitioners in schools and settings that is appropriate to their role and responsibility.		
Link to National Mission	Enabling objective 1: Professional learning Enabling objective 2: Leadership Enabling objective 3: Equity, excellence and wellbeing	Link to LA Strategic Priorities	BG, CCBC, NCC, TCC
What will the EAS do?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In partnership with other regions and higher education institutions, provide a national mentoring and coaching programme to develop and support school leaders and governors. 			
Schools as Learning Organisations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all professional learning is underpinned by the principles of effective learning organisations and encourages schools to develop as effective learning organisations. Provide coordinated support to ensure all schools develop as effective learning organisations e.g., how to use the survey to inform school development priorities. Share case studies where schools and clusters are effectively developing as learning organisations. 			
Professional learning teaching assistants			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a virtual professional learning offer that supports teaching assistants whether new to the role, a practicing teaching assistant or as an experienced higher-level teaching assistant. Design and facilitate professional learning for specialist teaching assistants in partnership with local authorities, Special Schools and PRU's. 			
Professional Learning for statutory induction			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine and develop a Nationally designed virtual induction professional learning offer to support all those who support the induction process including: Newly Qualified teachers, the school-based induction mentor, and the external verifier. Continue supporting early career teachers beyond the statutory induction period. Further strengthen partnership working with HEI institutions to offer joint induction support for early career entry. 			
Initial Teacher Education			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with higher education partners, cross regional partners and schools in developing and delivery of all routes into initial teacher education, as appropriate within the current arrangements. 			

Priority G	Consolidate, promote and further develop regional practitioner networks, enabling effective routes of communication and support.		
Link to National Mission	Enabling objective 1: Professional learning Enabling objective 2: Leadership	Link to LA Strategic Priorities	BG, CCBC, NCC, TCC
Link to Estyn Recommendations: Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19 Update report from June to November 2020:			

Recommendations for the Welsh Government to work with regional consortia, local authorities, and other partners and providers to:

- R2 Improve the quality of the distance and blended learning experiences for pupils by supporting more effective teaching across and within schools and PRUs
- R5 Create opportunities to take stock and evaluate the impact of policies and practices developed since the start of the pandemic to inform future ways of working and curriculum design

What will the EAS do?

- Review all existing networks to ensure all practitioners have access to relevant networking opportunities with colleagues within and beyond the region.
- In partnership with schools and settings continually review their capacity to support the wider system.

Priority H **Continue to support the development of leaders at all levels in schools and settings.**

Link to National Mission	Enabling objective 1: Professional learning Enabling objective 2: Leadership Enabling objective 4: Evaluation, improvement and accountability	Link to LA Strategic Priorities	BG, CCBC, NCC, TCC
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Link to Estyn Recommendations: Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19 Update report from June to November 2020:

Recommendations for the Welsh Government to work with regional consortia, local authorities, and other partners and providers to:

- R2 Improve the quality of the distance and blended learning experiences for pupils by supporting more effective teaching across and within schools and PRUs
- R3 Develop a coherent approach to improve progress in literacy, numeracy and personal and social skills of vulnerable pupils disproportionately affected by the pandemic, for example pupils eligible for free school meals

What will the EAS do?

- Further develop the strategic approach to identifying and supporting the next group of leaders within the region.

National professional learning offer for leaders

- Provide a blended professional learning offer in partnership with higher education institutions and other regions to support leaders at all levels in all schools and settings through a nationally endorsed range of programmes: Middle leadership, senior leadership, aspiring headteacher / preparation for NPQH, NPQH, New and Acting headteachers, experienced headteachers.
- Work in partnership with local authorities to support school leaders to address the actions, as appropriate, contained within the Welsh in Education strategy and Cymraeg 2050: Welsh language strategy.

Identifying, recruiting and retaining effective leaders

- Identify aspirational leaders and provide them with bespoke professional learning and a range of leadership experiences that supports them to develop an individual professional learning journey, particularly within the Welsh medium and secondary sectors.
- Work with local authorities and governing bodies to explore a range of leadership models e.g. Executive headship
- Regional specialist HR will work with local authorities to review and revise senior leadership recruitment processes to include using evaluations from a range of stakeholders and professional learning for appointment panel members.

- In partnership with other regions and higher education institutions, provide a national mentoring and coaching programme to develop and support school leaders and governors.

Specialist HR

- Work with local authorities to complement existing education HR services and provide a range of specialist HR professional learning for school leaders and governors.

Priority I	Further build the capacity and capability of the knowledge and skills of governing bodies (as appropriate), through the regional professional learning offer and bespoke support.		
Link to National Mission	Enabling objective 1: Professional learning Enabling objective 2: Leadership Enabling objective 4: Evaluation, improvement and accountability	Link to LA Strategic Priorities	BG, CCBC, NCC, TCC
What will the EAS offer schools and settings?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to refine the delivery of the Governor Support Service Level Agreement (2020-22), ensuring governing bodies are supported through timely, constructive guidance that enables effective governance. • Further develop professional learning for governors, including online materials, interactive and recorded workshops, regular briefings for all chairs of governing bodies, support for existing self-evaluation tools and the development of a cluster-based approach. • Provide focused professional learning for chairs and vice chairs of governing bodies in secondary schools, that supports them in addressing phase specific challenges. • Develop a pilot programme to develop coaching approaches for Chairs of Governors. • Provide opportunities for collaborative professional learning for school leaders and governors, encouraging and enabling peer support arrangements for governing bodies to refine and develop their capacity to support their schools. • Identify governors who can undertake additional roles within and beyond their own governing bodies, providing bespoke professional learning to strengthen and build capacity within the region. 			

Priority J	To further develop a culture around accountability that identifies and values a broad spectrum of characteristics of effective schools and settings.		
Link to National Mission	Enabling objective 2: Leadership Enabling objective 4: Evaluation, improvement and accountability	Link to LA Strategic Priorities	BG, CCBC, NCC, TCC
What will the EAS offer schools and settings?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work collaboratively with a range of partners to develop a regional approach that identifies and values the characteristics of an effective school. • Identify a broader range of evaluation strategies that do not focus solely on end of key stage outcomes but looks at a wider range of school improvement information. • Provide a comprehensive professional learning programme for elected members that supports the regional and national priorities around evaluation and quality assurance including distance and blended learning in order that they are able to hold schools to account more effectively. • Determine the support arrangements for all schools in line with national guidance considering how regional consortia and local authorities can agree with the school the additional support it needs to improve and to build its own capacity to improve and considering specifically distance and blended learning. 			

Priority K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Embed the EAS internal evaluation model, continue to welcome external challenge and support and ensure the effective and efficient support to schools and settings. ii. Ensure the EAS adheres to legislative requirements and fully supports the wellbeing of staff.
Link to National Mission	<p>Enabling objective 1: Professional learning Enabling objective 2: Leadership Enabling objective 3: Equity, excellence and wellbeing Enabling objective 4: Evaluation, improvement and accountability</p>
Link to Estyn Recommendations: Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19 Update report from June to November 2020:	
<p>Recommendations for the Welsh Government to work with regional consortia, local authorities, and other partners and providers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R5 Create opportunities to take stock and evaluate the impact of policies and practices developed since the start of the pandemic to inform future ways of working and curriculum design 	
What will the EAS do?	
<p>Business delivery model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to refine the business model for the EAS to ensure that it aligns to regional and national priorities and addresses the needs of schools and settings. • Maintain the credibility of the service using EAS core staff and the move to the school led system whilst ensuring effective provision and value for money. • Embed the EAS internal evaluation model, continue to welcome external challenge and support and ensure the effective and efficient support to schools and settings. • Ensure the EAS adheres to legislative requirements and fully supports the wellbeing of staff. • Use the Investors in People development programme to support service improvements. • Refine and enhance the communication and marketing strategy to ensure appropriate stakeholder engagement, to include the development of a regional pupil forum. • Continue to engage with other consortia and middle-tier organisations, such as Estyn, to realise efficiencies in programme development and delivery. • Support and advise local authorities, as appropriate, in the delivery of their statutory functions for SACRE and the development of individual Welsh in Education Strategic Plans. <p>Staff Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain high levels of staff morale and wellbeing in the backdrop of reduced funding and the implementation of change management processes. • Continue to develop collaborative ways in which the EAS team contribute to and feel part of the decision-making processes and are recognised more systematically for their successes. • Provide access to coaching and mentoring support for all staff. • Maintain a high-quality, well informed, flexible and motivated workforce that represent the service values and vision. • Embed performance management processes and extend the professional learning opportunities for staff that meet individual and service needs. • Ensure all EAS staff are well informed regarding all aspects of the reform agenda. <p>Funding, Resourcing and Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with key partners to deliver a more sustainable funding model that aligns with the workforce plan and secures an updated Collaboration and Members Agreement. • Continue to develop the regional grant mapping tool to enable more efficient and effective interrogation of data, impact capture and value for money at school, LA and regional level. • Continue to publish the regional grant allocations and maximise delegation rates to schools. • Refine the value for money model, further exploring access to comparative data. 	

- Managing a complex governance interface to ensure communication, satisfaction and engagement levels remain high.

Section 4: Ambitions for 2021/2022

Working in partnership with local authorities, schools and setting the ambitions for 2021/22 and beyond are challenging to capture without having clarity around the changing nature of the pandemic and the effect it will have on schools and settings. In this regard, the ambitions below need to be read within the context they have been derived:

- The EAS has placed wellbeing at the forefront of its work and has provided a range of professional learning to schools and settings that has provided support to the social and emotional needs of the workforce and learners.
- There is a clear strategy to improve the quality of distance and blended learning experiences for learners. There has been good engagement in the regional strategy and many opportunities have been provided for schools to share to develop more effective teaching across and within schools and settings.
- Schools and settings receive the right type of support, as appropriate to help them make appropriate progress against their school improvement priorities.
- Most schools can identify and provide the most appropriate support to specific groups of disadvantaged and vulnerable learners, including those who have been disproportionately affected by school closures, to help them to progress.
- A regional strategy developed in collaboration with practitioners provides a coherent approach to improve progress in literacy, numeracy, digital and personal and social skills of learners who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, for example pupils eligible for free school meals.
- The quality and impact of the provision for professional learning for educational practitioners and governors is good and those schools that have engaged are able to evidence the impact of this.
- Refined and extended networks ensure effective collaboration and communication to support school improvement.
- A range of professional learning and bespoke support provided to schools and settings helps them realise Curriculum for Wales.
- Working with schools and local authorities, a regional model of support will be developed and implemented, focusing on accurate self-evaluation using a broad range of characteristics, aligned to school improvement priorities.
- Evaluations of the impact of regional policies and practices developed since the start of the pandemic will be used to inform future ways of working and curriculum design.

Section 5: Delivery arrangements for 2021/2022

Governance and funding

The EAS is subject to a robust governance model that is underpinned by a Collaboration and Members agreement (CAMA) and Articles of Association. Ensuring that the EAS provides value for money is of utmost importance. As recipients of public funding, it is important that budgets are allocated wisely. We will endeavour to deliver even better value for money through achieving financial balance and delivering services within the constraints of our budget, making further efficiency savings wherever possible and ensuring delegation rates to schools are maximised.

How will the EAS held to account for the delivery and impact of this Business Plan?

The progress on the implementation and impact of the Business Plan will be reported formally at a mid-year basis to the Joint Executive Group and Company Board; this will include an evaluation of the regional plan and of each individual local authority annex document. These reports, as in previous years, will be suitable for scrutiny activity at local authority and national level. In addition, the progress made towards the implementation of key actions will be reported at each meeting of the Joint Executive Group and Company Board.

This year the EAS will report additional information on a termly basis, to both the Joint Executive Group and local authorities around the progress and impact of its work in support of each local authority strategic objective and their related success criteria and the progress schools are making towards their individual targets. This approach will be aligned to the national changes in the accountability system.

Throughout the year there will be many interim impact reports associated with the implementation streams within the Business Plan which will be reported through each of the governance groups, though individual LA committees (as requested) and though evaluation and improvement events with Welsh Government officials, These include: reports on pupil outcomes and progress, progress on schools causing concern, regular updates on outcomes/impact from regional / local authority self-evaluation activity and regional strategies, feedback from external reviews, annual regional value for money report, Managing Director's Annual Report, outcomes from regional school and governor surveys.

The financial accounts are reported to both the company board on a quarterly basis and through the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee on a termly basis. The final year end accounts are externally audited and reported in line with the 2016 UK Corporate Governance Code. In compliance with the Companies Act these accounts are reported and approved at the Annual General Meeting by the Joint Executive Members who are shareholders of the EAS.

Consortium funding

The EAS is funded on an annual basis from three sources: Local authority core contributions, regional school improvement grants and a service level agreement for governor support services. A spending plan accompanies the Business Plan which is intrinsically linked to all actions contained within it. A detailed overview of the regional distribution of all grants is available for all schools to view and compare allocations and rates of delegation through the regional grant monitoring tool.

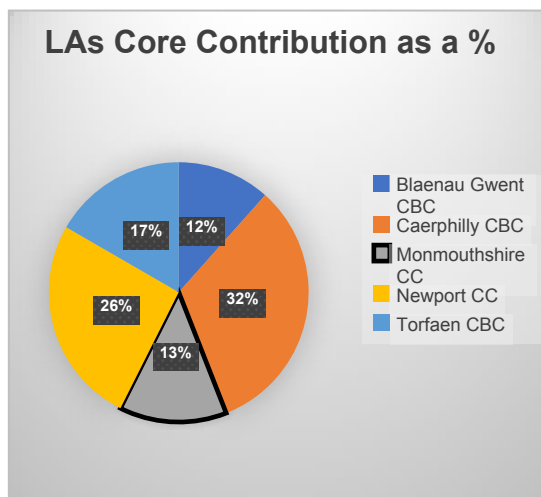
Delegation rates to schools has increased to 94.4% whilst the EAS staff profile has reduced by 53.1% since 2012.

Local authority contributions 2021/2022

Local authority funding for consortium working is underpinned by the National Model for Regional Working, published by the Welsh Government in 2014. The model recommended a core funding allocation of £3.6m for the EAS. The current LA core contribution is based on these figures less year

on year efficiencies of £1.23m since 2012 agreed in collaboration with the 5 local authorities. The local authorities' indicative figures for 2021/22 are as follows:

Local Authority	£
Blaenau Gwent CBC	£351,806
Caerphilly CBC	£985,591
Monmouthshire CC	£405,844
Newport CC	£787,227
Torfaen CBC	£506,028
Total	£3,036,496



terms of the above £0.796m of this figure is used to secure capacity within the EAS team from current serving headteachers and schools and £0.2m of this figure is used to secure service level agreements and venue costs sourced through local authorities.

Regional school improvement grants

The Collaboration and Members Agreement (CAMA) details the procedure that needs to be followed for all school improvement grants received into the region. All grants are approved by local authority Chief Education Officers / Directors of Education with a follow up ratification from JEG members.

Grant Name	Grant Total	Amount delegated to schools	Delegation* Rate	Regionally Retained
(To be updated when information on grants is received from Welsh Government)	Indicative Calculation 2021/22			
	£	£		£
Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG)				
- Education Improvement Grant	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
- Professional Learning for Teachers	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
- Other grant initiatives	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Pupil Development Grant (PDG)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
PDG (Lead Regional PDG Adviser)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Seren Pre 16	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Seren Post 16	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Total	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

*Delegation: This refers to funding which gives freedom of choice to a school in how it is used. It must however be spent in accordance with, and in the spirit of, the core purpose of the grant and the individual school development plan.

Governor Support Service Level Agreement

The EAS has responsibility for providing a Governor Support service to all schools in the region. The service provides support to school governing bodies, headteachers, and individual governors. This includes advice, guidance, training, and an optional clerking service to support governing bodies to deliver their responsibilities.

The optional clerking service is provided through an annual service level agreement with an option to buy into a clerking service and then additionally a statutory committee clerking service. Only two schools opted not to buy into the clerking service in 2020/21. The indicative funding for 2021/22 is £0.387m.

Section 6: Additional supporting documents

This Business Plan is supported by the following documents:

- Local Authority Annex documents 2021 – 2022
- Detailed Business Plan 2021–2022
- Regional Grant Mapping Overview 2021–2022 (to follow once detailed received from WG)
- Regional Self-Evaluation Report (Executive Summary)
- EAS Risk Register (Executive Summary)
- Regional Professional Learning Offer 2021–2022
- Local Authority Strategic Education Plans

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Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 7 April 2021

Subject Replacement Local Development Plan: Post Consultation Endorsement of Review Report and Delivery Agreement

Purpose To report on the consultation responses received during public consultation on the Draft Review Report and Draft Delivery Agreement for the Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) and seek approval of the updated documents. 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 The Review Report (RR) 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 (DA) 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.

Following Cabinet's decision to progress with a review of the LDP, a Review Report (RR) and Delivery Agreement (DA), required by Regulations, have been drafted and were made available for public consultation during January – March 2021. Recommended responses to the feedback and suggested amendments to the documents have been collated for approval. Once these documents are endorsed by Cabinet, the next stage is to report them to Full Council (April 2021) for consideration and agreement that they can be formally submitted to Welsh Government. The formal submission of these documents to Welsh Government is a Full Council decision as this triggers the legal commencement of the LDP review.

Proposal **Cabinet is asked to consider and approve the recommended responses to the feedback received during consultation and endorse the updated versions of the Review Report and Delivery Agreement. Cabinet is then asked to agree for these documents to be reported to Full Council (in April 2021) with the intention of seeking approval for formal submission to Welsh Government. Following submission, Welsh Government approval of the Delivery Agreement would then mark the legal commencement of the LDP review.**

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

1. REVIEW REPORT

Background

- 1.1 In October 2020, the Council agreed for a formal review of the LDP is to begin. The draft Review Report (RR) sets out the first stage in this process. 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 recent public consultation¹, 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.

Consultation Feedback

- 1.2 The consultation period saw 25 individual stakeholders provide comments on the draft RR. These comments are set out in full in Appendix A of this report. Each comment has been considered and a recommended response and any proposed amendment to the RR is also set out in Appendix A. It is important to note that changes to the adopted LDP, as identified in the RR, can only be made at plan revision stage and therefore the recommended Council response reflects this.
- 1.3 A consultation form with five specific questions along with a general comments section was provided (see background papers); 12 of the 25 respondents utilised the form. The response rate was not particularly large, but the responses showed a general trend which is set out below.
- 1.4 The majority of respondents...
- ...thought that the main issues that should be considered in the full LDP review were identified in the RR.
 - ...thought that the existing vision, issues and objectives remain relevant for a revised plan.
 - ...agreed that the adopted Spatial Strategy of a new plan needs reviewing.
 - ...agreed with the findings of the policy review.
 - ...thought the plan needed to be revised, however there was confusion on what this meant with most stating they wanted both a short and full form revision. A few comments were made that questioned whether all elements of the plan required full revision.
- 1.5 The consultation responses raised the following key points:
- The involvement of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, noting that planning is a priority area in delivering the well-being goals.
 - The value and importance of the Gwent Levels, with requests to halt any development within that location. The impact of the large renewable energy schemes is a real concern.
 - With the Welsh Government declaration of a biodiversity and climate change emergency, the effectiveness of current policy to protect and enhance ecology was raised.
 - A support for the continuation of a brownfield strategy and the need to ensure the plan strategy does not lead to social detriment.
 - The role and importance of mineral planning for Newport and the region.
 - Lost opportunity in Newport for access to the river for recreation and lifeboat services.
 - Agree with the need to review the tourism policy and how important this is to Newport economically.
 - The need to take into account the impact from Covid 19 and to use planning as a tool to aid recovery.
 - The importance and opportunities that result from Heritage and its role in the Newport Offer.
 - The need to focus on the regeneration of the City Centre.
 - The opportunities arising from national and regional public transport improvements.

¹ A list of those bodies consulted is available in Appendix C of this report.

- 1.6 In light of the consultation responses, no significant changes have been proposed to the RR. The issues raised are matters to consider in the development of the replacement plan and the RR has been updated to reflect any omissions of the key concerns raised through consultation; each proposed change is set out in full Appendix A. The proposed amendments include updates to policy that had occurred during the consultation period, reference to missing evidence base element i.e. village assessments and mineral surveys and the addition of specific matters within the policy review section. This is to ensure that when the policy is reviewed, these matters will be considered e.g. effectiveness of monitoring of ecological impacts from development.

Conclusion

- 1.7 It is concluded that the updated Review Report (see Background Papers) sets out a clear and robust overview of the issues that need to be considered by a replacement LDP. There is a need to look at the spatial strategy and at a minimum, consider those matters raised in the policy review section. The Draft Review Report concluded that a Full Revision of the current LDP is required and this remains the conclusion following the consultation process.

2. DELIVERY AGREEMENT

Background

- 2.1 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. The DA comprises the Timetable (setting out how the Council will manage the programme for preparing the LDP) and The Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) – (setting out who, when and how the Council will consult and engage with various stakeholders, including the general public, during the production of the LDP).

Consultation Feedback

- 2.2 The consultation period saw 15 respondents provide comments on the draft DA. These comments are set out in full in Appendix B of this report. Each comment has been considered and a recommended response and any proposed amendment to the DA is also set out in Appendix B.
- 2.3 The consultation responses raised the following key points:
- Support for the proposed timetable;
 - Helpful links to stakeholders that had not been identified in the draft were provided;
 - Questioned the Impact on engagement with Covid-19;
 - Enforced the need for transparency of decisions making through the RLDP process.
- 2.4 In light of the responses, no significant changes have been proposed or made to the DA and no changes to the proposed timetable have been requested or made. In terms of the impact of Covid 19 on engagement practices we can confirm that all engagement and consultation stages of the RLDP will have regard to any lockdown or restrictions in place. Any appropriate adjustments, including re- scheduling of consultation will be considered at each stage of the plan preparation. The request for transparency is an important one. Feedback and clarification of processes in plan preparation are important and each stage of the plan preparation will be undertaken in line with government guidance.

Conclusion

- 2.5 It is concluded that the updated Delivery Agreement (see Background Papers) sets out a clear and robust overview of the issues that need to be considered by a replacement LDP.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Following endorsement of these documents, the next step will be to seek Full Council's endorsement (April 2021) in order to formally submit the RR and DA to Welsh Government. 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 need to be kept under review and any future changes required to the DA will need to be confirmed and agreed with WG.

4. Financial Summary

- 4.1 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.

	Year 1 (Start RLDP 2021/22) £	Year 2 2022/23 £	Year 3 2023/24 £	Year 4 2024/25 £	Notes including budgets heads affected
Costs	330,000	250,000	155,000	260,000	Costs include estimated additional staff resource on fixed term contracts which will need to be subject to a business case.
Funded by:					
Revenue Budget	71,600	71,600	71,600	71,600	
LDP Reserve	258,400	178,400	83,400	133,800	
Net Costs	0	0	0	54,600	
(Savings)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	
Net Impact on Budget	0	0	0	54,600	
LDP Reserve (£654,000)	395,600	217,200	133,800	0	

5. 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 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
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

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 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 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 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 responses to the consultation and endorse the updated Review Report and Delivery Agreement.
- 2) Amend the responses to the consultation and endorse the updated Review Report and Delivery Agreement.
- 3) Do not approve the response to the consultation and endorse the updated Review Report and Delivery Agreement.

Preferred Option and Why

- 1) To approve the responses to the consultation and endorse the updated Review Report and Delivery Agreement which has taken into account feedback from 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.

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. Cabinet have previously approved the Annual Monitoring Report for submission to Welsh Government, which triggered the commencement of the LDP Review. Cabinet also approved the Review Report (RR) and Delivery Agreement (DA) for public consultation between January and March. The report sets out the consultation responses and some minor amendments to the documents to reflect that feedback. Cabinet are now required to approved the revised RR and DA and recommend that that are approved and adopted by full Council, in its capacity as Local Planning Authority, in May. The RR and DaA will then be submitted to Welsh Government and their agreement to the DA will then trigger the commencement of the LDP revision process. 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

Approval of the Review Report and Delivery Agreement are the next stages in the LDP review process.

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.

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. In addition the RLDP process will undertake an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal process that shall include an equalities impact assessment to ensure the RLDP is developed in line with these requirements.

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 RLDP 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 RLDP 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 were subject to a minimum of 8 weeks consultation started in January 2021 and concluded in March 2021. The comments received and a response to each of these is set out in Appendix A & B of this report.

Background Papers

Post Consultation Delivery Agreement & Review Report

LDP – Draft Review Report & Draft Delivery Agreement Consultation Forms



FINAL RR
CONSULTATION FOF



FINAL DA
CONSULTATION FOF

LDP – Draft Review Report & Draft Delivery Agreement



Draft Review
Report 23NOV20.do



Draft Delivery
Agreement 24NOV21

[Local Development Plan Manual Welsh Government 2020](#)

APPENDIX A- CONSULTATION COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSES – REVIEW REPORT

Draft Review Report Consultation January -March 2021 Comments Received and recommended Council Responses

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust 00063	<p>Thank you for consulting us on these documents. We note that there is provision for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment, including the archaeological resource. We welcome this.</p> <p>As we have noted previously, the historic environment resource in the Newport area is important and is formed both of statutorily designated historic assets (areas and structures), and a wide range of non-designated historic assets. The range of these includes the Registered Landscape of the Gwent Levels, as well as information on discrete finds of all periods, from the prehistoric through to post-medieval, all of which contribute to the distinctive heritage and current form of the area. These should not be seen as any constraint to development, but viewed with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, contribute substantially to the well-being goals relating to culture and community, and by understanding and enhancement to the remaining goals.</p> <p>The Draft Review Report notes the varied area of Newport, shaped by human activity as well as natural processes over millennia; it references current legislation and Policy relating to the Historic Environment: the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016; Planning Policy Wales (2018, chapter 6) and TAN24: The Historic Environment. There are Objectives and Policies in place to protect and enhance the historic environment; and we note that Strategic Objectives 5 and 8 specifically include the historic environment and cultural heritage. The historic environment is included via the extant legislation and policies, and the local plan objectives and policies, so that enhancement and protection is given, particularly to the non-designated assets that give a sense of place and value to the historic environment. The documents note amongst all aspects of the plan that the historic environment needs to be managed sustainably, and that it appears to be doing so.</p>	<p>Support noted</p> <p>The value of the historic environment in Newport is understood and the replacement LDP will look to provide an adequate and appropriate policy framework for its protection and the opportunities related to its broad values.</p> <p>Policy for the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment is set at all scales of planning policy. The RLDP will play its part in reflecting, not duplicating this, and ensure it reviews and updates the local policy framework as required following analysis and consultation.</p>
Tin Shed Theatre	Here at Tin Shed Theatre Co we have for some time been working alongside city centre organisations such as Newport City Homes, Newport Live, Friars Walk, Newport Library	The engagement of organisations such as the Tin Shed Theatre Company is something that

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
Company 00313	<p>and Museum services in order to begin building a picture of lack of social infrastructure alongside proposals of utilising empty space and the re-shaping of how better to use open public space.</p> <p>Through our continued research and consultation, alongside the understanding that retail alone will not encourage footfall into the city centre, we would like to open a proposed discussion to allow sociological and creative conversation for the redevelopment of public land.</p> <p>It has been proven through similar projects such as The Empty Shops project, independent business initiatives, peppercorn rent schemes and other such initiatives across Europe that, by allowing creative visualisation of empty/negative space and developing a better understanding of our changing sociological and consumer behaviours as a result of austerity and now a global pandemic, our initial roles as heads of organisations with the ability to affect social change from local authorities level should be to increase social infrastructure, promote health and wellbeing and foster a better, more positive connection to our city and the people around us. A holistic view that is supported at Local Authority Level, utilising the incredible talent to visualise the use of space from the cities creative thinkers.</p> <p>I would, therefore, like to open a discussion between our current proposed plans and research to connect with city planning and redevelopment moving forwards.</p>	<p>we would welcome. Initial dialogue has occurred, but this will need to continue as part of the development of the RLDP.</p> <p>The collation of research and evidence to assist our policy development is welcomed and examples of good practice is always greatly received.</p> <p>Placemaking is a fundamental part of the planning system that is reiterated at national to local scale policy development and outputs. The recent publication of Future Wales: the national plan 2040 and Planning Policy Wales strengthens the need to continue to focus on the importance of the City Centre but to consider a mixed use and high density approach in this accessible location. The RLDP will need to consider the vision and appropriate policy framework to achieve regeneration goals for the City Centre.</p>
A Hussain 00317	<p>Thank you for allowing me to comment on the review of Newport's LDP 2011 to 2026. As a long-term resident in Cardiff and working in Newport, I would like to make some key points for the new LDP.</p> <p>In light of the recent pandemic and the local to national lockdowns and the possibility that such lockdowns may still recur in the future, it is proving more important to sustain our local green spaces and miniature nature reserves and wildlife. This is so local residents can enjoy their local areas for our mental and physical wellbeing.</p> <p>Therefore, I would suggest that brownfield sites should be redeveloped first taking priority over building on green field sites. In particular, I am concerned with the massive business park planned next to Hendre lake which would concrete over a large section of</p>	<p>The holistic benefits of greenspaces and wildlife has been reflected in the current LDP and will form a key issue for the RLDP as highlighted in the Review Report.</p> <p>A focus on brownfield development is a requirement of national policy. However, the availability and supply of brownfield sites is not yet quantified. The assessments to quantify this need will look at the availability of empty properties. There may be a requirement to identify greenfield sites, of which there were</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	<p>the existing farmland with the extensive biodiversity that is already present. As many buildings currently stand empty within Cardiff, it does not make sense to build more empty buildings.</p> <p>However, I cycle to work several days in the year and I support non car commute. But on days, when the weather is harsher or icy, cycling is hazardous. As such, I can understand that other methods of transport need to be in place and rail is a much quicker mode of transport and greener. I would support the building of commuter train stations in East Cardiff. I would prefer that all train stations are built from public funds rather than relying on private initiatives that would seek to destroy much needed green spaces.</p> <p>As Cardiff is already a very low-lying city, the risk of flooding is increasing yearly with recent storms in the past few years demonstrating the threat to homes and businesses. Maintaining the reens and the gwent levels will ensure the risks of flooding in East Cardiff remain low. Developing on these greenfield sites will increase water run off to the reens and overwhelm them at a time when they are already full.</p> <p>Our first minister, on the basis of environmental concerns, ceased the construction of M4 relief road through the Wentlooge levels. I would therefore assume that no further developments will be allowed on this SSSI land which is so unique to our area. I also hope all 'Protect and Enhance' countryside land will be protected and I would hope further expanded in the LDP recognizing the need for this key habitat and green space.</p>	<p>some in the current LDP. The protection of wildlife and agricultural value of land is all part of the consideration of designating land for development.</p> <p>The delivery of private facilities, such as train stations, is not something a LDP can control. If such public transport is made available, then we are tasked to understand and maximise the opportunities gained from such developments.</p> <p>As part of the development of a RLDP a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will be undertaken for RLDP designations and the impact on flood risk and drainage will be considered.</p> <p>It is not considered appropriate to provide a policy that results in the total ban of development on the Gwent Levels. The importance of the Gwent Levels and its many designations i.e. SSSI, Internally Important Historic Landscape, Special Landscape Area etc are all considerations when considering where to located development. For example, the importance of allowing rural forms of development is to be considered, so too the setting of the urban boundary where development outside this boundary would need to be appropriate in the countryside. The value of this landscape is well understood and the RLDP will consider any proposed development in line with this understanding.</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
<p>Future Generations Commissioner for Wales 00092</p>	<p>...Planning is one of the priority areas, which the Future Generations Commissioner has selected for our office and we have published a number of resources and tools to help you and your team ensure that the revised Local Development plan aligns with the Well-being of Future Generations Act and helps contribute to the seven well-being goals and your own well-being objectives.</p> <p>In May 2020, we published the first Future Generations Report, which sets out the Commissioner's assessment of where Wales is at the moment, a vision for the future and recommendations to help public bodies reach that vision. This includes a section on Planning and Placemaking, which contains a number of recommendations relevant to this exercise, including recommendations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align Local Development Plans and well-being plans/well-being objectives. • Make use of the advice and review service of the Design Commission and of the Welsh Health Impact Assessment Unit for major development and design and revisions of Local Development Plans. • Change mindsets from consultation to involvement and make every effort to involve people in plan design. • Synchronise and align all their infrastructure plans. • Produce plain language explanation of their Local Development Plans and their planning documents and guidance. • Embracing the new presumption in Planning Policy Wales 10 paragraph 1.17 in favour of sustainable development in accordance with the development plan to ensure that social, economic, cultural and environmental issues are balanced and integrated. <p>A bite-sized version of this chapter would have been sent to your team by Welsh Local Government Association or the Planning Officer Society and is available on our website here.</p> <p>I would also suggest having a look at the self-reflection feedback we sent you in 2019 as it contains advice about placemaking, future-fit housing and decarbonisation, which is relevant to this work.</p> <p>There are also a number of other resources that could help you ensure that the Well-being of Future Generations Act and its elements are embedded in your work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our framework for scrutiny as it can help you ensure that this work considers all of the Act's elements - goals, objectives and ways of working. 	<p>We welcome the support and identification of the value of development plans to the delivery of the Welsh Well-being goals. The information and resources noted are appreciated and we look forward to working with the Commissioner and her team in the development of the RLDP.</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Journeys to the well-being goals on our website as they might give you some inspiration and ideas about the actions you can take to contribute to each of the goals. We have also produced a Journey on Involvement, which will be useful for your consultation and wider involvement exercise. • It is very important that your Local Development Plan does not only address current needs but also considers future trends. We have published a 3 Horizons Toolkit together with Public Health Wales to help public bodies to think and plan for the long-term by keeping a clear vision and taking future trends into account. <p>Finally, I would suggest looking at other useful planning and placemaking resources, such as the Design Commission's Placemaking Charter and guidance, RTPI's Value of Planning tool, and the Creating Healthier Places guide by Public Health Wales and Natural Resources Wales.</p>	
The Coal Authority 00324	We hold no records of past coal mining legacy features at surface or shallow depth in the Newport City Council area. On this basis we have no specific comments to make in respect of the Local Development Plan consultation.	Noted
Mr Anstey 00207	<p>As discussed I would like to make the following observation for inclusion in the new LDP. Under the current LDP I have been unable to gain planning permission for the conversion of a 40 year old agricultural barn into Holiday accommodation as there currently isn't a specific mention of it under your tourism strategy. Other local authorities are little more progressive such as Monmouthshire where this is encouraged. Surprising as there is a requirement for even more tourism opportunities linked to the Celtic Manor etc. I would think a specific policy mention in the replacement LDP would be helpful.</p> <p>I imagine that the prerequisite would be that the building would need to demonstrate that its capable of conversion and that it is more than 30 years old. Agricultural buildings could be more modern in type such as steel beam frame and sheet/wood clad rather than stone built. This would in fact encourage the retention of older pre and post war Dutch Steel frame farm buildings which are a historic part of our landscape that are now being lost through lack of maintenance.</p> <p>I also would like the Council to look at encouraging the retention of historic steel frame curved roofed Dutch barns for conversion into dwellings where they are already in the</p>	The review report noted that the tourism policy was in need of review and your comments will be noted as part of that specific work.

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	curtilage of other residential buildings. Such conversions are being allowed in England and there are some great architectural design examples	
Dwr Cymru 00013	We have no specific comments to make but look forward to engaging with you through the Replacement LDP process.	Noted we look forward to working with Dwr Cymru as part of the RLDP.
Marshfield CC 00022	<p>Marshfield Community Council would like to make the following observations to be taken into account when the Local Development Plan for Newport is reviewed.</p> <p><u>LDP (Local Development Plan) – Response from MCC</u></p> <p>The revised LDP shows no evidence of any significant redevelopment or specific changes to occur in Marshfield and Castleton. However, we would like to firstly draw your attention to the following unmet key points that were in the original and revised LDP. Since there are no specifics under the various areas we would request that you would comment specifically on how you wish to achieve these.</p> <p><u>Transport</u></p> <p>The regular bus service, rather than being improved, was removed and replaced with a DRT Service.</p> <p>This has had the negative affect on the LDP as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Skills access * Quality of life * Less sustainable forms of travel being used * No reduction in noise levels * No improvement in air quality <p><u>Flood Risk</u></p> <p>We would like to know what further preventative measures are going to be put in place. To date, these are insufficient as seen with flooding in December 2020, January 2021 and in earlier years.</p> <p>Specifically, there is room for improvement in:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The regular maintenance and management of the drainage systems ditches and Reen system in the Marshfield area and generally in the whole of the Wentlooge (Gwent) Levels, currently the responsibility of the failing NRW to prevent flooding. b) Prevention of surface water on the road and flooding of land immediately next to the roads e.g. Church Lane, St. Mellons Road, Marshfield Road near the allotment, Acorn Place, Groes Corner, Hawse Lane, Ty Mawr Road. <p>Many of these roads are the main road network in and out of Marshfield. Therefore, when flooded Marshfield is left closed off from other areas preventing transport in and out until the flood level depletes.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The consultation documents were not a replacement plan but a review of the current plan and identification of changes since the adoption of the LDP that will need to be taken into account in a revision.</p> <p>The comments provided in terms of policy topics i.e. Transport, Flood risk, facilities, accessibility and parking will all be covered in a policy review. There will be opportunities for engagement and feedback on the proposed policy amendment and additions. There shall also be village assessment work undertaken which shall allow feedback on local issues such as those highlighted in this response. The Review Report doesn't mention this part of the evidence base and it is consider necessary for it to be included.</p> <p><i>AMENDMENT: Paragraph 5.2.12 will be updated to include reference to Village Assessment as a required element of the updated evidence base.</i></p> <p>In addition, a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will be undertaken for RLDP designations and the impact on all types of flood risk, including surface water, and drainage will be considered.</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	<p>c) In the case of an emergency, communication to residents, pedestrians and motorists warning of flood waters. There are no emergency supplies of sand bags for residents either, or communication of where they can be obtained. In December residents were diverted from one agency to another in order to get help. When flooded, communication lines are the first to go down, so this is of paramount importance.</p> <p><u>Road Maintenance</u> The quantity of potholes in Church Lane leaves more pot holes than actual road surface. This is on a road which is the main access to the parish church for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. The church is obviously used for various events. This is particularly bad when the potholes are also filled with flood water and especially dangerous at night time. This has been reported for years and the potholes poorly filled instead of resurfacing. We would like to see a programme of maintenance to bring back the roads to a good standard to achieve their intended purpose.</p> <p><u>Street Scene</u> No regular maintenance plan to improve street signage when they become unreadable. In some cases this causes a major issue for motorists who have to slow down to read the sign, thus causing an obstruction.</p> <p><u>Facilities</u> When completing the online consultation form it requests a “yes” or “no” for most facilities. There is no room for “not applicable”. The extent, of the lack of facilities that Marshfield and Castleton experience is of concern to our residents. Specific forward planning is required by NCC to enable space to be made for some of these services to be restored, particularly as Marshfield has expanded over the years and is seen as a Village but has the population of a town. We have one shop only in Marshfield which is a small shop selling basics/post office/chemist all in one. In Castleton there is only a service station which includes a shop selling basics.</p> <p>Missing facilities include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Doctors Surgery *Dentist Surgery *Other Retail Shops *Coffee Shops *Library *Parking. There is limited parking for the local shop and for Marshfield Primary School, both have double yellow lines close by them preventing parking for safety reasons. 	<p>It should be noted that the issues raised on road maintenance, street scene and illegal parking matters are not a consideration for the development plan and these issues should be raised directly with the City Services section of the Council.</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	<p>- The lack of alternative parking however causes many to park illegally causing a hazard to pedestrians (particularly young children) and passing motorists and this is not dealt with adequately.</p> <p>*Public Toilets – The lack of facilities on the A48 results in the Lych-gate to the Cemetery being used as a urinal.</p> <p>All of these essential facilities have to be sourced in other areas of Newport and Cardiff which require good access to public transport which Marshfield doesn't have.</p> <p><u>Accessibility</u></p> <p>No road crossings on the A48 in Castleton suitable for the elderly/ less able/some pram and pushchair users.</p> <p>The existing pedestrian bridge is good but not suitable for all.</p> <p>Footpaths have no ongoing programme of maintenance and we have had repeatedly request these are maintained for normal use.</p> <p>No traffic calming measures have been put in place on the A48, despite numerous requests to all authorities where pedestrians, especially the elderly, frail and disabled need to cross the road to access bus services into Newport and Cardiff. Pupils need to cross the road to catch a school bus, and Students need to use the bus service to college. The speed limit is 50mph through numerous junctions. However, traffic travels at speeds well in excess of this, through an area with two main junctions and many other roads adjoining it either side, which are considered in traffic management terms as potential hazards. The following are a summary of motorist journeys. In this short length of carriageway there are in excess of 30 possible journeys that can occur on the A48 at Castleton, which at peak times in particular make these junctions dangerous as follows:-</p> <p>Traffic to and from the Nursing Home from Cardiff and Newport and Marshfield Road and Coal Pit Lane</p> <p>Traffic to and from the Premier Inn and Coach and Horses from Cardiff and Newport, Marshfield Road and Coal Pit Lane</p> <p>Traffic to and from Coal Pit Lane from Marshfield Road, the Service Station, Channel View, Craig y Haul, Newport and Cardiff</p> <p>Traffic to and from Marshfield Road from Coal Pit Lane, the Service Station, Channel View, Craig y Haul, Cardiff and Newport</p> <p>Traffic to and from Channel View to Newport, Marshfield Road, the Service Station, Craig y Haul, Cardiff</p> <p>Traffic to and from Craig- y – Haul from Cardiff, Channel View, the Service Station, Coal Pit Lane, Marshfield Road, Newport</p>	

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	<p>Traffic to and from the Service Station from Marshfield Road, Coal Pit Lane, Craig y Haul, Cardiff and Newport Traffic from Cardiff returning back to Cardiff Other residential driveways adjoining the A48. This most certainly would benefit from traffic management which is notably provided in less populated areas of Newport that have less junctions and less potential for accidents. The wellbeing of future generations should apply here. Waiting for more accidents and fatalities on this stretch of road before action is taken is abhorrent to the majority of road users and pedestrians. The cost of one fatality in a road traffic accident is in the region of £1.69 million!</p> <p><u>Illegal Parking Safety issues</u> Parking on double yellow lines continues outside Marshfield Primary School, causing a danger to pedestrians (particularly children) and passing motorists and needs to be dealt with more quickly and severely.</p> <p>Secondly we would like to propose the following are added to your proposals as part of your planning framework for development and use of land in Newport:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide enhanced legal protection/designation like an ANOB for The Wentlooge (Gwent) Levels SSSI and special landscape areas and heritage landscapes ensuring that they are safe and protected from continued pressure for development and preserved for future generations. 2) Prohibit the granting of planning consent for new builds in areas where the community has been categorised as "unsustainable". This would affect local infrastructure e.g. roads and drainage and possibly amenities for which very little space is available. 3) The green wedge west of Newport to the Cardiff border is in need of protection from new housing development especially connected with the proposed new train station at St. Mellons. (Bellway Homes has either purchased or paid a retainer on land west of Marshfield on St Mellons Road). 4) Any new developments should be on Brownfield Sites but only with due consideration for the unique environment around them. 5) Arterial routes/lanes into and out of Marshfield should be protected from illegal development 'creep' of industrial sites. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The designation of the levels as a SSSI, internationally recognised landscape of historic interest etc are designations made outside of the local authority. As part of the RLDP work we will be considering allocations such as Green Wedges, SLA etc. It is understood that the designation of an area for ANOB status lies with government in this case Natural Resources Wales. The RLDP would only reflect this designation if it were to be made by NRW. 2) The planning policy framework in Wales is set so the system supports sustainable development. There are many issues to consider when looking at the merits of development. The allocation of the urban boundary/ village boundary is key to setting out where development is considered

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
		<p>sustainable. There are always specific matters e.g. development that supports the rural economy, tourism etc that will need to be considered outside of the settlement boundaries. There will be an opportunity through the RLDP development to comment on the settlement boundaries and policies that allow development in the countryside.</p> <p>3) There is a Green Belt to the west of Marshfield. This designation goes beyond the plan period. The RLDP will consider if any slight amendments are required but there are no plans to remove the Green Belt.</p> <p>4) A focus on brownfield development is a requirement of national policy. However, the available and supply of brownfield sites is not yet quantified, the assessment work for such quantification of need will look at the availability of empty properties. There may be a requirement to identify greenfield sites, of which there were some in the current LDP.</p> <p>5) The requirement for industrial units in the area will be considered as part of the plan but it should be noted that rural enterprises are supported by national planning policy as long as they are able to satisfy detailed policy requirements e.g. impact on flood risk, amenity, highway safety etc.</p>
Campaign for Real Ale 00078	I think we can be reasonably satisfied that social amenities like pubs have some level of protection in the LDP, enough so that we could quote their own words should we need to.	The review highlighted the need to revise the community facility policy. The need for protection of community facilities is supported but the effectiveness of the policy has been queried. There will be opportunities to

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
E A Yearsley 00323	<p>The key to the review of this LDP is to provide for a post-Covid social/economic recovery to counter the effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic.</p> <p>The Planning System has an important role to play in this respect by reinvestigating employment/business sites in a bid to provide additional opportunities for work/skills training and also to reappraise the numbers of affordable housing units proposed in terms of social inclusion.</p> <p>The timing of this is opportune in that the National Development Framework, (now known as 'Future Wales') has identified Newport as an area of regional growth and investment. As stated in the report this is a significant boost for the City and monies put forward, together with a share of monies set aside by the Chancellor in the Spring 2021 Budget, will go a long way in regenerating the area and giving Newport its rightful status as the second largest City in Wales.</p> <p>One of the first assessments to be made is that of the siting of Newport on the banks of the Severn Estuary, with reference to the Wales National Marine Plan WNMP adopted Nov 2019. Both Cardiff and Swansea have been successfully regenerated to maximise their marine locations. Similar Marine developments should be attracted and encouraged to the area to take full advantage of the City's location on the estuary.</p> <p>'Wales Transport Strategy – A Vision for Transport in Wales' Nov 2020, because of its timing, should have an intensive impact on the replacement LDP. Collaboration is the way forward in this respect as the South East Wales Transport Commission recommends (in the wake of the decision not to proceed with the M4 relief Road), major improvements to public transport in the South Eastern region of Wales. 4 new stations are being proposed to compliment the existing Cardiff Central, Newport and Severn Tunnel Junction.</p> <p>These are to be located at Newport Road Cardiff, St Mellons (Parkway), Newport West and Newport East (Somerton/ Llanwern/ Magor). Transport hubs attract development and should therefore be thoroughly investigated in terms of the opportunities (relating to employment, business, housing and leisure facilities. Existing settlements/communities would also benefit from the new opportunities that public</p>	<p>comment on policy revision as part of the process.</p> <p>The impact of Covid-19 will be a consideration in the review of the LDP, in particular taking a view on what we have learnt from the pandemic as well as what needs to be done to aid recovery. The identification of Newport as a centre of national growth in Future Wales is welcomed.</p> <p>The importance of the City's location bisected by the River Usk and along the Severn Estuary is part of the current vision of the plan. The benefits of this location have been reflected in the past with the introduction of the waterfront development policy, however that is not to say that there aren't more opportunities to consider. A note on the need to consider if there is anything further these polices can consider and indeed the importance of these policies will be noted in the policy review section of the Review Report. We would encourage projects to enable this to be provided at the Call for Candidate Sites in June this year. The development of the plans vision, objectives and indeed policies will be available for comment and you are encouraged to provide comment at those stages.</p> <p>AMENDMENT, Page 44 Add a column above CE4 call Heritage. In commentary box add: Review the need to update in line with new legislation and link with the Newport Offer.</p>

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	<p>transport offers eg the Community of Marshfield would be just 10 minutes away from the St Mellons (Parkway) Station, offering employment opportunities in both Cardiff, Newport and also Bristol and suggesting the area could sustain further development making this a more attractive/viable place to live.</p> <p>The review makes reference to the need for more specific investigation into Community facilities ref Policy rev 4.23. This is a matter that the Pandemic has also highlighted. Many communities including small existing and new developments have no associated facilities eg local shop/PO, requiring locals to have to make unnecessary car journeys. This should be fully considered when determining planning applications, and where necessary land set aside for associated facilities. This would then be in line with the 'concept of place making' as set out in the 'Well being of Future Generations Act'.</p> <p>The review discusses Tourism and admits that 'very little is made of tourism'. When you consider the wealth of history relating to this area of South Wales eg the Chartists, the Mining industry, the Docks and the Transporter Bridge, not to mention the Art College and the Cathedral, this is particularly disappointing and an area where more thought and investment could be injected. For example a golden opportunity was missed when Newport gained City status. St Woolos Cathedral holds a commanding position at the top of Stow Hill. This would be one landmark that visitors to the area would wish to visit: (and having pedestrianised/cobbled the street outside the row of shops, allowing the traffic to flow around the other side of the Cathedral, would give the area a 'sense of place' within the public realm; where tourists could stay a while and enjoy the facilities on offer. Vittorio's an age old family business could spill out on to the pavement with tables and chairs creating a 'café culture'.</p> <p>The risk of flooding is becoming evermore commonplace throughout the region with our changing climate. This is an area where policy revision needs to be further considered with the emphasis on much more collaboration and consultation with the necessary bodies when determining planning applications. When dealing with applications for housing developments on a flood plain or near a watercourse perhaps the answer is to reduce densities. Similarly when dealing with surface water flooding on highways, collaboration with all necessary bodies such as highway drainage, NRW should be</p>	<p>There have been very recent publications on proposals for transport across Wales and in the South East Region. This has been reflected in future Wales and Newport will be tasked to take advantage of the opportunities made from the implementation of improved public transport schemes including the South East Wales Metro.</p> <p>The review of community facility policies, Section 106 requirements, access to facilities etc. will all be covered in a policy review. There will be opportunities for engagement and feedback on the proposed policy amendments or additions. There shall also be village assessment work will also allow feedback on local issues such as those highlighted in this response.</p> <p>The review report noted that the tourism policy was in need of review and we would welcome your engagement and feedback on the development of such topics at the relevant stage of the RLDP process.</p> <p>As part of the development of a RLDP a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will be undertaken for RLDP designations and the impact on flood risk and drainage will be considered.</p>

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	<p>undertaken to look at the problem holistically rather than just find a quick fix, temporary measure.</p> <p>We are at an important juncture coming out of the Pandemic and as stated the replacement LDP is the tool to drive our recovery and create opportunity and a better built and natural environment. The above mentioned issues are considered to be worthy of much more consideration and collaboration with the relevant bodies.</p>	<p>We welcome the reflection of the important role that the RLDP will play in the future recovery and delivery of identified needs for the City Borough and this shall be a consideration in the review of the LDP.</p>
<p>Mineral Products Association 00060</p>	<p>The Mineral Products Association (MPA) is the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries. With the affiliation of British Precast, the British Association of Reinforcement (BAR), Eurobitume, MPA Northern Ireland, MPA Scotland and the British Calcium Carbonate Federation, it has a growing membership of over 530 companies and is the sectoral voice for mineral products. MPA membership is made up of the vast majority of independent SME quarrying companies throughout the UK, as well as the 9 major international and global companies. It covers 100% of UK cement production, 90% of GB aggregates production, 95% of asphalt and over 70% of ready-mixed concrete and precast concrete production. In 2016, the industry supplied £18 billion worth of materials and services to the Economy. It is the largest supplier to the construction industry, which had annual output valued at £169 billion in 2018. Industry production represents the largest materials flow in the UK economy and is also one of the largest manufacturing sectors. For more information visit: www.mineralproducts.org.</p> <p>With respect to the above consultation, it is worth noting that for a number of days the consultation documents were not accessible due to the Council's website not being available. The Council may wish to extend the period of consultation to take this in to consideration. We were however, grateful the Council managed to forward hard copies for our perusal.</p> <p>We have the following comments to make.</p> <p>Chapter 3. Informing the LDP Review We feel this chapter benefit being updated to reflect that the National Development Framework, known as "Future Wales: the national plan 2040" has now been adopted.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>We apologies for any technical difficulties. The consultation period was two weeks longer than that specified as best practice, so it was not considered necessary to extend the consultation period this time. It is also noted that there were no requests for an extension of time to supply comments were received by the Council.</p> <p>The chapter will be updated to reflect the recent adoption of Future Wales and Planning Policy Wales.</p>

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	<p>This has also been accompanied by revisions to Planning Policy Wales and as such the Draft Review Report (DRR) should refer to PPW Edition 11.</p> <p>This chapter has, however, overlooked critical matters relating to minerals, including the Regional Technical Statement (RTS) 2nd Review and the accompanying South Wales Annex, and the respective Mineral Technical Advice Notes (MTANS). This is surprising in that the AMR 2020 mentions the 2nd Review of the RTS as does paragraph 5.3.29 of the DRR, confirming it will form part of the evidence base. The RTS and MTANS are important foundation documents for inclusion in the RLDP review.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.23 of the DRR identifies areas of Policy Revisions, including Minerals Safeguarding. We support this noting that the AMR highlights that over 30% of applications within Minerals Safeguarding Areas did not consider the issue of mineral sterilisation in the officer's report. Previous AMR's highlight this as a longstanding issue, the resolution to which, is identified as "training". We would be happy to work with the Council in supporting a mineral training programme for the Council's officers.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.3.29 recognises that the RTS (2nd Review) has been progressing. A number of Local Planning Authorities have endorsed the RTS, although it is unclear if Newport is one of those authorities. We urge the Council to expedite endorsement and that trust once endorsement has taken place, the requirements of the RTS will be embedded in the minerals policies within the reviewed plan. Further, the wording of the DRR indicates that the future LDP policy revision should consider if the policy wording is "appropriate(ly) and workable". We suggest this should go further to ensure the requirements of the policy should also be "deliverable".</p> <p>Chapter 6 of the DRR indicates the "Future evidence base" which may be required for the LDP. We recognise that this list is not exclusive, but would suggest inclusion of the Aggregate Monitoring Survey 2019, currently being carried out by the British Geological Survey, on behalf of MHCLG and WG, and also the Annual Minerals Survey report, carried out and produced on behalf of the SWRAWP.</p>	<p>AMENDMENT: Update paragraphs 3.11&12 to reflect the recent change to national planning policy.</p> <p>The RTS is a requirement of PPW and therefore has been noted in the relevant section of the Review Report as a part of the evidence base. The importance of the RTS is not questioned and it is recognised as an important part of the RLDP evidence base.</p> <p>It is agreed that MTANS have not been noted in the report and para 3.15, 5.3.29 and the glossary which refers to TANS should be updated to note this.</p> <p>AMENDMENT: Paragraph 3.15 and 5.3.29 and Glossary to be updated to include reference to MTANS.</p> <p>The offer of training is appreciated. We shall make contact to discuss this matter.</p> <p>The endorsement of the RTS is being progressed by the Council. We note the suggested alteration to the policy text and shall take this into account when reviewing the mineral policy section.</p> <p>Agree to add to the list: Aggregate Monitoring Surveys AMENDMENT: Add Aggregate Monitoring Surveys to Chapter 6.</p>
NRW 00004	We have reviewed your Review Report and Delivery Agreement and have no comments to make on the reports in terms of our role as a statutory planning advisor.	Noted we look forward to working with NRW as part of the RLDP.

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<p>The friends of The Gwent Levels 00322</p>	<p>The Friends of Gwent Levels is a grassroots campaigning group with a mission to protect the Gwent Levels from neglect and damaging development. We want to restore biodiversity and maintain the visual and historical integrity of the landscape.</p> <p>Our response to the review of the 2015 Local Development Plan is based upon the threat of growing demands for development in the Gwent Levels and, in particular, multiple applications for the installation of renewable energy schemes. Our concerns arise from the serious limitations of the current designations, legislation and policy protections for biodiversity and species that currently reside on the Levels. It is our experience that planning applications for schemes with significant predicted impacts on the biodiversity and rare / protected species at the located site are being submitted for planning approval with prior consultation from the local authorities.</p> <p>Friends of the Gwent Levels are campaigning to support the application of protective legislation and policy in the spirit with which there were intended, i.e. to protect the wildlife unequivocally, by ceasing development on the Gwent Levels. Other groups such as the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, Gwent Wildlife Trust and rural communities also have a very important role in the protection of the Levels. Engagement with these groups at the earliest possible opportunity will achieve meaningful decisions and actions agreed with planners.</p> <p>We are therefore calling on Newport Local Authority to add its support to this campaign by using its revised Local Development Plan to stipulate its intention to resist all development in the Gwent Levels in order to enhance the ecological balance and protect all species that live in this area. This step will also assist in preserving the historical and archeological landscape.</p> <p><u>Our Reasons for this Campaign</u> Where it is anticipated there will be potential harm to the wildlife and their habitats, developers propose mitigation schemes to reduce this impact to a level they deem to be acceptable. Our own reviews of these mitigation schemes indicate that they are presented as 'fait accompli' solutions despite obvious and serious limitations in their effectiveness. It has become the norm to accept adverse impacts as long as there are some positive mitigation measures in place - even if there is no way of establishing or measuring the success of these measures or of measuring the overall state of biodiversity over time. Monitoring rare, if ever, takes place. Discussion with the</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Large scale developments e.g. 10-50MW solar farm is not decided by the LPA but is noted as a DNS and decide by the Planning Inspectorate. This process does include consultation with the Local Planning Authority who is tasked to engage at a pre-application stage, and produce a Local Impact Report (LIR) which is a written report detailing the likely impact of the proposed development on any part of the LPA's area, based on their existing body of local knowledge and robust evidence of local issues, and should list the impacts and their relative importance.</p> <p>It is not considered appropriate to provide a policy that results in the total ban of development on the Gwent Levels. The importance of the Gwent Levels and its many designations i.e. SSSI, Internally Important Historic Landscape, Special Landscape Area etc are all considerations when considering where to located development. For example, the importance of allowing rural forms of development is to be considered, so too the setting of the urban boundary where development outside this boundary would need to be appropriate in the countryside. The value of this landscape is well understood and the RLDP will consider any proposed development in line with this understanding.</p>

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	<p>inspector at a recent DNS hearing indicated that the landowner has responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the mitigation schemes. NRW and NCC simply don't have the resources to monitor planning conditions. Research by RSPB and others has shown that mitigation measures are rarely maintained after the first few years of a development. The end result is a continued decline in habitats and species - a result which we can no longer tolerate in the current biodiversity crisis.</p> <p><u>The Role and Limitations of Natural Resources Wales</u></p> <p>Our involvement in reviewing planning schemes intended for the Gwent Levels has also shown us that the input of Natural Resources Wales in planning matters has failed to halt habitat and biodiversity loss. The Gwent Levels are in steep decline and have been this way for many years. This is in part because of the limitations of NRW's role as statutory adviser. Their focus may be on the protection of wildlife but equally it is evident that they must try to help develop schemes that accommodate planned development. As long as developers can bring about a theoretical enhancement of habitats they will gain the approval of NRW. But evidence shows us that, as biodiversity is still in decline, despite the past 13 years of NRW's involvement in planning, this is not working.</p> <p><u>The Limitations of Designations, Legislation and Policy</u></p> <p>The current designations and policies, such as SSSI, SINCC, the Natural Habitats Regulations, RAMSAR, and Welsh Government Policy, including Future Wales, and Building Better Places, are aimed at protecting biodiversity. However, these protections are clearly being tested and proving themselves to be inadequate in terms of actual protection for species that are facing extinction in periods of up to less than 10 years, if current rates of decline continue. The statistics behind the protection of these species provide scientific evidence of the truth facing our society, and we are given stark warnings by experts from across a wide range of scientific fields. We need to see a seismic shift whereby enhancement of biodiversity is central to a development, not the box-ticking exercise which it has been until now. This is nowhere more urgent than in environmentally sensitive sites such as the Gwent Levels.</p> <p><u>Damaging Ecology Increases Risk to Human Health from Disease and Pandemics</u></p> <p>One vital fact here is the danger to human life and health that loss of biodiversity can cause. There is increasing evidence that reductions in biodiversity, i.e. loss of species through damage to the dedicated functioning of our ecosystems is known to lead to an increased risk of transmission of viruses from one species to another. Examples of this are the Ebola virus, SARS-2 and Covid 19, all of which have had a devastating impact on</p>	<p>Mitigation and Monitoring are an established part of the planning process. When it comes to impacts on ecology the process for planners to consider is for a development proposal to Avoid>Mitigate>Compensate. The Environment Act 2016 established the need for all proposals to provide a net enhancement and this is set out in national planning policy and is part of the current planning system. The effectiveness of the current policy framework and an investigation into the role of monitoring will be added to the policy review section of the review report. When the policy review is undertaken this shall be a part of its consideration and we would encourage you to engage in this process. Specific detail of the role of mitigation and monitoring for nature conservation and planning is set out in Welsh Government Technical Advice Note 5.</p> <p><i>AMENDMENT Page 43, GP5, Add: Review the process of monitoring in planning decisions.</i></p> <p>The response to question 3 raises an assertion that the Council is planning large scale development on the Levels. It is not clear what development this is referring to but any proposed designations within the next RLDP will be made publicly available for comment and their assessments will take into account the impact on statutory and non-statutory designations.</p> <p>The development of the Replacement LDP its vision, objectives and indeed policies will be</p>

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	<p>human mortality. Each incremental step that we take to damage ecological systems anywhere on the planet is endangering our lives and those of future generations.</p> <p>Our Conclusions We believe that local authorities have a vital role to play in the protection of important ecological systems within their boundaries. This is especially significant for Newport City Council in its responsibilities for the protection of the Gwent Levels.</p> <p>Our First Minister, Mr Mark Drakeford took the first step in assuring the protection of the Gwent Levels when he rejected the M4 Black Route because of the damage it would cause to the SSSIs and wildlife in that area. This decision has set a precedent which we wish to see extended to all those who have responsibilities to protect the whole of the Gwent Levels.</p> <p>The biodiversity crisis means that we are in danger of seeing multiple extinctions within the next ten years. The Gwent Levels are one of the most biodiverse habitats in the British Isles, sometimes referred to as Wales' own Amazon Rainforest for the concentration of species in one area. It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that we actively work towards reversing biodiversity loss immediately.</p> <p>We call on Newport City Council to place a moratorium on all development on the Gwent Levels unless the main objective of the development is to enhance biodiversity and increase natural habitats.</p> <p>Q1 Do you agree that the main issues that should be considered in the full LDP Review have been identified? The Friends of the Gwent Levels have serious concerns that the current designations and legislation are failing to protect the ecology and biodiversity during the planning applicant process. This needs to be addressed by Newport County Council and we would welcome the council's decision to prevent all future development on the Levels.</p> <p>Q2 Do you agree that the existing LDP vision, issues and objectives remain relevant for a revised Plan? The protection of biodiversity needs to be escalated as a key issue for Newport Council, to comply with the Welsh Government announcement that there is a biodiversity crisis, and use policy and legislation to protect the integrity of the Gwent Levels..</p>	<p>available for comment and you are encouraged to provide comment at those stages and continue to engage with the planning policy team throughout the development of the plan.</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	<p>Q3 Do you agree that the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy needs reviewing? We have concerns that the council is planning large scale development in the Dyffryn area of the Gwent Levels, an area designated as an SSSI and therefore containing habitats of rare and protected species. This should be reviewed, particularly in light of the need for reduced workspace as a result of Covid-19.</p> <p>Q4 Do you agree with the findings of the LDP policy review? we agree with the review findings that biodiversity and protection of species is paramount in any land development. However, this typically results in the use of mitigation schemes by developers to convince NRW to agree with the project. Mitigation schemes do not enhance biodiversity and the position is always net loss. Monitoring and maintenance of schemes is not delivered long term leading to ongoing degradation of the ecology of the area, therefore the only way forward is for the Council to prevent development in any site where there are designations to protect species in place.</p> <p>Q5 Do you agree that the LDP needs to be revised? If so, short form or full revision? We have read both versions of the LDP and believe there should be specific mention of the Gwent Levels and a pledge to prevent development in this highly sensitive area.</p> <p>Q6: Other Comments on the Draft Review Report We are calling on Newport County Council to add its support to the campaign being led by the Friends of the Gwent Levels by revising its Local Development Plan to stipulate its intention to resist all development in the Gwent Levels in order to enhance the ecological balance and protect all species that live in this area. This step will also assist in preserving the historical and archeological landscape.</p>	
Caerleon Civic Society 00034	<p>Q3 Do you agree that the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy needs reviewing? Should be amended to reflect the Capital City Region and Burns Report proposals, especially public transport infrastructure</p> <p>Q4 Do you agree with the findings of the LDP policy review? However, the review does not adequately cover the issue of increasing social segregation - does not sufficiently explain why Newport has the highest % of LSOA's in the most deprived 10% in Wales, and why many areas of Newport are getting worse. Is this the intended consequence of the current spatial strategy? This issue must be fully explored before adhering to a similar strategy in the future.</p>	<p>Q3: The review report noted the publication of these documents and they shall be taken into account as part of the LDP review.</p> <p>Q4: The WMID is a contextual indicator for the plan. There are clearly many factors that affect society and planning does have an impact. The last strategy was assessed on its impact to society and the monitoring of the plan does not signify a direct and detrimental impact.</p>

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	<p>Q6: Other Comments on the Draft Review Report We fully endorse the comments in para 7.2 on the need for joint working, especially in relation to the pressure for development along the Newport/Torfaen boarder</p>	<p>However this assessment on the social/economic/cultural and environmental impacts will be undertaken again to ensure that we are making the choices that have the most positive outcomes. Q6: Joint working is being undertaken and shall continue.</p>
Mr F Cork 00190	<p>Q3 Do you agree that the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy needs reviewing? Conservation of SSSI sites, protection of the reen system, all associated with Question 5 Q5 Do you agree that the LDP needs to be revised? If so, short form or full revision?: Considerable areas of farming land in Nash, Goldcliff & Whitson are being used for Bird Sanctuary 1000 acres, solar farm 400 acres enough is enough</p>	<p>Q3: The importance of the natural and human ecosystem is part of any planning consideration. The policy framework to protect important habitat and species will continue into the new plan and reflect updates to legislation e.g. environment act 2016. Q5: The use of the Gwent Levels for development for renewable energy does take into account the impact on farming land and the environment. Large scale developments e.g. 10-50MW solar farm is not decided by the LPA but is noted as a DNS and decide by the Planning Inspectorate.</p>
Mr Caston 00311	<p>Q3 Do you agree that the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy needs reviewing? Yes Q5 Do you agree that the LDP needs to be revised? If so, short form or full revision?: I question if all elements of the plan need full revision Q6: Other Comments on the Draft Review Report More attention needs to be paid to the regeneration of the City Centre, in terms of retail space/offices/housing</p>	<p>Q3: Noted Q5: This is a relevant point and was considered as part of the review report. There are only two options for a review and the need to consider the strategy means that the most appropriate choice is a full review. Q6: The review report is clear that there needs to be a focus on the regeneration of the city centre.</p>
Llanvaches Community Council 00020	<p>Q1 Do you agree that the main issues that should be considered in the full LDP Review have been identified? note that the review is comprehensive Q3 Do you agree that the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy needs reviewing? noted strategy around brownfield sites. Q4 Do you agree with the findings of the LDP policy review?</p>	<p>Q1: Noted and welcomed Q3: A focus on brownfield development is a requirement of national policy. However, the available and supply of brownfield sites is not yet quantified, the assessment work for the quantification of need will look at the availability of empty properties. There may be a</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	note that the findings are evidenced based having completed relevant stakeholder consultations and reassured that NCC will reach out to the communities for opinions.	requirement to identify greenfield sites, of which there were some in the current LDP. Q4: Noted and welcomed
Graig Community Council 00018	<p>Q1 Do you agree that the main issues that should be considered in the full LDP Review have been identified? The key elements at 5.2.1 of the Draft Review Report remain crucial to the plan.</p> <p>Q2 Do you agree that the existing LDP vision, issues and objectives remain relevant for a revised Plan? As above</p> <p>Q3 Do you agree that the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy needs reviewing? Council believes this needs to be looked at</p> <p>Q4 Do you agree with the findings of the LDP policy review? Council is content</p> <p>Q5 Do you agree that the LDP needs to be revised? If so, short form or full revision? Council questions if all elements of the plan need full revision</p> <p>Q6: Other Comments on the Draft Review Report Council believes more attention needs to be paid to the regeneration of the City Centre, whether retail, office space, or housing</p>	<p>Q1: Noted Q2: Noted Q3: Noted Q4: Noted Q5: This is a relevant point and was considered as part of the review report. There are only two options for a review and the need to consider the strategy means that the most appropriate choice is a full review. Q6: The review report is clear that there needs to be a focus on the regeneration of the city centre.</p>
Gwent Ornithological Society 00040	<p>Q1 Do you agree that the main issues that should be considered in the full LDP Review have been identified? These issues need to be converted into actions, particularly on climate change and biodiversity which seem peripheral in importance compared to for example house building.</p> <p>Q2 Do you agree that the existing LDP vision, issues and objectives remain relevant for a revised Plan? These issues need to be converted into actions, particularly on climate change and biodiversity which seem peripheral in importance compared to for example house building.</p> <p>Q3 Do you agree that the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy needs reviewing? Climate Change has become more serious and needs to be taken into account in every policy. All policies. Likewise the biodiversity emergency need to be taken into account in all policies and protected areas increased in number and scope need reviewing.</p> <p>Q4 Do you agree with the findings of the LDP policy review? These issues need to be converted into actions, particularly on climate change and biodiversity which seem peripheral in importance compared to for example house building.</p>	<p>Q1: The RLDP can only make impact on land allocation and set a policy framework for future applications to be considered against. The content of the plan will seek to do what it can in the realm of planning policy to make positive impacts on issues such as climate change and biodiversity value. There is much to consider within a plan and this leads to the need to take a balanced evidenced based approach to consider all forms of what creates sustainable development. The legislative framework and current policy approach which is not proposed to be weakened will continue to address environmental issues alongside other economic and social factors. Q2: See response to Q1.</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	<p>Q5 Do you agree that the LDP needs to be revised? If so, short form or full revision? Climate Change has become more serious and needs to be taken into account in every policy. All policies. Likewise the biodiversity emergency need to be taken into account in all policies and protected areas increased in number and scope need reviewing. in the light of the current science and central Government policy objectives. Liike the Climate Change Act and the (still in development) Environment Bill, all development should have a minimum carbon footprint incorporating maximal insulation, solar panels and ground source heat pumps, as well as a requirement to result in improved biodiversity."</p> <p>Q6: Other Comments on the Draft Review Report Climate Change has become more serious and needs to be taken into account in every policy. All policies. Likewise the biodiversity emergency need to be taken into account in all policies and protected areas increased in number and scope need reviewing.</p>	<p>Q3: The impact of climate change will be considered in the review of the spatial strategy and policy development.</p> <p>Q4:See response to Q3.</p> <p>Q5: The impact of climate change and biodiversity will be considered in the review of the spatial strategy and policy development. The need for carbon neutral housing and renewable energy sources to meet government targets is something the RLDP will have regard to. In addition, the environmental act has placed a duty on planning decision to ensure there is a net gain in biodiversity through the planning system and this has been set out in Future Wales: national plan 2040 a national development plan that has to be taken into account during a planning application assessment.</p> <p>Q6: See response to Q5</p>
A (Evans) 00325	<p>Q1 Do you agree that the main issues that should be considered in the full LDP Review have been identified? None</p> <p>Q2 Do you agree that the existing LDP vision, issues and objectives remain relevant for a revised Plan? None</p> <p>Q3 Do you agree that the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy needs reviewing? None</p> <p>Q4 Do you agree with the findings of the LDP policy review? None</p>	Q1 -4: Noted
Mr Deacon 00326	<p>Q1 Do you agree that the main issues that should be considered in the full LDP Review have been identified? They have been identified</p> <p>Q2 Do you agree that the existing LDP vision, issues and objectives remain relevant for a revised Plan? Yes</p> <p>Q3 Do you agree that the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy needs reviewing?</p>	<p>Q1: Noted</p> <p>Q2: Noted</p> <p>Q3: Noted</p> <p>Q4: Noted</p> <p>Q5: The current strategy set out in the adopted LDP has been successful and there is a need to allocate new sites to meet demand e.g. for</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	<p>To maintain its relevance</p> <p>Q4 Do you agree with the findings of the LDP policy review? N/A</p> <p>Q5 Do you agree that the LDP needs to be revised? If so, short form or full revision? It is still relevant</p>	<p>housing. In addition, the plan is subject to a statutory 4 year review.</p>
<p>Mr Binns 00327</p>	<p>Q1 Do you agree that the main issues that should be considered in the full LDP Review have been identified? Youth sports playing areas football rugby pitches. Public water access for marine craft and local lifeboat. newport, the only port without access to the water for its residents. get boats on the usk and build a waterfront vibe for newport.</p> <p>Q2 Do you agree that the existing LDP vision, issues and objectives remain relevant for a revised Plan? needs upgrading to include youth sports playing areas football rugby pitches. Public water access for marine craft and local lifeboat. newport, the only port without access to the water for its residents. get boats on the usk and build a waterfront vibe for newport.</p> <p>Q3 Do you agree that the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy needs reviewing? yes needs to move with the times</p> <p>Q4 Do you agree with the findings of the LDP policy review? should say llanwern is still there and going strong. not the old site</p> <p>Q5 Do you agree that the LDP needs to be revised? If so, short form or full revision? future plans. youth sports playing areas football rugby pitches. Public water access for marine craft and local lifeboat. newport, the only port without access to the water for its residents. get boats on the usk and build a waterfront vibe for newport.</p>	<p>Q1: The importance of play space is noted in the report. The importance of the river and the benefits it has is also noted. Water Based recreation and Riverfront Access are covered in policies CF3&4 which are considered to be functioning efficiently. A note on the need to consider if there is anything further these polices can consider and indeed the importance of these policies will be noted in the policy review section of the Review Report. We would encourage projects to enable this to be provided at the Call for Candidate Sites in June this year.</p> <p>AMENDMENT</p> <p>Q2: Noted, the importance of the river is contained within the 'unique natural environment' element of the current LDP vision. However, the vision will need to be reviewed and you are encouraged to provide comment at that stage.</p> <p>Q3: Noted</p> <p>Q4: This comment is understood to relate to the working section of the Llanwern Steelworks. The continuation and future needs of employment sites such as the Steelworks will be considered by the RLDP in consultation with the relevant land/business owners.</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
		<p>Q5: The importance of sport and recreation is noted in the report. In addition, the important role of the river and the opportunities related to that are understood by the Council; Policies CF3&4 of the current LDP reflects that focus. A review of the LDP will certainly look at the role of the river including its recreational role, however the use of the space is not a land use planning consideration but infrastructure associated with that is.</p>
<p>Mr Stockham 00328</p>	<p>Q1 Do you agree that the main issues that should be considered in the full LDP Review have been identified? No legal protection for SSSI sites and heritage landscapes</p> <p>Q2 Do you agree that the existing LDP vision, issues and objectives remain relevant for a revised Plan? Excepting that there is no legal protection for SSSI sites prohibiting development</p> <p>Q3 Do you agree that the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy needs reviewing? All strategies require periodic review</p> <p>Q4 Do you agree with the findings of the LDP policy review? Legal protection for SSSI sites and heritage landscapes is omitted</p> <p>Q5 Do you agree that the LDP needs to be revised? If so, short form or full revision? Conflicts should be reduced clearing up the need for interpretation.</p> <p>Q6: Other Comments on the Draft Review Report Prohibit development on SSSI sites</p>	<p>Q1: The legal protection for environmental designation and heritage is reflected in the planning policy framework in Wales. The review report notes this legislation in section 3.</p> <p>Q2: The legal protection for national designation such as SSSI does not preclude development. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by section 75 of, and Schedule 9 to, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, imposes an important new duty on public bodies where they are exercising statutory functions which are likely to affect the special features of SSSIs. local planning authorities, to apply strict tests when carrying out functions within or affecting SSSIs, to ensure that they avoid, or at least minimise, adverse effects.</p> <p>Q3: Noted</p> <p>Q4: The review report notes this legislation in section 3.</p> <p>Q5: It is not clear what conflicts exist but we welcome your engagement and feedback on</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
		<p>the development of such topics at the relevant stage of the RLDP process.</p> <p>Q6: See previous responses.</p>
<p>Friends of Newport Ship 00068</p>	<p>Q1 Do you agree that the main issues that should be considered in the full LDP Review have been identified? N/A</p> <p>Q2 Do you agree that the existing LDP vision, issues and objectives remain relevant for a revised Plan?: The Friends of the Newport Ship supports the Local Well-Being Plan for Newport (2018), itself derived from Newport’s response to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. A representative of the Friends of the Newport Ship contributed to the development of the Local Well-being Plan and we continue to emphasise that investing in a Ship Centre in which the medieval ship can be re-constructed, and displayed together with other local ships and relevant artefacts is the way forward for Newport (p.10 Section 3.3.1). In particular, the creation of a Newport Ship Centre would make a significant contribution to Objective 1 of the Local Well-Being Plan (p. 16): “People feel good about living, working, visiting, and investing in Newport” which translates into the “Newport Offer” (p. 18). There is a especially strong synergy between the development of the Newport Ship Centre and Priority 10 of this “offer”, namely: “Participation in arts, heritage and history is important for people’s well-being” We support this priority and and note the intention to revise the Well-Being Plan (for 2023 publication) in collaboration with the revision process for the LDP. This is clearly essential, so that the two processes reflect each others mission and goals.(p.11 Section 3.34).</p> <p>Q3 Do you agree that the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy needs reviewing? N/A</p> <p>Q4 Do you agree with the findings of the LDP policy review? Heritage We are, of course, aware of the exciting developments for a Newport Transport Bridge Visitor Centre, which will certainly enhance the attraction of Newport as a place to visit. We are already collaborating with Newport’s other heritage organisations and initiatives such as “Over the Bridge”, to create a heritage package to include the magnificent and internationally recognised Newport Medieval Ship. This would prove a huge boost to the recognition of Newport as a major tourist destination. A critical part of such a strategy would be a well-staffed Tourist Information Centre. We believe that the heritage attractions of Newport, and their benefit for well-being and</p>	<p>Q1: N/A</p> <p>Q2: Noted, we welcome the support for the proposed joint approach in the development of both the well-being and local development plan.</p> <p>Q3: N/A</p> <p>Q4: Your reflection of the effectiveness of heritage policies is noted. We would welcome your engagement and feedback on the development of such topics at the relevant stage of the RLDP process. We shall update the policy review section to note the need to reflect a link with the Newport Offer.</p> <p>AMENDMENT:</p> <p>Q5: Noted</p> <p>Q6: The support noted for the review of the policy is welcomed. We would welcome your engagement and feedback on the development of such topics at the relevant stage of the RLDP process.</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	<p>economic growth, have been undersold in the past. We recommend that there should be revised Heritage Policy (p. 27 section 5.3.13) and do not agree that these are currently “functioning effectively”. In particular, under Archaeology (CE 6, p. 47) there should be explicit guidance on the preservation of artefacts as well as sites.</p> <p>Q5 Do you agree that the LDP needs to be revised? If so, short form or full revision? See other comments</p> <p>Q6: Other Comments on the Draft Review Report</p> <p>Economic growth (LDP objective 3) The Review Report states that “tourism is vital to Newport’s economy” (p. 13) and recognises weaknesses in the strategies to address Newport as a tourist destination. This is reflected in the intention to revise the Tourism Policy (CF8, p. 46), including a much-needed re-think of the definition of tourism. The Friends of the Newport Ship supports this ambition, and recommends that this tourism policy should be considered as a Strategic Policy (SP) rather than a Community Policy. We believe that the contribution of the tourism sector to the economic growth of Newport has been underestimated. Currently, it is quoted as providing 5% of the workforce (p. 13) but it could be significantly more than this.</p>	
<p>Home Builders Federation 00095</p>	<p>Para. 3.48 The section on Population and Household Projections should be moved from the end of the Local Context section and given more status.</p> <p>Para 3.49 The impact of Covid-19 should be considered in the short and long term, the current wording states that the impact is not clear, but the short-term impact is arguably now known after nearly a year of the pandemic, it’s the longer-term impact which is unclear and what the return to ‘the new normal’ will, look like is more relevant to a plan for the future.</p> <p>Para. 4.13 The reason for slower delivery on the two strategic sites should be briefly explained at this point.</p> <p>Para. 4.14 Although the final; sentence does not state it, earlier text suggests that there may be a need to find green field sites to meet the housing need. This should be stated at this point. [As at para. 5.3.19]</p> <p>Para. 4.16 Suggest adding the following words [in red] ‘Monitoring has illustrated that further research on this matter is required because in practice, the level of contributions does not always meet that required by policy.’</p>	<p>Agree to move paragraph to Page 10 after sub heading Local Context.</p> <p>AMENDMENT: Move paragraph 3.48 to page 10 under Local Context</p> <p>Amend paragraph 3.49 as suggested.</p> <p>AMENDMENT: First sentence of Paragraph 3.49 to read: The Covid-19 health emergency has posed significant and unprecedented challenge and the long-term impact on businesses and societal norms is still not clear.</p> <p>Agree to provide signpost to AMR objectives which set out the reasons for delay.</p> <p>AMENDMENT: Paragraph 4.13 following second sentence add text: The analysis of the delay is set out in the Annual Monitoring Reports for the LDP in Monitoring Objectives MT4OB4&5.</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	<p>Para. 5.2.4 The under delivery of these site should be briefly explained [as comment on para. 4.13].</p> <p>Para. 5.2.8 The point should be made that the NDF has further elevated Newport's position and role over and above where it was when the LDP was written.</p> <p>Para.5.3.16 Suggest adding wording that the trajectory will be developed with key stakeholders including the development industry.</p> <p>Para 5.3.22 This should include wording relating to the Councils position on CIL as well.</p> <p>Appendix 2 SP6 Green Belt – should add a note regarding the position of the NDF and SDP regarding green belt.</p>	<p>It is considered that the first sentence of para 4.14 is clear that the strategy may need to consider greenfield sites.</p> <p>Agree the proposed change to para 4.16. AMENDMENT: Paragraph 4.16 to be amended so second sentence reads: Monitoring has illustrated that further research on this matter is required because in practice, the level of contributions does not always meet that required by policy.'</p> <p>Agree to provide signpost to AMR objectives which set out the reasons for delay. AMENDMENT: Paragraph 5.2.4 following third sentence add text: The analysis of the delay is set out in the Annual Monitoring Reports for the LDP in Monitoring Objectives MT4OB4&5.</p> <p>It is considered that the Review Report is clear on the national status it has gained from the adoption of Future Wales.</p> <p>Agree to amend paragraph to reflect the joint approach. AMENDMENT: update paragraph 5.3.16 second sentence to read: The RLDP will need to include a housing trajectory, developed with key stakeholders including the development industry, taking into account</p> <p>The Council has no intention of introducing a CIL but if this does become a consideration this will be reflected in the RLDP process.</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
		It is not considered necessary to add a note here because the review report notes the need to reflect Future Wales in the RLDP and this shall be covered.

Consultation Form Responses:

12 of the total responses used the form to respond and each of the responses to those questions is set out in the table below for ease of reference.

Question	Yes	No	?					
Q1 Do you agree that the main issues that should be considered in the full LDP Review have been identified?	8	4	0					
Q2 Do you agree that the existing LDP vision, issues and objectives remain relevant for a revised Plan?	9	3	0					
Q3 Do you agree that the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy needs reviewing?	11	1	0					
Q4 Do you agree with the findings of the LDP policy review?	8	3	1					
Q5 Do you agree that the LDP needs to be revised? If so, short form or full revision?	9	3	0					
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Full</th> <th>Yes</th> <th>Short Form</th> <th>Both</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Full	Yes	Short Form	Both	2
Full	Yes	Short Form	Both					
2	1	0	6					

APPENDIX B- CONSULTATION COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSES – DELIVERY AGREEMENT

Draft Delivery Agreement Consultation January -March 2021 Comments Received and recommended Council Responses

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust - 00063	<p>The Draft Delivery Document is helpful and the chart for key stages allow us to be aware of upcoming consultations, and areas where we can contribute to the shape of the plan regarding the historic environment. The continuation of provision for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment is welcomed.</p> <p>However, the SPG for Archaeology and Archaeologically Sensitive Areas which is noted, requires updating and amending due to changes in legislation, policy, advice and best practice guidance, as well as to the information in the Historic Environment Record which relates to the Archaeologically Sensitive Areas. We recommend that to comply with professional standards the SPG is updated and we are in a position to update and amend this, should you so require.</p>	<p>Support is noted and we are looking forward to working with GGAT through the RLDP process.</p> <p>Each SPG will be revised as part of our LDP works and we welcome the offer of assisting with updating the Archaeologically Sensitive Areas SPG.</p>
Llanvaches Community Council - 00020	<p>Q1: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Timetable for the Replacement Local Development Plan? No</p> <p>Q2: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Community Involvement Scheme for the Replacement Local Development Plan? No</p> <p>Q3: Do you know of any other groups organisations that should be included in Appendix A Consultation Bodies No</p> <p>Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Draft Delivery Agreement? No</p>	Q1-4: Noted

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
A (Evans) 00325	<p>Q1: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Timetable for the Replacement Local Development Plan? No None</p> <p>Q2: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Community Involvement Scheme for the Replacement Local Development Plan? No None</p> <p>Q3: Do you know of any other groups/organisations that should be included in Appendix A Consultation Bodies? No None</p> <p>Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Draft Delivery Agreement? No</p>	Q1-4: Noted
Mr Deacon 00326	<p>Q1: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Timetable for the Replacement Local Development Plan? No N/A</p> <p>Q2: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Community Involvement Scheme for the Replacement Local Development Plan? No N/A</p> <p>Q3: Do you know of any other groups/organisations that should be included in Appendix A Consultation Bodies? No N/A</p> <p>Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Draft Delivery Agreement? Yes Newport is improving and the environment must be kept at the forefront of any new developments made</p>	<p>Q1-3: Noted</p> <p>Q4: Noted, these comments are more relevant to the Draft Review Report, improving the environment is a key consideration.</p>
Mr Binns 00327	<p>Q1: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Timetable for the Replacement Local Development Plan? No ok</p> <p>Q2: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Community Involvement Scheme for the Replacement Local Development Plan? Yes slipway for the sara lifeboat and lifeboat house so they dont have to tow a boat 8 miles to launch it. also public slipway access which will encourage water based activities and increase draw to the river front.</p>	<p>Q1: Noted</p> <p>Q2: Noted, the SARA Lifeboat & Rescue Station to be added to the Other Consultees list in Appendix A 1.3. They are welcome to engage with the Planning Policy Team over their future needs.</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	<p>Q3: Do you know of any other groups/organisations that should be included in Appendix A Consultation Bodies? Yes cant see the list but SARA the newport lifeboat should be included</p> <p>Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Draft Delivery Agreement? No</p>	<p>Q3: Thank you for the suggestion, SARA Lifeboat & Rescue Station to be added to the Other Consultees list in Appendix A 1.3.</p> <p>AMENDMENT: SARA Lifeboat & Rescue Station to be added to the Other Consultees list in Appendix A 1.3</p> <p>Q4: Noted</p>
Graig Community Council - 00018	<p>Q1: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Timetable for the Replacement Local Development Plan? No Council is content with the timetable</p> <p>Q2: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Community Involvement Scheme for the Replacement Local Development Plan? Yes Council is concerned how this can be achieved considering the current Covid restrictions and how long they may Last</p> <p>Q3: Do you know of any other groups/organisations that should be included in Appendix A Consultation Bodies? No Council is not aware of any</p> <p>Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Draft Delivery Agreement? No</p>	<p>Q1-2: Noted</p> <p>Q3: All engagement and consultation stages of the RLDP will have regard to any local down or restrictions in place. Any appropriate adjustments including re- scheduling of consultation will be considered at each stage of the plan preparation.</p> <p>Q4-5: Noted</p>
Gwent Ornithological Society - 00040	<p>Q1: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Timetable for the Replacement Local Development Plan? No Happy with timetable</p> <p>Q2: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Community Involvement Scheme for the Replacement Local Development Plan? No happy with scheme</p> <p>Q3: Do you know of any other groups/organisations that should be included in Appendix A Consultation Bodies? No no</p> <p>Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Draft Delivery Agreement? No</p>	<p>Q1-4: Noted</p>
Friends Of Newport Ship - 00068	<p>Q1: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Timetable for the Replacement Local Development Plan? Yes The Friends of the Newport Ship support the proposal to ensure incorporation of the well-being goals, with a clear indication of a link</p>	<p>Q1: As stated in Paragraph 3.1 of the DA Welsh Government have set an expectation that a replacement LDP should not take longer than 3.5</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	<p>with the priorities of the "Newport Offer" (p. 4, section 2.7 & p. 7, section 2.15) The timetable (p. 9) is rightly to be regarded as subject to various risks (p.29), but 3.5 years should be the absolute maximum, given other external changes that might take place during that time, such as new legislation.</p> <p>Q2: Do you have any comments concerning the draft Community Involvement Scheme for the Replacement Local Development Plan? Yes The Friends of the Newport Ship supports the extensive consultation that is planned in order to build community consensus, and especially the extra measures to be used for the "Hard to reach Groups" (p. 15). We recommend the addition of the category "local charities", to the list of consultees given (p. 14, section 4.5). We have noted, however, that Friends of the Newport Ship appears in the more detailed list in Appendix A (p.25).</p> <p>Q3: Do you know of any other groups/organisations that should be included in Appendix A Consultation Bodies? No</p> <p>Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Draft Delivery Agreement? Yes Candidate sites We have not been able to access the current criteria for candidate sites, but recommend that they should specifically exclude, under eligibility for a candidate site, any site which is archaeologically significant as demonstrated by a Historic Environment Record (designated by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust) and/or scheduled via CADW and/or recorded by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. There are more than 500 such sites in Newport, each one of great value to the city's historic heritage.</p>	<p>years, plus one three-month slippage period. While it would be possible to reduce this timeline by only allowing the statutory 6 week consultation period rather than the 8 weeks as proposed, it is considered this would be at the detriment of the engagement process. As stated in Paragraph 3.1 <i>"Every effort will be made to adhere to this timetable. Stages 5-8 are noted as indicative because these stages are dependent on various factors including the number of representations received during Deposit Plan consultation or the number of examination hearing sessions required. The Council has less control over these factors."</i></p> <p>Q2: Agree, the term local charities, in paragraph 4.5 has been collectively grouped with local organisations. To provide greater clarity the inclusion of charities is proposed to be included. AMENDMENT: Paragraph 4.5 amended to read: Extensive engagement will be undertaken at each key stage of the RLPD process. Efforts will be made to engage with communities, businesses, local organisations and charities, landowners, and developers to ensure a broad range of feedback. We shall engage with a variety of interest groups including community councils, the citizens panel, chambers of commerce, planning agents, prospective developers and groups including local wildlife trusts, community groups and young people.</p> <p>Q3: Noted</p> <p>Q4: NCC is not currently at the Candidate site stage. The Friends Of Newport Ships comments are noted</p>

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
		and will be taken on-board during the preparation and going forward during the Candidate site stage
Caerleon Civic Society - 00034	<p>Q3: Do you know of any other groups/organisations that should be included in Appendix A - Consultation Bodies? GREEN CAERLEON - CONTACTABLE VIA THEIR FB PAGE CELF CAERLEON ARTS through their participation in the Caerleon Tourism Development Forum</p> <p>Q4: Do you have any other comments on the Draft Delivery Agreement TRANSPARENCY SEEMS TO BE THE KEY IF TORFAEN'S RECENT EXPERIENCE IS ANYTHING TO GO BY – RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHY SITES ARE PICKED OR DROPPED AT THE CANDIDATE SITES STAGE AND WHAT COMBINATION OF CRITERIA HAVE BEEN USED. INDEPENDENT EVALUATION WORK SEEMS TO BE USEFUL.</p>	<p>Q3: Thank you for the suggestion, Green Caerleon and Celf Caerleon Arts to be added to the Other Consultees list in DA Appendix A 1.3.</p> <p>AMENDMENT: Green Caerleon and Celf Caerleon Arts to be added to the Other Consultees list in Appendix C 1.3</p> <p>Q4: Caerleon Civic Society's comments are noted and the Council will undertake each stage of the plan in line with Government Guidance including the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3).</p>
The Coal Authority - 00324	We hold no records of past coal mining legacy features at surface or shallow depth in the Newport City Council area. On this basis we have no specific comments to make in respect of the Local Development Plan consultation.	Noted We look forward to working with The Coal Authority through the RLDP process.
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water - 00013	We have no specific comments to make but look forward to engaging with you through the Replacement LDP process.	We look forward to working with DCWW through the RLDP process.
Friends Of Gwent Levels - 00322	<p>Q3: Consultation Bodies Other groups such as the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, Gwent Wildlife Trust and rural communities also have a very important role in the protection of the Levels. Engagement with these groups at the earliest possible opportunity will achieve meaningful decisions and actions agreed with planners.</p>	Q3: Both the Protection of Rural Wales, Gwent Wildlife Trust along with Community Councils have already been included in DA Appendix A – A 1.2a. Voluntary Bodies and will be consulted through the process.
Campaign For Real Ale (Gwent) - 00078	ii) It would have been nice to have captions on the photographs, explaining what they are. Some are obvious, but others are not.	Agreed, captions will be included, and the naming error shall be rectified in the final version of the Delivery Agreement and Review Report.

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Council Response
	iii) It is the Office FOR National Statistics, not 'OF'! You'd think that in Newport, of all places, the name would be correct!!	AMENDMENT: Add captions to images within the documents. Update Glossary entry for ONS in DA & RR. Update ONS title in Paragraph 3.48.
Natural Resources Wales - 00004	We have reviewed your Review Report and Delivery Agreement and have no comments to make on the reports in terms of our role as a statutory planning advisor.	Noted, we look forward to working with NRW through the RLDP process.
Mineral Products Association – 00060	With respect to the above consultation, it is worth noting that for a number of days the consultation documents were not accessible due to the Council's website not being available. The Council may wish to extend the period of consultation to take this in to consideration. We were however, grateful the Council managed to forward hard copies for our perusal.	We apologies for any technical difficulties. The consultation period was two weeks longer than that specified as best practice, so it was not considered necessary to extend the consultation period this time. It is also noted that there were no requests for an extension of time to supply comments were received by the Council.

Consultation Form Responses:

9 of the total 15 responses used the form to respond and each of the responses to those questions is set out in the table below for ease of reference.

Question	Yes	No	No Response	Summary
Q1 Do you have any comments concerning the draft Timetable for the Replacement Local Development Plan?	6	2	1	Comments received were in support of the proposed timetable
Q2 Do you have any comments concerning the draft Community Involvement Scheme for the Replacement Local Development Plan?	3	5	1	Questioned the Impact on engagement with Covid-19, supports the approach, highlighted missing stakeholder
Q3 Do you know of any other groups/organisations that should be included in Appendix A – Consultation Bodies?	3	4	0	Highlighted 3 missing stakeholder organisations
Q4 Do you have any other comments on the Draft Delivery Agreement	3	5	1	Highlighted importance of environment when considering development, seeking candidate site criteria and enforced the

				need for transparency of decisions making through the RLDP process.
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APPENDIX C – RR & DA CONSULTEE LIST

Consultation on the Draft Deliver Agreement and Review Report was carried out with the following:

- 31 Specific Consultation Bodies,
- 66 General Consultation Bodies,
- 55 Other Consultees,
- 346 Members of the Public / Organisations / Companies that requested to be to be contacted at the key stage of the RLDP process before 7th January 2021.

Specific consultation bodies

- 1 Welsh Government (Planning Division will co-ordinate consultations)
- 2 Natural Resources Wales
- 3 Cadw
- 4 Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
- 5 Office of Secretary of State for Wales
- 6 Telecommunication Operators – EE, Vodafone and 02, BT Virgin Media, Mobile Operators Association
- 7 Aneurin Bevan Health Board
- 8 Gas and Electricity Licensees – National Grid, Wales & West Utilities, Western Power Distribution, British Gas and SSE
- 9 Sewerage and Water undertakers – Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water
- 10 Department for Transport (including Secretary of State for functions previously exercised by the Strategic Rail Authority)
- 11 UK Government Departments – Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- 12 Home Office
- 13 Ministry of Defence

Neighbouring Local Authorities:

- 14 Caerphilly County Borough Council
- 15 Cardiff City Council
- 16 Monmouthshire County Council
- 17 Torfaen County Borough Council

Community Councils:

- 18 Bishton Community Council
- 19 Coedkernew Community Council
- 20 Goldcliff Community Council
- 21 Graig Community Council
- 22 Langstone Community Council
- 23 Llanvaches Community Council
- 24 Llanwern Community Council
- 25 Marshfield Community Council
- 26 Michaelston-y-fedw Community Council
- 27 Nash Community Council
- 28 Penhow Community Council
- 29 Redwick Community Council
- 30 Rogerstone Community Council
- 31 Wentlooge Community Council

General Consultation Bodies:

- 1 Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisation
- 2 Caerleon Civic Society
- 3 Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, Newport and Valleys Branch
- 4 Citizens Advice Bureau Newport City Council
- 5 Duffryn Community Link
- 6 Echo Stow Hill

7	Friends of the Earth Cymru	41	University of South Wales
8	Gwent Ornithological Society	42	Farmers Union Wales
9	Gwent Wildlife Trust	43	Federation of Master Builders
10	Fields in Trust	44	Home Builders Federation
11	Newport Civic Society	45	Local Transport Operators
12	Pentrepoeth Action Group	46	South and Mid Wales Chamber of Commerce
13	Planning Aid Wales	47	Mineral Products Association
14	Severn Estuary Partnership	48	Confederation of British Industry (Wales)
15	Sustrans	49	Welsh ICE
16	The Ramblers' Association	50	Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust
17	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	51	Arts Council of Wales
18	South East Wales Racial Equality Council	52	National Museum of Wales
19	Gypsies and Travellers Wales	53	Newport Museum
20	Travelling Ahead	54	Friends of Newport Ship
21	The Gypsy Council	55	National Trust
22	The National Federation Of Gypsy Liaison Groups	56	National Roman Legion Museum
23	The Showmen's Guild Of Great Britain	57	Council For British Archaeology
24	Black Environment Network	58	Ancient Monument Society
25	Churches in Newport	59	Age Cymru
26	Disability Wales	60	Newport Carers Forum
27	Newport Access Group	61	Newport Youth Council
28	Guide Dogs for the Blind Organisation	62	Yr Urdd
29	Mind Cymru	63	Umbrella Cymru
30	Sight Cymru	64	Stonewall Cymru
31	Royal National Institute for Deaf People	65	Welsh Language Forum
32	Wales Council for Deaf People	66	Menter Iaith Caesnewydd
33	Wales Council for the Blind		
34	Business Wales		Other Consultees
35	South East Wales Energy Agency	1	British Horse Society
36	Business in the community	2	Bus Users Cymru
37	Pobl	3	British Geological Survey
38	Linc Cymru	4	Campaign for Real Ale
39	Newport City Homes	5	Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
40	Coleg Gwent	6	Chartered Institute of Housing (Cymru)

7	Chartered Management Institute (Cymru)	39	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
8	Children's Commissioner for Wales	40	South Wales Trunk Road Agency
9	Coed Cymru	41	South Gwent Ramblers Association
10	Community Transport Association	42	Sports Wales
11	Confederation of Passenger transport	43	Stagecoach
12	Crisis	44	Sustrans Cymru
13	Crown Estate	45	The Energy Savings Trust
14	Design Commission for Wales	46	The National Trust
15	District Valuer Services	47	The National Library of Wales
16	Fire and Rescue Service	48	The Older Peoples Commissioner for Wales
17	Logistics UK's	49	The Theatres Trust
18	Llamau	50	The Woodland Trust
19	Future Generations Commissioner for Wales	51	Transport for Wales
20	Gwent Constabulary	52	Visit Wales (Welsh Tourist Board)
21	Heritage Amenity Societies, including The Victorian Society, The Georgian Group, Twentieth Century Social, CBA, Historic Gardens Trust.	53	Wales Council for Voluntary Action
22	Institute of Civil Engineers	54	Welsh Language Commission
23	National Farmers Union	55	WWF Cymru
24	Newport's Citizen Panel		
25	Newport Harbour Commissioners		
26	Newport Housing Trust		
27	One Voice Wales		
28	Open Spaces Society		
29	Planning Inspectorate		
30	Public Health Wales		
31	Rail Freight Group		
32	Ramblers Cymru		
33	Road Haulage Association Ltd		
34	Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors		
35	Royal Mail		
36	Royal Town Planning Institute Cymru		
37	RSPB Cymru		
38	Shelter Cymru		

Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 7 April 2021

Subject Anti fraud, bribery and corruption policy statement

Purpose To receive, consider and formally approve the revised Anti fraud, bribery and corruption policy statement following submission to the Audit Committee.

Author Chief Internal Auditor

Ward General

Summary It is important for the Council to have an up to date and relevant Anti fraud, bribery and corruption policy statement in order to deter such activity within the organisation and with our partner organisations, to deal with any allegations appropriately and to strengthen overall governance arrangements. This is the first revision of this statement for a number of years.

The Council's Audit Committee agreed to note and endorse the Anti-fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy Statement and recommend to be formally approved by Cabinet.

Proposal The report be approved by Cabinet following submission to, and comments from, the Council's Audit Committee.

Action by Cabinet

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Financial Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of People and Business Change
- Audit Committee (January 2018)

Signed

Background

1. In line with good practice the Council should have an approved Anti fraud, bribery and corruption policy statement in place which should be reviewed and updated periodically. This is the first review for a number of years and was submitted to Audit Committee in January 2018, Appendix A. The revised policy statement is shown at Appendix B. Comments from Audit Committee and subsequent responses are shown at Appendix C.
2. Newport City Council is one of the largest organisations in the City. It controls millions of pounds of public money and takes seriously the high expectations of the public and the degree of public scrutiny to which the Council's affairs are subject.
3. Good corporate governance requires that the Authority must demonstrate clearly that it is firmly committed to dealing with fraud and corruption and will deal equally with perpetrators from inside (Members and officers) and outside the Council. In addition there will be no distinction made in investigation and action between cases that generate financial benefits and those that do not. The intention is to encourage a culture of deterring fraud and corruption whilst sending a very clear message that if such activity is identified it will be dealt with firmly, consistently and appropriately.
4. This policy statement embodies a series of measures designed to frustrate any attempted fraudulent or corrupt act and the steps to be taken if such action occurs, provides key contacts to report suspected fraud or corruption to along with the responsibilities of key officers, Members and employees. It incorporates The Fraud Act 2006 which defines fraud through three key offences, provides a definition of corruption and also outlines The Bribery Act 2010 where there are four key offences.
5. The maximum sentence is 10 years imprisonment when found guilty of Fraud and or Bribery, with the potential of an unlimited fine when found guilty of Bribery.

Financial Summary

There are no financial issues related to 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?
Fraud & Corruption could occur	M	M	<p>Revised and updated Anti fraud, bribery and corruption policy to be formally approved by Cabinet.</p> <p>Raise awareness of this policy statement on the Council's intranet and public website.</p>	<p>Members</p> <p>Employees</p> <p>Head of Finance</p> <p>Chief Internal Auditor</p> <p>Operational Managers</p>

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Giving management assurance on systems in operation gives them confidence that there is sound financial management in place, that more effective services can be provided and the risk of theft, fraud and corruption is minimised. Looking after the public pound and delivering improved service provision makes our City a better place to live for all our citizens.

- To make our city a better place to live for all our citizens
- To be good at what we do
- To work hard to provide what our citizens tell us they need

Options Available

This is a review and update of a policy statement report therefore there are no specific alternative options; Cabinet is requested to formally approve this Anti fraud, bribery and corruption policy statement. The Internal Audit team aims to provide assurance around the adequacy of the Council's internal control environment to ensure the public pound is spent wisely and appropriately and that fraud, theft and corruption is minimised.

Preferred Option and Why

N/A

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

I can confirm that I have been consulted and have no additional comments. The policy makes it clear that anti-fraud and bribery is an organisational wide issue and all staff and Members have a role to play in the prevention, detection and investigation of these, as appropriate

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no legal implications.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

There are no HR issues arising directly from this report. Clearly the work of the audit team is critical in giving assurance that the work of the Council is being undertaken within the set policies and procedures.

Comments of Audit Committee (January 2018)

This Policy Statement was discussed at Audit Committee and responses were provided to the questions raised. Audit Committee did not require the Statement to be amended or updated further. The discussions included the following:

- Does the Council track levels of fraud and margins against revenue and report savings against fraud?

The Chief Internal Auditor replied that records are kept of fraud issues but it is often difficult to place a monetary value on them.

- Does the Council have a Fraud Section?

With the Council Tax Reduction Scheme the investigator sits in City services. In addition, Internal Audit co-ordinate National Fraud investigations to ensure they are checked and verified. Council tax fraud is referred to the Department of Work and Pensions.

- What about internal fraud?

This is dealt with Internal Audit through whistleblowing etc. The Whistleblowing Document will outline a list of people to report to, ie Line Manager, Head of Service, Chief Officer. If it is believed the Line Manager is involved that individual can be skipped or the report could go to an alternative Head of Service.

- Does the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy Statement apply to Newport NORSE and Newport LIVE?

No, just Newport City Council. Newport NORSE and Newport LIVE have to have their own policies and procedures but can adopt the Council's policies.

Audit Committee agreed:

To note and endorse the Anti-fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy Statement and recommend to be formally approved by Cabinet.

Local issues

N/A

Scrutiny Committees

Not appropriate.

Equalities Impact Assessment

The Revised Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Statement has been considered in line with the Council's Equality and Welsh Language Duties, and there are no impacts of note. The Statement supports the Council to continue to operate in a fair and transparent manner. Policies/statements will be published bilingually on the Council's website.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

Not/A

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

In compiling this report the principles of this Act have been considered; ***Long Term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration, Involvement***. The intention is for this Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Statement to be in place for the long term but will be reviewed regularly and in line with further changes in legislation and best practice. Publication of this Statement will raise awareness across all of the services operated within Newport City Council of the need to minimise any fraud, bribery or corruption and how to report it if suspected. We will work with other public bodies where appropriate to promote good practice and obtain any necessary assurance on our own arrangements.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

The work undertaken by Internal Audit should minimise potential fraud, corruption, theft or misappropriation within the Council. Allegations of potential criminal activity will be investigated and reported to the police where appropriate

Consultation

N/A

Background Papers

Anti fraud, bribery and corruption policy statement (Appendix A)



ANTI FRAUD, BRIBERY & CORRUPTION STRATEGY POLICY STATEMENT

Version: Audit Committee January 2018
Date: 31st December 2017
Author: Andrew Wathan, Chief Internal Auditor

1. Introduction

1.1 Good Corporate Governance requires that the Authority must demonstrate clearly that it is firmly committed to dealing with fraud and corruption and will deal equally with perpetrators from inside (Members and employees) and outside the Council. In addition there will be no distinction made in investigation and action between cases that generate financial benefits and those that do not. This policy statement, however, will not compromise the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and Objectives, the requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998 or the Council's Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) Policy.

1.2 This policy statement embodies a series of measures designed to frustrate any attempted fraudulent or corrupt act and the steps to be taken if such action occurs. For ease of understanding it is separated into five areas as below:-

Culture	Section 3
Prevention	Section 4
Deterrence	Section 5
Detection and Investigation	Section 6
Training	Section 7

1.3 The Council is also aware of the high degree of external scrutiny of its affairs by a variety of bodies including:

- Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
- Wales Audit Office
- Central Government Departments and Parliamentary Commissions
- Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs
- The Department of Work & Pensions
- National Assembly and Welsh Government

2. What is Fraud and Corruption ?

Fraud

2.1. The Fraud Act 2006 defines fraud through three key offences:

- ***Fraud by false representation*** – where a person dishonestly makes a false representation and intends by making the representation, to make a gain for himself or another or to cause or expose the risk of loss to another;
- ***Fraud by failing to disclose information*** – where a person has dishonestly failed to disclose to another person information which he is under a legal duty to disclose; and intends by failing to do so, to make a gain for himself or another; or to cause or expose another to the risk of loss; and
- ***Fraud by abuse of position*** – where a person occupies a position in which he is expected to safeguard or not to act against the financial interests of another; dishonestly abuses that position with the intention to make a gain for himself or another or to cause or expose the risk of loss to another.

2.2. It also creates new offences:

- Obtaining services dishonestly
- Possessing, making and supplying articles for use in frauds
- Fraudulent trading applicable to non- corporate traders.

2.3. The maximum sentence is 10 years imprisonment.

2.4. The Act largely replaces the laws relating to obtaining property by deception, obtaining a pecuniary advantage and other offences that were created under the Theft Act 1978.

Corruption

2.5. There is no universally accepted definition of corruption, although the World Bank defines it as '*offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party*'.

2.6. Corruption is often associated with the act of bribery. The Bribery Act 2010 identifies the criminal offence of bribery and identifies four key offences:

- **Bribing another person** - A person commits an offence by offering, promising or giving a financial or other advantage to another person, directly or through an intermediary: intending that advantage to induce a person to perform improperly a Function or to reward a person for so doing (whether or not it is the same person to whom the advantage is offered) or knowing or believing that accepting the advantage would itself be improper performance of a Function;
- **Being bribed** - A person commits this offence by requesting, agreeing to receive or accepting a financial or other advantage, directly or through a third party, for his or her own or someone else's benefit: that person intends that, as a consequence, there is improper performance of a Function (whether as a reward, in anticipation of or as a consequence of the request, agreement or acceptance). The request, agreement or acceptance itself may be the improper performance of a Function;
- **Bribery of a Foreign Public Figure** – This offence will be committed if a person offers or gives a financial or other advantage to a foreign public official with the intention of influencing the foreign public official and obtaining or retaining business, where the foreign public official was neither permitted nor required by written law to be so influenced; and
- **Failing to prevent Bribery** - A company is "strictly liable" for any bribe paid by a person performing services on its behalf, unless the organisation proves that adequate anti-bribery procedures were in place.

2.7. The maximum penalty for the offences is 10 years' imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine. For the "failure to prevent" offence, the fine alone applies.

2.8. The Bribery Act 2010 replaces the fragmented and complex offences at common law and in the Prevention of Corruption Acts 1889-1916.

3. Culture

- 3.1.** The culture of the Council has always been one of openness and the core values of Courageous, Positive, Responsible support this. The culture therefore supports the opposition to fraud and corruption.
- 3.2.** The prevention/detection of fraud, bribery and corruption and the protection of the public purse are responsibilities of everyone, both internal and external to the organisation. There is an expectation and requirement that all individuals and organisations associated with the Council will act with integrity and that elected Members and employees at all levels will lead by example. All aspects of this policy must be complied with and the Council will maintain a zero tolerance culture to fraud and corruption.
- 3.3.** The Council's elected Members and employees play an important role in creating and maintaining this culture. They are positively encouraged to raise concerns regarding fraud and corruption, immaterial of seniority, rank or status. The public also has a role to play in this process and should inform the Council if they feel that fraud/corruption may have occurred.
- 3.4.** Concerns must be raised when members, employees or organisations associated with the Council reasonably believe that one or more of the following has occurred, is in the process of occurring or is likely to occur:
- A criminal offence;
 - A failure to comply with a statutory or legal obligation;
 - Improper or unauthorised use of public or other official funds;
 - A miscarriage of justice;
 - Misconduct or malpractice;
 - Deliberate concealment of any of the above
- 3.5.** Concerns must be raised, in the first instance, directly with the Supervisor / Line Manager / Business Unit Manager / Head Teacher / of Establishment or if necessary, anonymously (letter, telephone) and via other routes:-
- Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Heads of Service, or the Council's Monitoring Officer, who will report such concerns to the Chief Internal Auditor;
 - Directly to the Chief Internal Auditor;
 - Where line management is suspected of fraud, directly to Head of Service or Chief Internal Auditor;
 - External Auditor, who depending upon the nature of the concern will liaise with the Chief Internal Auditor;
 - Trade Union Representative.
- 3.6.** This can be done in the knowledge that such concerns will be treated in the strictest confidence and be properly investigated.
- 3.7.** Council also has a **Whistleblowing Policy** to ensure the highest possible standards of openness probity and accountability. The Council will ensure that any allegations received in any way, including by anonymous letters or telephone calls, will be taken seriously and investigated in an appropriate manner.
- 3.8.** The Council will deal firmly with those who defraud the Council or who are corrupt, or where there has been financial malpractice, through the disciplinary process and / or referral to the police. There is, of course, a need to ensure that any investigation process is not misused and, therefore, any abuse (such as employees / Members raising malicious allegations) may be dealt with as a disciplinary matter (employees) or through the Standards Committee (Members).
- 3.9.** When fraud and corruption has occurred due to a breakdown in the Council's systems or procedures, Heads of Service will ensure that appropriate improvements in systems of control are implemented in order to prevent a re-occurrence.

4. Prevention

Head of Finance

- 4.1. The Head of Finance will have overall responsibility for ensuring the effectiveness of the Authority's arrangements for the Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption policy, including compliance with the Fraud Act 2006 and the Bribery Act 2010.

Elected Members

- 4.2. As elected representatives, all Members of the Council have a duty to the citizens of the City to protect the Council and public money from any acts of fraud, bribery and corruption. Members should refer any concerns to the Chief Executive.
- 4.3. This is done through the Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy Statement, compliance with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, the Council's Constitution, including Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders, and relevant legislation.
- 4.4. Elected Members sign to the effect that they have read and understood the Code of Conduct for Members when they take office. Conduct and ethical matters are specifically brought to the attention of Members during induction and include the declaration and registration of interests. The Head of Law and Regulation advises Members of new legislative or procedural requirements.

Employees

The Role of the Head of Finance

- 4.5. The Head of Finance has been designated the statutory responsibilities of the Finance Director as defined by s151 of the Local Government Act 1972. These responsibilities outline that every local authority in England & Wales should:
"make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs".
- 4.6. Under the Head of Finance responsibilities, proper administration encompasses all aspects of local authority financial management including:
- Compliance with the statutory requirements for accounting and internal audit;
 - Ensuring the Authority's responsibility for ensuring proper administration of its financial affairs;
 - The proper exercise of a wide range of delegated powers both formal and informal;
 - The responsibility for managing the financial affairs of the local authority in all its dealings; and
 - The recognition of the fiduciary responsibility owed to local tax payers.
- 4.7. Under these statutory responsibilities the Head of Finance contributes to the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption framework of the Council.

The Role of Managers

- 4.8. Managers at all levels are responsible for the communication and implementation of this strategy in their work area. They are also responsible for ensuring that their employees are aware of the Council's policies and procedures, the Council's Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders and that the requirements of each are being met in their everyday business activities. In addition, managers must make their employees aware of the requirements of the Employee Code of Conduct through the induction process.
- 4.9. Managers are expected to create an environment in which their officers feel able to approach them with any concerns they may have about suspected irregularities. Where they are unsure of the procedures they must refer to the information on the Intranet.
- 4.10. Special arrangements will apply where employees are responsible for cash handling or are in charge of financial systems and systems that generate payments, for example payroll or the Revenues & Benefits computer system. Managers must ensure that relevant training is provided for all employees.
- 4.11. The Council recognises that a key preventative measure in dealing with fraud and corruption is for managers to take effective steps at the recruitment stage to establish, as far as possible, the honesty and integrity of potential employees, whether for permanent, temporary or casual posts and agency staff. The Council's formal recruitment procedure contains appropriate safeguards in the form of written references, the verification of qualifications held and employment history. As in other public bodies Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are undertaken for employees working with or who may have contact with children or vulnerable adults.

Responsibilities of Employees

- 4.12.** Each employee including agency and volunteer staff is governed in their work by the Council's Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, Employee Code of Conduct and other policies on conduct (Health and Safety, E-mail and Internet Usage Policies and IT Security policy). Included in the Council policies are guidelines on gifts and hospitality, and codes of conduct associated with professional and personal conduct and conflict of interest. These are issued to all employees when they join the Council and are available to all on the Intranet.
- 4.13.** Employees are responsible for ensuring that they follow the instructions given to them by management, particularly in relation to the safekeeping of the assets of the Authority. These will be included in induction training and procedure manuals.
- 4.14.** Employees are expected always to be aware of the possibility that fraud, bribery, corruption and theft may exist in the workplace and be able to share their concerns with management. If for any reason, they feel unable to speak to their manager they must refer the matter to one of those named above in section 3.5.

Contractors and Third Party Organisations

- 4.15.** There are joint ventures, partnerships and contracted work carried out on behalf of the Authority. As an organisation, it should be ensured that third party organisations should have a similar culture and approach as the authority in tackling anti-fraud, bribery and corruption.
- 4.16.** Members and officers should ensure that organisations have appropriate mechanisms in place to prevent, detect, deter and investigate where necessary any concerns raised in relation to fraud and corruption.
- 4.17.** Members and officers including officers working for contractors and third party organisations should be able to raise any concerns through the mechanisms identified in 3.5 above. The Council has a duty to notify the relevant organisations including government agencies and take action where appropriate to investigate any concerns raised.
- 4.18.** Where fraud, bribery or corruption is suspected within the activities of a contractor or partner organisation the matter should be referred as outlined in 3.5 above.

Conflicts of Interest

- 4.19.** Both elected Members and employees must ensure that they avoid situations where there is a potential for a conflict of interest. Such situations can arise with externalisation of services, internal tendering, planning and land issues etc. Effective role separation will ensure decisions made are seen to be based upon impartial advice and avoid questions about improper disclosure of confidential information.

Official Guidance

- 4.20.** In addition to Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders, service areas may have their own procedures to prevent and deter fraud. There may also be audit reports, which recommend methods to minimise risks and losses to the Authority. Managers and employees must be made aware of these various sources of guidance and alter their working practices accordingly.

Role of Internal Audit

- 4.21.** Internal Audit plays a vital preventative role in trying to ensure that systems and procedures are in place to prevent and deter fraud, bribery and corruption. Internal Audit investigates all employee cases of suspected financial irregularity, fraud or corruption, except Benefit fraud investigations (see below), in accordance with agreed procedures. Within the Financial Regulations in the Constitution, representatives of Internal Audit are empowered to:
- Enter at all reasonable times any Council premises or land;
 - Have access to all records, documentation and correspondence relating to any financial and other transactions as considered necessary;
 - Have access to records belonging to third parties such as contractors when required;
 - Require and receive such explanations as are regarded necessary concerning any matter under examination;
 - Require any employee of the Council to account for cash, stores or any other Council property under his/her control or possession;
 - Liaise with management to recommend changes in procedures to reduce risks and prevent losses to the Authority.

The Role of the Senior Fraud Officer

4.22. The Senior Fraud Officer is responsible for all of the Council Tax Benefit investigations, in accordance with legislation and agreed codes of conduct. In cases where employees are involved they will work with Internal Audit, Human Resources and appropriate senior management to ensure that correct procedures are followed and that this policy is adhered to.

The Role of the External Auditor

4.23. Independent external audit is an essential safeguard of the stewardship of public money. The Wales Audit Office (including any associated third party external audit partners) are responsible for this through specific reviews that are designed to test (amongst other things) the adequacy of the Council's financial systems and arrangements for preventing and detecting fraud, bribery and corruption. It is not the external auditors' function to prevent fraud and irregularities, but the integrity of public funds is at all times a matter of general concern. External auditors are always alert to the possibility of fraud and irregularity, and will act without undue delay if grounds for suspicion come to their notice. The external auditor has a responsibility to review the Council's arrangements for preventing and detecting fraud and irregularities, and arrangements designed to limit the opportunity for corrupt practices.

4.24. Where external audit is required to undertake an investigation they will operate within legislation and their codes of conduct.

Co-operation with Others

4.25. As appropriate, arrangements will be made to encourage the exchange of information between the Council and other agencies on national and local fraud and corruption activity in relation to local authorities. These include :

- Police
- Local Authority Financial Organisations
- Internal Auditor Networks
- Wales Audit Office
- Other councils
- Central and local government partners;
- National Anti-Fraud Network.
- National Fraud Initiative

The Role of the Public

4.26. This policy, although primarily aimed at those within or associated with the Council, enables concerns raised by the public to be investigated, as appropriate, by the relevant person in a proper manner.

5. Deterrence

5.1. There are a number of ways to deter potential fraudsters from committing or attempting fraudulent or corrupt acts, whether they are inside and/or outside of the Council, and these include:

- Publicising the fact that the Council is firmly set against fraud and corruption and states this at every appropriate opportunity e.g. clause in contracts, statements on benefits claim forms, website, publications etc.
- Acting robustly and decisively when fraud and corruption are suspected and proven e.g. the termination of contracts, dismissal, prosecution, reporting employee to their professional body etc.
- Taking action to effect the maximum recoveries for the Council e.g. through agreement, court action, penalties, under Proceeds of Crime Act etc.
- Having sound internal control systems, that still allow for innovation, but at the same time minimising the opportunity for fraud and corruption.
- The operation and advertising of a Benefit Fraud Hotline and formal arrangements for whistleblowing.

- Publicising instances of fraud/corruption and the resultant disciplinary/prosecution action for cases both within the Council and for other public organisations.

6. Detection and Investigation

- 6.1.** Internal Audit plays an important role in the detection of fraud, bribery and corruption. Included in their strategic plan are reviews of system controls including financial controls and specific fraud and corruption tests and will make spot checks and unannounced visits.
- 6.2.** In addition to Internal Audit, there are numerous systems and management controls in place to deter fraud and corruption but it is often the vigilance of employees and members of the public that aids detection. The Council's *Whistleblowing Policy* is intended to encourage and enable staff to raise their concerns.
- 6.3.** In some cases frauds are discovered by chance or "tip-off" and arrangements are in place to enable such information to be properly dealt with.
- 6.4.** The Council takes part in the National Fraud Initiative which is co-ordinated by Internal Audit.
- 6.5.** All suspected irregularities are required to be reported (verbally or in writing) to one of the officers identified at 3.5. This is essential to the strategy and:
- Ensures the consistent treatment of information regarding fraud and corruption; and
 - Facilitates a proper and thorough investigation by an experienced audit team or appropriate officer, in accordance with agreed procedures.
- 6.6.** This process will apply to all the following areas:
- a) fraud/corruption by elected Members;
 - b) internal fraud/corruption;
 - c) other fraud/corruption by Council employees;
 - d) fraud by contractors and/or partnership employees;
 - e) external fraud (the public)
- 6.7.** Cases under d) and e) where necessary would be referred to the external auditor or Police. Cases under (a) in respect to the Code of Conduct for Members will be referred to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales in addition to the External Auditor and/or the Police. Cases under b) and c) may be dealt with under the Council's disciplinary procedures.
- 6.8.** Any decision to refer a matter to the Police will require the involvement of the Head of Finance, the Monitoring Officer, Chief Internal Auditor and the relevant Head of Service or, in the absence of any of these Officers, their nominated representatives. In these circumstances, it will be the responsibility of the Chief Internal Auditor to call a formal meeting of these officers to discuss the appropriate course of action. Any referral to the Police must be agreed by the relevant Head of Service.
- 6.9.** Depending on the nature of an allegation under b) to e), the Chief Internal Auditor will normally work closely with the Head of Service concerned to ensure that all allegations are thoroughly investigated and reported upon.
- 6.10.** The Council's Disciplinary Procedures will be used to facilitate a thorough investigation of any allegations of improper behaviour by employees. The processes as outlined in paragraph 3.8 will cover Members.
- 6.11.** A summary of matters identified and concluded concerning fraud or bribery will be reported to the Council's Audit Committee on an annual basis.
- 6.12.** Periodic risk assessments will be undertaken to evaluate the Authority's exposure to the risk of fraud and bribery and to highlight particular areas of risk within the Authority. This will be undertaken between Internal Audit and Risk management on an annual basis.

7. Awareness & Training

- 7.1.** The Council recognises that the continuing success of this strategy and its general credibility will depend in part on the effectiveness of training and awareness for members and employees. The policy is an integral part of the induction programme.
- 7.2.** To facilitate this, the Council supports the provision of training programmes and circulation of relevant information to ensure that responsibilities and duties in this respect are regularly highlighted and reinforced. This includes the requirement for information to be provided to third parties providing services to and on behalf of the Council.
- 7.3.** Specialist training in fraud and corruption issues will also be given to appropriate staff involved in investigation work.

- 7.4. Internal Audit will publicise the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption policy on the Intranet with other up to date advice and guidance on current issues and will facilitate fraud awareness training to staff as and when required.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1. The Council has always prided itself on setting and maintaining high standards and a culture of openness. This strategy fully supports the Council's desire to maintain an honest Authority, free from fraud and corruption.
- 8.2. The Council has in place a network of systems and procedures to assist it in dealing with fraud and corruption when it occurs. It is determined that these arrangements will keep pace with any future developments in both preventative and detection techniques regarding fraudulent or corrupt activity that may affect its operation.
- 8.3. The Council will maintain a continuous review of all these systems and procedures through Internal Audit.
- 8.4. This policy statement will be reviewed on a regular basis, with a maximum of three years between each review.

Dated: 7 April 2021

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Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 7 April 2021

Subject Code of Corporate Governance – update (2020)

Purpose To formally approve the revised Code of Corporate Governance following presentation to and comments from, the Council’s Audit Committee.

Author Chief Internal Auditor

Ward General

Summary It is important for the Council to have an up to date and relevant Code of Corporate Governance. The Council’s Annual Governance Statement is based on the Code of Corporate Governance. The Code was last revised in 2014 and approved by Cabinet. Newport City Council’s Code of Corporate Governance has been updated and revised to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE)’s published good practice “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016” and “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Guidance Notes for Welsh Authorities 2016”, which embraces the elements of internal financial control required by the “Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom”.

Proposal The revised Code of Corporate Governance be formally approved by Cabinet.

Action by Cabinet

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Financial Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of People and Business Change
- Audit Committee

Signed

Background

1. In order to meet the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, Newport City Council needs to present an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) with its Annual Statement of Accounts. The AGS is based on the Code of Corporate Governance.
2. This Code sets out Newport City Council's approach to achieving and maintaining good corporate governance. It follows best practice produced by CIPFA / SOLACE; "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016" and "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Guidance Notes for Welsh Authorities 2016", which embraces the elements of internal financial control required by the "Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom".
3. The Council sees Corporate Governance as aiming to do the right things in the right way for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes, cultures and values by which the Council is directed and controlled whilst demonstrating its accountability and engagement with its citizens.
4. Strong, transparent and responsive governance enables the Council to put citizens first by pursuing its aims and priorities effectively, and by underpinning them with appropriate mechanisms for managing performance and risk. In order to maintain citizens' confidence these mechanisms must be sound and be seen to be sound.
5. The system of internal control is a significant part of this framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It provides reasonable but not absolute assurance of effectiveness. Internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise any risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, ensuring the Council's resources are used in an effective, efficient and economic way.

The Governance Framework

The Council's Code of Corporate Governance has been revised in line with the following principles:

Overarching requirements for acting in the public interest:

- A Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law
- B Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

In addition, achieving good governance in the Council requires effective arrangements for:

- C Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable, economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits
- D Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes
- E Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
- F Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
- G Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

Financial Summary

There are no financial issues related to 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?
Poor Governance; Reputational damage	M	L	Prepare and publish the AGS in line with the updated Code of Corporate Governance Demonstrating sound governance practice	Head of Finance Chief Internal Auditor Members Employees

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Giving management assurance on systems in operation gives them confidence that there is sound governance arrangements in place, that more effective services can be provided and the risk of poor governance is minimised. Looking after the public pound and delivering improved service provision makes our City a better place to live for all our citizens.

- To make our city a better place to live for all our citizens
- To be good at what we do
- To work hard to provide what our citizens tell us they need

Options Available

This is a review and update of a policy statement report therefore there are no specific alternative options; Audit Committee is requested to endorse this revised Code of Corporate Governance. The Internal Audit team aims to provide assurance around the adequacy of the Council's internal control environment, governance arrangements and risk management processes to ensure the public pound is spent wisely and appropriately.

Preferred Option and Why

N/A

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

I can confirm that I have been consulted and have no additional comments

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no legal implications

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

There are no specific HR issues arising as a result of the report. Clearly the work of the audit team is critical in giving assurance that the work of the Council is being undertaken within the set policies and procedures.

Local issues

N/A

Scrutiny Committees

N/A

Audit Committee 28 January 2021

Cllr Hourahine referred to page 85, item 7 in the report which stated there were no financial issues relating to the report. Councillor Hourahine considered that any changes to a process within local government usually meant that there would be financial implications, such as in the officer's time. With this in mind therefore, would there be more or less officer's time or more to comply with the code as it was rarely a static situation. The Internal Chief Audit Officer advised that there were an additional 10 days included to bring the plan together and that had been fairly static for the past couple of years. It was generally the role of the Chief Internal Audit Officer to prepare the plan, as this was part of his role and any impact on finances were therefore minimal.

Equalities Impact Assessment

The Revised Code of Corporate Governance has been considered in line with the Council's Equality and Welsh Language Duties, and there are no impacts of note. The Code supports the Council to continue to operate in a fair and transparent manner. Policies/statements will be published bilingually on the Council's website.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

N/A

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

In compiling this report the principles of this Act have been considered; ***Long Term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration, Involvement***. The intention is for this Code of Corporate Governance to be in place for the long term but will be reviewed regularly and in line with further changes in legislation and best practice. Compliance will minimise poor governance across all of the services operated within Newport City Council. We will work with other public bodies where appropriate to promote good governance and obtain any necessary assurance on our own governance arrangements.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

The work undertaken by Internal Audit should minimise potential fraud, corruption, theft or misappropriation within the Council. Allegations of potential criminal activity will be investigated and reported to the police where appropriate. Good governance should minimise the opportunity for criminal activity within the Council.

Consultation

N/A

Background Papers

- Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014
- CIPFA / SOLACE; "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016" and "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Guidance Notes for Welsh Authorities 2016"
- Code of Corporate Governance (2020/21) (Appendix A)
- Report to Audit Committee 28 January 2021

APPENDIX A



The Code of Corporate Governance

Newport City Council

2020/21



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Code is to state the importance to the Council of good corporate governance and to set out the Council's commitment to the principles involved.

The Code is based on guidance to all UK local authorities.

The Code is included in the Council's constitution and therefore applies to all members and employees of the Council and also to any individuals or bodies authorised to act on its behalf.

How the effectiveness of the Code is reviewed is set out in Section 4.

The previous Code of Corporate Governance was approved by Cabinet and Council in 2013.

***Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework* published by CIPFA and SOLACE in 2007 set the standard for local authority governance in the UK. CIPFA and SOLACE reviewed the Framework in 2015 to ensure it remained fit for purpose and published a revised Framework in spring 2016.**

The new *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework* 2016 edition applies to annual governance statements prepared for the financial year 2016/17 onwards. Newport's Code of Corporate Governance has been reviewed and updated in accordance with this latest edition.

The Code will be reviewed in its entirety by no later than 31 March 2023, but minor reviews and updates will be made annually as required.

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1. The Purpose of the Governance Framework

- 1.1. This Code sets out Newport City Council's approach to achieving and maintaining good corporate governance and demonstrates how it meets the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 1.2. Newport City Council (the Council) is by nature, a complex organisation which affects the lives of all citizens in the area: As well as providing a diverse range of services, it also works with partner organisations which provide other public services. The Council's aims and priorities reflect these responsibilities.
- 1.3. The Council sees Corporate Governance as doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes, and also the culture and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled and how it accounts to and engages with its citizens.
- 1.4. Strong, transparent and responsive governance enables the Council to put citizens first by pursuing its aims and priorities effectively, and by underpinning them with appropriate mechanisms for managing performance and risk. In order to maintain citizens' confidence, these mechanisms must be sound and be seen to be sound.
- 1.5. It is essential that there is confidence in our corporate governance and the Council must therefore ensure that:
 - as a democratic body, we engage with and account to our citizens and stakeholders effectively;
 - we conduct our business in accordance with the law and to proper standards;
 - public money is properly accounted for and is used economically, efficiently and effectively;
 - controls are proportionate to risk so as not to impede performance;
 - we continuously improve the way in which we function, in terms of effectiveness, quality, service availability, fairness, sustainability and innovation; and
 - we fulfil our purpose and meet our priorities as set out in the Council Plan 2017-22.
- 1.6. The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, culture and values, by which the Authority is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the Authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money.
- 1.7. The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement

of the Authority's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood and potential impact of those risks being realised and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

2. The Governance Framework

2.1. The Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition produced by CIPFA and SOLACE (the Framework) defines governance as:

'Governance comprises the arrangements put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved.'

The Framework also states that

'To deliver good governance in the public sector, both governing bodies and individuals working for public sector entities must try to achieve their entity's objectives while acting in the public interest at all times,

Acting in the public interest implies primary consideration of the benefits for society, which should result in positive outcomes for service users and other stakeholders.

2.2. In local government, the governing body is the full council.

3. Background

3.1. The *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework* published by CIPFA and SOLACE in 2007 set the standard for local authority governance in the UK. CIPFA and SOLACE reviewed the Framework in 2015 to ensure it remained fit for purpose and published a revised Framework in spring 2016.

3.2. The new *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework* 2016 edition applies to annual governance statements prepared for the financial year 2016/17 onwards.

3.3. The new Framework introduced 7 new principles as follows:

Overarching requirements for acting in the public interest:

- A) Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.
- B) Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.

In addition, achieving good governance in the Council requires effective arrangements for:

- C) Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.
- D) Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
- E) Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
- F) Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and stringent public financial management.
- G) Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

COMMITMENTS TO GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Principle A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law

The Council is accountable not only for how much it spends, but also for how we use the resources under our stewardship. This includes accountability for outputs, both positive and negative, and for the outcomes we have achieved. In addition, we have an overarching responsibility to serve the public interest in adhering to the requirements of legislation and government policies. It is essential that, as a whole, we can demonstrate the appropriateness of all our actions and have mechanisms in place to encourage and enforce adherence to ethical values and to respect the rule of law.

Sub-Principles	The Council is committed to:	What is in place to support this?
Behaving with integrity	<p>A1 Ensuring members and officers behave with integrity and lead a culture where acting in the public interest is visibly and consistently demonstrated thereby protecting the reputation of the Council</p> <p>A2 Ensuring members take the lead in establishing specific standard operating principles or values for the Council and its staff and that they are communicated and understood. These should build on the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles)</p> <p>A3 Leading by example and using these standard operating principles or values as a framework for decision making and other actions</p> <p>A4 Demonstrating, communicating and embedding the standard operating principles or values through appropriate policies and processes which are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they are operating effectively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members Code of Conduct in Constitution which reflects Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct)(Wales) Order 2016 ▪ Officers Code of Conduct in Constitution ▪ Registers of interests / hospitality ▪ Induction training ▪ Member/Officer Protocol in Constitution ▪ Member led authority principles/document ▪ Council Values — Courageous, Positive, Responsible ▪ Whistleblowing Policy ▪ Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy ▪ Standards Committee ▪ Standards Committee Annual Report presented to Council ▪ Member Dispute Resolution ▪ Complaints procedure

Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values	<p>A5 Seeking to establish, monitor and maintain the Council's ethical standards and performance</p> <p>A6 Underpinning personal behaviour with ethical values and ensuring they permeate all aspects of the Council's culture and operation</p> <p>A7 Developing and maintaining robust policies and procedures which place emphasis on agreed ethical values</p> <p>A8 Ensuring that external providers of services on behalf of the Council are required to act with integrity and in compliance with high ethical standards expected by the Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council Values — Courageous, Positive, Responsible ▪ Contract Standing Orders ▪ Codes of conduct for members and employees ▪ Financial Regulations ▪ Standards Committee
Respecting the rule of law	<p>A9 Ensuring members and staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the rule of the law as well as adhering to relevant laws and regulations</p> <p>A10 Creating the conditions to ensure that the statutory officers, other key post holders and members are able to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements</p> <p>A11 Striving to optimise the use of the full powers available for the benefit of citizens, communities and other stakeholders</p> <p>A12 Dealing with breaches of legal and regulatory provisions effectively</p> <p>A13 Ensuring corruption and misuse of power are dealt with effectively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Member and Officer Code of Conduct in Constitution ▪ Role of Head of Paid Service, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer established in Constitution ▪ CIPFA statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer ▪ Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy ▪ Audit Committee ▪ Internal Audit Section ▪ Internal Audit Annual Report presented to Audit Committee ▪ External Auditors Annual Audit Letter ▪ Standards Committee ▪ Whistleblowing Policy ▪ Complaints procedure ▪ Disciplinary Policy

Principle B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

Local government is run for the public good; organisations therefore should ensure openness in their activities. Clear, trusted channels of communication and consultation should be used to engage effectively with all groups of stakeholders, such as individual citizens and service users, as well as institutional stakeholders.

Sub-Principles	The Council is committed to:	What is in place to support this?
Openness	<p>B1 Ensuring an open culture through demonstrating, documenting and communicating our commitment to openness</p> <p>B2 Making decisions that are open about actions, plans, resource use, forecasts, outputs and outcomes. The presumption is for openness. If that is not the case, a justification for the reasoning for keeping a decision confidential should be provided</p> <p>B3 Providing clear reasoning and evidence for decisions in both public records and explanations to stakeholders and being explicit about the criteria, rationale and considerations used. In due course, ensuring that the impact and consequences of those decisions are clear</p> <p>B4 Using formal and informal consultation and engagement to determine the most appropriate and effective interventions/ courses of action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agendas published in advance of meetings ▪ Minutes published following meetings ▪ Decision making process described in Constitution ▪ Forward Plan published on Internet showing key decisions to be made by Council and Cabinet ▪ Consultation and Engagement Strategy & Consultation ▪ Annual budget consultation Publication Scheme ▪ Freedom of Information Scheme ▪ Public questions at Council and Cabinet Engagement with hard to reach groups such as BME, Disability and LGBT communities. As well as engagement with children and young people to meet the requirement of the UNCRC
Engaging comprehensively with institutional stakeholders	<p>B5 Effectively engaging with institutional stakeholders to ensure that the purpose, objectives and intended outcomes for each stakeholder relationship are clear so that outcomes are achieved successfully and sustainably</p> <p>B6 Developing formal and informal partnerships to allow for resources to be used more efficiently and outcomes achieved more effectively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Service Board and One Newport Plan/Well- Being Plan ▪ Community Safety Partnership ▪ Partnership agreements

	B7 Ensuring that partnerships are based on trust, a shared commitment to change and a culture that promotes and accepts challenge among partners and that the added value of partnership working is explicit	
Engaging stakeholders effectively, including individual citizens and service users	<p>B8 A clear policy on the type of issues that the Council will meaningfully consult with or involve individual citizens, service users and other stakeholders to ensure that service provision is contributing towards the achievement of intended outcomes</p> <p>B9 Ensuring that communication methods are effective and that members and officers are clear about their roles with regard to community engagement</p> <p>B10 Encouraging, collecting and evaluating the views and experiences of communities, citizens, service users and organisations of different backgrounds including reference to future needs</p> <p>B11 Implementing effective feedback mechanisms in order to demonstrate how their views have been taken into account</p> <p>B12 Balancing feedback from more active stakeholder groups with other stakeholder groups to ensure inclusivity</p> <p>B13 Taking account of the interests of future generations of tax payers and service users</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ward role of Councillors / ward meetings ▪ Review of Public Engagement in Newport City Council ▪ Have Your Say consultations on Internet ▪ Residents telephone surveys ▪ Consultation principles and toolkit available on Intranet ▪ Annual Staff Survey ▪ Complaints Policy and Annual Report ▪ MTFP ▪ Complaints procedure ▪ Employee survey ▪ Public wi-fi on Newport Transport buses

Principle C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits

The long-term nature and impact of many of local government's responsibilities mean that it should define and plan outcomes and that these should be sustainable. Decisions should further the authority's purpose, contribute to intended benefits and outcomes, and remain within the limits of authority and resources. Input from all groups of stakeholders, including citizens, service users and institutional stakeholders, is vital to the success of this process and in balancing competing demands when determining priorities for the finite resources available

Sub-Principles	The Council is committed to:	What is in place to support this?
Defining Outcomes	C1 Having a clear vision which is an agreed formal statement of the Council's purpose and intended outcomes containing appropriate performance indicators, which provides the basis for the Council's overall strategy, planning and other decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corporate Plan produced and reviewed annually in accordance with Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and 'Wellbeing Objectives' in Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ▪ Quarterly & annual Performance Monitoring Reports ▪ Annual Performance Review ▪ Single Integrated Plan produced by Public Service Board ▪ Service Plan produced annually by each Head of Service ▪ Monthly Performance and Financial Monitoring meetings held for each service area ▪ Corporate Risk Policy and Framework ▪ Capital Review Programme
	C2 Specifying the intended impact on, or changes for, stakeholders including citizens and service users. It could be immediately or over the course of a year or longer	
	C3 Delivering defined outcomes on a sustainable basis within the resources that will be available	
	C4 Identifying and managing risks to the achievement of outcomes	
	C5 Managing service users' expectations effectively with regard to determining priorities and making the best use of the resources available	
Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits	C6 Considering and balancing the combined economic, social and environmental impact of policies, plans and decisions when taking decisions about service provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medium Term Financial Plan covering 3 financial years approved annually by Council ▪ Corporate Plan ▪ Risk management strategy ▪ One Newport (PSB)
	C7 Taking a longer-term view with regard to decision making, taking account of risk and acting transparently where there are potential conflicts between the Council's intended outcomes and short-term factors such as the political cycle or financial constraints	

	<p>C8 Determining the wider public interest associated with balancing conflicting interests between achieving the various economic, social and environmental benefits, through consultation where possible, in order to ensure appropriate trade-offs</p> <p>C9 Ensuring fair access to services</p>	
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Principle D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

Local government achieves its intended outcomes by providing a mixture of legal, regulatory and practical interventions. Determining the right mix of these courses of action is a critically important strategic choice that local government has to make to ensure intended outcomes are achieved. They need robust decision-making mechanisms to ensure that their defined outcomes can be achieved in a way that provides the best trade-off between the various types of resource input while still enabling effective and efficient operations. Decisions made need to be reviewed continually to ensure that achievement of outcomes is optimised

Sub-Principles	The Council is committed to:	What is in place to support this?
Determining interventions	<p>D1 Ensuring decision makers receive objective and rigorous analysis of a variety of options indicating how intended outcomes would be achieved and including the risks associated with those options. Therefore ensuring best value is achieved however services are provided</p> <p>D2 Considering feedback from citizens and service users when making decisions about service improvements or where services are no longer required in order to prioritise competing demands within limited resources available including people, skills, land and assets and bearing in mind future impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corporate Plan ▪ Policy development by Policy Development and Delivery Committees ▪ Scrutiny function ▪ Risk management strategy ▪ Finance and Legal implications in all Council, Cabinet and Committee reports ▪ Results of consultation exercises ▪ FEIA process
Planning Interventions	<p>D3 Establishing and implementing robust planning and control cycles that cover strategic and operational plans, priorities and targets</p> <p>D4 Engaging with internal and external stakeholders in determining how services and other courses of action should be planned and delivered</p> <p>D5 Considering and monitoring risks facing each partner when working collaboratively including shared risks</p> <p>D6 Ensuring arrangements are flexible and agile so that the mechanisms for delivering outputs can be adapted to changing circumstances</p> <p>D7 Establishing appropriate local performance indicators (as well as relevant statutory or other national performance indicators) as part of the planning process in order to identify how the performance of services and projects is to be measured</p> <p>D8 Ensuring capacity exists to generate the information required to review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timetable exists for producing or reviewing plans, priorities etc. on an annual basis ▪ Review of Public Engagement in Newport City Council ▪ Monthly Performance and Financial Monitoring meetings for each Directorate reviews progress and authorises corrective action where necessary ▪ Quarterly and Annual Performance Monitoring reports to Scrutiny & Cabinet including achievement of national and local performance indicators Medium Term Financial Plan

	<p>service quality regularly</p> <p>D9 Preparing budgets in accordance with organisational objectives, strategies and the medium-term financial plan</p> <p>D10 Informing medium and long-term resource planning by drawing up realistic estimates of revenue and capital expenditure aimed at developing a sustainable funding strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual budget setting process in place including consultation exercise ▪ Financial Regulations ▪ Senior Management Structure
Optimising achievement of intended outcomes	<p>D11 Ensuring the medium term financial strategy integrates and balances service priorities, affordability and other resource constraints</p> <p>D12 Ensuring the budgeting process is all-inclusive, taking into account the full cost of operations over the medium and longer term</p> <p>D13 Ensuring the medium-term financial strategy sets the context for ongoing decisions on significant delivery issues or responses to changes in the external environment that may arise during the budgetary period in order for outcomes to be achieved while optimising resource usage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quarterly Financial Monitoring reports to Cabinet ▪ Mid-Year Budget Statement to Cabinet ▪ Medium Term Financial Plan ▪ Budget consultation

Principle E — Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.

Local government needs appropriate structures and leadership, as well as people with the right skills, appropriate qualifications and mindset, to operate efficiently and effectively and achieve their intended outcomes within the specified periods. A local government organisation must ensure that it has both the capacity to fulfil its own mandate and to make certain that there are policies in place to guarantee that its management has the operational capacity for the organisation as a whole. Because both individuals and the environment in which an authority operates will change over time, there will be a continuous need to develop its capacity as well as the skills and experience of the leadership of individual staff members. Leadership in local government entities is strengthened by the participation of people with many different types of backgrounds, reflecting the structure and diversity of communities

Sub-Principles	The Council is committed to:	What is in place to support this?
Developing the entity's capacity	E1 Developing and maintaining an effective workforce plan to enhance the strategic allocation of resources. E2 Reviewing operations, performance and use of assets on a regular basis to ensure their continuing effectiveness E3 Improving resource use through appropriate application of techniques such as benchmarking and other options in order to determine how the Council's resources are allocated so that outcomes are achieved effectively and efficiently E4 Recognising the benefits of partnerships and collaborative working where added value can be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular performance review for all staff under Clear Review ▪ Service planning process includes workforce planning ▪ 6 monthly financial and performance reports to Cabinet ▪ Partnership & collaborative working arrangements
Developing the capability of the entity's leadership and other individuals	E5 Developing protocols to ensure that elected and appointed leaders negotiate with each other regarding their respective roles early on in the relationship and that a shared understanding of roles and objectives is maintained E6 Publishing a statement that specifies the types of decisions that are delegated and those reserved for the collective decision making of the governing body E7 Ensuring the leader and the chief executive have clearly defined and distinctive leadership roles within a structure, whereby the chief executive leads the authority in implementing strategy and managing the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Member/Officer Protocol in Constitution ▪ Scheme of Delegation published in Constitution ▪ Monthly One to One meetings are held involving the Leader. Cabinet Members, Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Heads of Service and 3rd tier staff ▪ Councillor Training Programme developed based on a Training Needs Assessment ▪ Continual performance review for all

	<p>delivery of services and other outputs set by members and each provides a check and a balance for each other's authority</p> <p>E8 Developing the capabilities of members and senior management to achieve effective shared leadership and to enable the Council to respond successfully to changing legal and policy demands as well as economic, political and environmental changes and risks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring members and staff have access to appropriate induction tailored to their role and that ongoing training and development matching individual and organisational requirements is available and encouraged, • ensuring members and officers have the appropriate skills, knowledge, resources and support to fulfil their roles and responsibilities and ensuring that they are able to update their knowledge on a continuing basis, • ensuring personal, organisation and system-wide development through shared learning, including • lessons learnt from both internal and external governance weaknesses <p>E9 Ensuring that there are structures in place to encourage public participation</p> <p>E10 Taking steps to consider the leadership's own effectiveness and ensuring leaders are open to constructive feedback from peer review and inspections</p> <p>E11 Holding staff to account through regular performance reviews which take account of training or development needs</p> <p>E12 Ensuring arrangements are in place to maintain the health and wellbeing of the workforce and support individuals in maintaining their own physical and mental well being</p>	<p>staff under check-ins (i-Trent)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management in action courses ▪ Occupational Health and Wellbeing Policy exists with aim of promoting the health and wellbeing of all employees to enable them to achieve their full potential at work ▪ Action plans within Internal Audit reports ▪ External Audit reports ▪ Lessons Learnt – Accountancy / External Audit
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Principle F — Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and string public financial management

Local government needs to ensure that the organisations and governance structures that it oversees have implemented, and can sustain, an effective performance management system that facilitates effective and efficient delivery of planned services. Risk management and internal control are important and integral parts of a performance management system and crucial to the achievement of outcomes. Risk should be considered and addressed as part of all decision making activities. A strong system of financial management is essential for the implementation of policies and the achievement of intended outcomes, as it will ensure financial discipline, strategic allocation of resources, efficient service delivery and accountability. It is also essential that a culture and structure for scrutiny is in place as a key part of accountable decision making, policy making and review. A positive working culture that accepts, promotes and encourages constructive challenge is critical to successful scrutiny and successful delivery. Importantly, this culture does not happen automatically, it requires repeated public commitment from those in authority.

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Sub-Principles	The Council is committed to:	What is in place to support this?
Managing Risk	<p>F1 Recognising that risk management is an integral part of all activities and must be considered in all aspects of decision making</p> <p>F2 Implementing robust and integrated risk management arrangements and ensuring they are working effectively</p> <p>F3 Ensuring that responsibilities for managing individual risks are clearly allocated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risk Management Strategy and Framework Corporate, Directorate and Service risk registers ▪ Quarterly review of Corporate Risks by Corporate Management Team and SLT ▪ Audit Committee & Cabinet 6 monthly
Managing performance	<p>F4 Monitoring service delivery effectively including planning specification, execution and independent post-implementation review</p> <p>F5 Making decisions based on relevant, clear objective analysis and advice pointing out the implications and risks inherent in the Council's financial, social and environmental position and outlook</p> <p>F6 Ensuring an effective scrutiny or oversight function is in place which encourages constructive challenge and debate on policies and objectives before, during and after decisions are made, thereby enhancing the Council's performance and that of any organisation for which it is responsible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corporate Plan reviewed annually ▪ Annual Performance Report produced ▪ Quarterly performance monitoring report to Cabinet ▪ Annual Service Plan produced by each Head of Service ▪ Scrutiny function ▪ Quarterly Directorate Performance and monthly Financial Monitoring meetings ▪ Annual Report from Director of Social Services

	<p>F7 Providing members and senior management with regular reports on progress towards outcome achievement</p> <p>F8 Ensuring there is consistency between specification stages (such as budgets) and post-implementation reporting (eg financial statements)</p>	
Robust internal control	<p>F9 Aligning the risk management strategy and policies on internal control with achieving objectives</p> <p>F10 Evaluating and monitoring risk management and internal control on a regular basis</p> <p>F11 Ensuring effective counter fraud and anti-corruption arrangements are in place</p> <p>F12 Ensuring additional assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control is provided by the internal auditor</p> <p>F13 Ensuring an audit committee or equivalent group or function which is independent of the executive and accountable to the governing body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides a further source of effective assurance regarding arrangements for managing risk and maintaining an effective control environment • that its recommendations are listened to and acted upon </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audit Committee provides assurance on effectiveness on internal control, risk management and governance ▪ Audit Committee Annual Performance Review ▪ Audit Committee Annual Report to Council ▪ Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy ▪ Role of Internal Audit Section ▪ Annual Plans approved by Audit Committee ▪ Annual Reports to Audit Committee ▪ Annual Governance Statement
Managing data	<p>F14 Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for the safe collection, storage, use and sharing of data, including processes to safeguard personal data</p> <p>F15 Ensuring effective arrangements are in place and operating effectively when sharing data with other bodies</p> <p>F16 Reviewing and auditing regularly the quality and accuracy of data used in decision making and performance monitoring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data Protection Policy ▪ Information management governance arrangements ▪ Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO) in place ▪ Information Asset Register ▪ Information sharing guidance published ▪ Information Risk Policy ▪ Annual Information Governance report to Audit Committee and Cabinet
Strong public financial management	<p>F17 Ensuring financial management supports both long-term achievement of outcomes and short-term financial and operational performance</p> <p>F18 Ensuring well-developed financial management is integrated at all levels of planning and control, including management of financial risks and controls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial Regulations in Constitution ▪ Contract Standing Orders in Constitution ▪ Accounting Instructions on Intranet ▪ Spending Restrictions document on Intranet

Principle G: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability

Accountability is about ensuring that those making decisions and delivering services are answerable for them. Effective accountability is concerned not only with reporting on actions completed but also ensuring that stakeholders are able to understand and respond as the organisation plans and carries out its activities in a transparent manner. Both external and internal audit contribute to effective accountability.

Sub-Principles	The Council is committed to:	What is in place to support this?
Implementing good practice in transparency	<p>G1 Writing and communicating reports for the public and other stakeholders in an understandable style appropriate to the intended audience and ensuring that they are easy to access and interrogate</p> <p>G2 Striking a balance between providing the right amount of information to satisfy transparency demands and enhance public scrutiny while not being too onerous to provide and for users to understand</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reports Authors Protocol exists to ensure consistency in reports
Implementing good practices in reporting	<p>G3 Reporting at least annually on performance, value for money and the stewardship of resources</p> <p>G4 Ensuring owners and senior management own the result</p> <p>G5 Ensuring robust arrangements for assessing the extent to which the principles contained in the Framework have been applied and publishing the results on this assessment including an action plan for improvement and evidence to demonstrate good governance (annual governance statement)</p> <p>G6 Ensuring that the Framework is applied to jointly managed or shared service organisations as appropriate</p> <p>G7 Ensuring the performance information that accompanies the financial statements is prepared on a consistent and timely basis and the statements allow for comparison with other similar organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Statement of Accounts audited by external auditor and approved by Council ▪ Code of Corporate Governance based on CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 2016 ▪ Annual Governance Statement ▪ Annual Review of Performance ▪ Annual Performance report ▪ 6 monthly service plan reviews and reports to Scrutiny
Assurance and effective accountability	<p>G8 Ensuring that recommendations for corrective action made by external audit are acted upon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ External Audit provided by Wales Audit Office ▪ Performance of Internal Audit Section monitored by Audit

	<p>G9 Ensuring an effective internal audit service with direct access to members is in place which provides assurance with regard to governance arrangements and recommendations are acted upon</p> <p>G10 Welcoming peer challenge, reviews and inspections from regulatory bodies and implementing recommendations</p> <p>G11 Gaining assurance on risks associated with delivering services through third parties and that this is evidenced in the annual governance statement</p> <p>G12 Ensuring that when working in partnership, arrangements for accountability are clear and that the need for wider public accountability has been recognised and met</p>	<p>Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Internal Audit report to Audit Committee ▪ Peer Review, Corporate Assessment and Corporate Governance Review action plan monitored by Corporate Management Team ▪ SLT ▪ Annual Governance Statement
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Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 7 April 2021

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 for over a year when Newport received its first reports in February 2020. This crisis 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 in March, restrictions have been easing with the Council and its partners continuing to monitor 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.

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 10th March 2021, Newport Council and its partners have continued to monitor 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.

NCC Covid-19 Response

In March Wales had continued to see further reductions in the Covid-19 case rate falling below 50 per 100,000 across Wales and the continued success of the vaccine rollout across the priority groups in Wales. The latest figures relating to Covid-19 cases and vaccination rollout can be accessed through the [Public Health Wales Covid-19 Dashboards](#). Over 1.2 million people in Wales have received their first dose of the vaccine and it will be important that those who have received their vaccination to have the second dose. The Council, alongside Newport Live have been supporting the NHS with volunteers and facilities to help with the rollout of the vaccine. It is important that everyone including the City's BAME communities receive their vaccine and to also continue to follow the restrictions in place. Further information about the vaccine programme can be obtained from [Public Health Wales](#) and also includes Accessible information [here](#).

On 23rd March, Newport Council joined in with the national day of remembrance for those who have died from Covid-19 and to mark the one year anniversary since the first lockdown. The Civic Centre clock tower was lighted up in yellow and we asked residents to place daffodils and a yellow heart in their window as part of the national day of reflection.

In consideration of the scientific data and as part of WG three week review process, further restrictions have been eased enabling the economy, schools and other sectors to re-open in conjunction with WG guidance. The timetable outlined by the Welsh Government and has been delivered over March and April include:

- Stay Local rule for 2 weeks until 27th March when people will be allowed to travel anywhere in Wales.
- From 13th March up to four people from a maximum of two households will be able to socialise together outdoors including gardens.
- Care home visits resume from 13th March on the basis of a single designated visitor
- 15th March, primary school pupils will return to face to face teaching as will exam year students in secondary schools.
- Wholesale school re-opening to take place after the Easter break in April.
- 15th March, hairdressers and barbers re-opened with Non-essential retail in supermarkets and garden centres re-opening from 22nd March.
- All remaining non-essential retail re-open from 12th April.

Newport Council's services have continued to operate adhering to the restrictions in place. Many areas of the Council's buildings remained closed but front line services have remained operational. Residents and businesses can access the necessary information from the Council's [website](#) or contact the Council's contact centre.

Newport Council Activity and Progress in delivering Strategic Recovery Aims

Newport Council's Recovery Group (consisting of the Chief Executive and Heads of Service) are continuing to regularly meet to monitor and report on emerging Covid-19 issues; and to support the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales in implementing necessary legislative changes. In June 2020, this Cabinet agreed its Strategic Recovery Aims that have enabled the Council to recover its services and support the City's communities and economy to recover in addition to its commitment in delivering against its Wellbeing Objectives set in the Corporate Plan 2017-22. As part of the Council's Performance Framework, service areas aligned their Service Plans 2020/21 to the four Strategic Recovery Aims as well as providing monthly updates to Cabinet on their ongoing response to the Covid crisis.

At the end of every financial year, service areas provide their end of year review of its performance which are presented to the Council's Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet. Service area reviews also support the Council's Annual Report which self-reflects back on its performance in the year, lesson learned and its plans moving forward. This year's Annual Report 2020/21 will include a reflection back on the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and how we have delivered against our Strategic Recovery Aims, how we will move forward in the final year of delivering this Corporate Plan and developing the next iteration of the Corporate Plan from 2022. Remaining actions and work from the Strategic Recovery Aims will be incorporated into their service plans for 2021/22.

Summarised below and also in Appendix 1 of this report, is a summary (by exception) of Council work to 1st April 2021:

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 1 st April 2021
Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils in primary school settings have returned full time and secondary school pupils taking exams also returned. After Easter break all schools are expected to be fully returned. • NCC will received £850k as part of Welsh Government's Ed Tech initiative to provide devices and improve IT connectivity in education. • Newport will be trialling 10 KOMP devices aimed at senior residents to enable them to make video calls, share photos and send messages to their relatives in a safe, secure and inclusive manner. • NCC and partners in Newport supporting Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership (CCRSP) has coordinated the delivery of two virtual careers fairs for South East Wales (September 20 and March 21).
Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Government funding has also been awarded for the delivery of the Leisure Centre project. • Regulatory services will be supporting businesses reopening as restrictions are eased. • Welsh Government confirmed £1.5m to support the Transporter Bridge project. • Elected Members and officers participated in climate change training. • First Electric Refuse vehicle in Wales was delivered and is in operation.
Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vaccination programme delivered 2nd doses to the majority of social care staff and to all older people in care home settings. • Lateral flow tests are being distributed to providers and to NCC front facing social care staff to support recovery plans. • Donations of laptops and iPads from local companies to children in residential homes and in foster care. • Integrated Care Funding confirmed for the development of a third residential home in Newport to ensure looked after children can be cared for in the city and closer to their families. • Newport Live's Sport Wales additional 'recovery' funding (21/22) will create a new engagement programme aimed at increasing physical activity levels and improving mental wellbeing as part of Covid recovery; building on the #happyandhealthyathome campaign.
Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's Chief Executive contributed towards the Audit Wales review on the 'importance of kindness' and how we worked together in the Council, our partners and with communities. • Participatory Budgeting will be enabling local community groups to bid for funding that will enable them to deliver projects for their communities across Newport. • Newport's Positive Futures programme delivered by Newport Live, funded predominantly by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, supports ASB groups and Safer Newport, engaging and supporting young people 8-19 years.

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 3 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 briefings.

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 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 is predominantly funded by the WG. A revenue budget monitor to end of November was reported to January Cabinet and confirmed a positive overall position for the Council and included 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 previous 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. Since the last report, the numbers of cases being referred to TTP for contact tracing and the positivity rates have continued to reduce significantly, with the impact of the lock-down restrictions and the roll-out of increased testing and the vaccination programme. Additional TTP staff are being recruited utilising the WG grant funding, which means that redeployed staff can be released to their substantive posts and other services can be re-commenced. Therefore, we are beginning to move to the first stages of recovery, albeit with a degree of caution.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

Newport Council has continued to build on the strong collaborative work through 2020/21. The Strategic Recovery Aims alongside the Council's Corporate Plan has enabled the Council to focus on its core delivery requirements whilst ensuring we comply with the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales legislation. The role of Civil Contingencies, emergency planning, and the Council's Test, Trace and Protect has been vital to ensure the risk to the City's communities are minimised and that the Council continues to deliver its services to residents and businesses.

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, also considered by Scrutiny Committee in February.

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

Overview and Management Committee received and considered a report on the 'New Normal' at their meeting in February 2021. This report considers the changes that the Council has made for office based staff since March 2020.

The Committee welcomed the report and discussed the positive changes including active travel miles of staff. The Committee requested that there is a further report once the way forward options are developed and that this comes back to the Committee to consult, before it goes to Cabinet.

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

[Responding to the ‘New Normal’ Report to Overview and Management Scrutiny Committee](#)

Dated: 7 April 2021

Appendix 1 – Progress of Delivery against Strategic Recovery Aims (to 1st April 2021)

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
<p>Support schools and other educational establishments to safely reopen for staff and pupils.</p>	<p>From Monday 15th March, primary, special and secondary schools and PRUs will provide onsite education provision for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all primary aged learners • vulnerable learners • critical worker's children • learners undertaking essential exams or assessments • learners in years 11 and 13 <p>Secondary schools and PRUs may also provide access to onsite education provision for learners in exam years and years 10 and 12. They have the flexibility to provide learners in years 7, 8 and 9 with the opportunity of a check-in focused on support for wellbeing and readiness for a return to their onsite learning after Easter.</p> <p>The school meals service through Chartwells was reinstated for all Foundation Phase pupils and children attending primary school hub provisions from 1st March. This was extended to include Key Stage 2 pupils immediately on their return to face-to-face learning from 15th March. The supermarket voucher scheme for free school meal learners in these key stages therefore ceased on 26th February and 12th March respectively.</p> <p>However the schools meals service in secondary schools will not recommence until April 2021, and thus secondary age learners who are eligible for free school meals will continue to receive supermarket vouchers until the end of the spring term.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, all pupils who are eligible for free school meals will receive supermarket vouchers to cover the Easter holiday period which runs from 29th March to 9th April.</p> <p>Where appropriate and supported by individual risk assessments, Breakfast Club provisions have been reinstated across primary and special schools.</p> <p>The Passenger Transport Unit has confirmed that home to school transport will be available for eligible learners across Key Stage 2 – 5 from their return to school.</p>

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
	<p>School cleaning services procured through Newport Norse are continuing to operate appropriately to support the requirements of face-to-face learning.</p> <p>As at 11th March 2021, there have been no requests to the Education Service from schools for priority testing for symptomatic pupils.</p> <p>Newport Live Community Sports Development and Health and Wellbeing staff supporting pupils and individual Primary Schools on an individual basis with digital sport, leadership and wellbeing content; with direct support in school (outdoors) March / April onwards to support pupil health and wellbeing.</p>
Work to prevent and reduce inequality of progress and outcomes in education for mainstream and vulnerable learners.	Vulnerable learners have been able to access on-site education during the current lockdown and will continue to be able to attend throughout the partial reopening of secondary schools for the remainder of the spring term.
Support schools to enhance and develop digital skills; digital teaching and learning platforms; and enhanced support for digitally excluded learners	<p>As of 5th March 2021, out of the 3714 digital devices ordered using the WG EdTech funding, 2906 have been delivered to schools. This includes: 1746 chrome books, 369 laptops, 381 Apple devices and 207 PCs. A further delivery of 606 laptops is expected on 15th March 2021. The SRS will be working to configure these devices and deliver them to schools by the end of the Spring Term 2021.</p> <p>The Welsh Government has also secured additional funding for devices. This means that schools in Newport will benefit from an additional 3043 chrome books which will be delivered to the local authority in May. The Welsh Government has confirmed that Newport will receive £850,846 Hwb EdTech grant funding for 2021-2022 which will be used to further increase the number of digital devices available to pupils and schools.</p> <p>Schools were provided with 1,300 MiFi devices in June 2020. These devices provide a 4G internet connection to pupils who do not have access to the internet at home. The carrier charges on these devices have been funded from the EdTech grant until 31st March 2021.</p> <p>From 1st April 2021, EdTech funding is available to pay the carrier charges on 500 MiFi devices up to 31st July 2021. To support pupils who need access to connectivity and do not have a MiFi device, Welsh Government has negotiated mobile data uplifts with a number of mobile network operators (BT Mobile, EE, SMARTY, Tesco Mobile, Three, Virgin Mobile and Vodafone). Parents who have existing contracts with these providers are able to apply for mobile data uplifts via the school and local authority.</p>

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
Support and enable people that are digitally excluded to access community IT programmes, Council services and other public services.	<p>Rural Development Programme Digital Transformation Project will run until the end of September 2021. Targeted at Seniors and using the KOMP device, it is a one button computer. KOMP will allow family members to make video calls, share photos and send messages to their relatives in a safe, secure and inclusive manner. This will help address loneliness for those unable to use more complex devices. Newport will be trialling 10 of these devices and we are in the process of identifying potential users.</p> <p>Tablets and dongles have also been provided for those residents most in need via the REACH Programme (Refugee Integration).</p> <p>Through the Child Development Fund, Flying Start has purchased 50 Tablets and 30 WiFi packs, to loan to families who would otherwise be digitally excluded from accessing these services. The first kits are due to go out w/c 8th March 2021 to families.</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>Employment support continues to be offered digitally via employment programme teams.</p> <p>A meeting with Admiral Group is planned for late March to discuss a recruitment routeway for future employment.</p> <p>The NCC Kickstart Scheme has recruited its first employees and is providing 30+ opportunities for young people in the City.</p> <p>In partnership with Careers Wales, Working Wales, JCP, the National Training Federation Wales, FE and HE institutions, the Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership (CCRSP) has coordinated the delivery of two virtual careers fairs for South East Wales (September 20 and March 21). The free events provided an opportunity to match those in need of employability support across the region with employers, employment support organisations and training providers.</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>Rural Development Programme Digital Transformation Project will run until the end of September 2021. Targeted at Seniors and using the KOMP device, it is a one button computer. KOMP will allow family members to make video calls, share photos and send messages to their relatives in a safe, secure and inclusive manner. This will help address loneliness for those unable to use more complex devices. Newport will be trialling 10 of these devices and we are in the process of identifying potential users.</p> <p>Tablets and dongles have also been provided for those residents most in need via the REACH Programme (Refugee Integration).</p>

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
	<p>Through the Child Development Fund, Flying Start has purchased 50 Tablets and 30 WiFi packs, to loan to families who would otherwise be digitally excluded from accessing these services. The first kits are due to go out w/c 8th March 2021 to families.</p> <p>Speech and Language/Parenting interventions continue to be delivered virtually.</p> <p>Newport Live's Alternative Education programme (vulnerable learners) is in full operation, with full-time and part-time pupil placements (30+ young people) via Bridge Achievement Service, and various Secondary Schools. Positive Futures continue to engage with identified families 'on their doorsteps' working with children in a mentoring capacity, with children 15 children per week being met from Tredegar Park, Alway, Maindee and Pillgwenlly Primary Schools – linked to Safer Newport.</p> <p>The Levelling the Playing Fields project in Newport, part of a national programme with Alliance of Sport and the London Marathon Trust, using sport to engage and improve health / life outcomes of BAME children and young people who are at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System locally by Newport Live in partnership with Youth Justice Service.</p>

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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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
<p>Maintain our focus on regenerating Newport to deliver existing and new investment projects.</p>	<p>Cabinet have agreed to progress the development of the new City Centre Leisure and Wellbeing Centre. Welsh Government funding has also been awarded for the delivery of the project.</p>
<p>Enable and support the construction industry to re-establish the supply of new and affordable housing.</p>	<p>Social Housing Grant slippage funding has been secured for 9 neutral tenure flats to be developed by Melin Homes at Hubert Road in St. Julians. Shared ownership slippage funding has also been secured to support the building of additional shared ownership units at the Pobl development at Herbert Road.</p>

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
Enable and support businesses to re-establish normal operations whilst maintaining the health and safety of their workers and customers.	Through the CCG childcare sustainability grant we have supported 31 childcare providers with grant funding to ensure their future sustainability following the effects of Covid-19.
Enable and support businesses to prepare for future trade arrangements resulting from Brexit negotiations.	Regulatory Services will be supporting businesses reopening as restrictions are eased over the next two months.
Protect and improve the environment, including air quality and decarbonisation of the city for its residents, businesses and visitors.	<p>The CCR Skills Partnership has endorsed the inclusion of 'Green Skills' qualifications within the Personal Learning Account (PLA) programme to help support Welsh Government's decarbonisation agenda.</p> <p>Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) kick-off meeting held with WG and the pilot study is now underway to assess the carbon emissions from energy use within Newport.</p>
Continuing support and safe delivery of the Council's City Services including waste, cleansing and highways.	In March, City Services introduced its first electric refuse vehicle. The first one in Wales. The City Services are also making good progress installing new solar panels / farm to enable clean energy power its electric fleet. For Newport these are major steps in its work to becoming net zero carbon by 2030.

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
Support people to remain living independently in their homes and communities.	For the first time there are no Newport care homes in incident and plans are being developed to safely resume indoor visits. Monitoring systems remain in place.
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.	The vaccination programme has delivered 2 nd doses to the majority of social care staff and to all older people in care home settings. Lateral flow tests are being distributed to providers and to NCC front facing social care staff to support recovery plans.

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
Assess the impact and the long-term sustainability of the social care sector in Newport informing future service requirements.	WG hardship funding to support the social care sector has been extended for 6 months. The terms of this funding is not yet known - the detail will influence our 21/22 fee negotiations.
Safeguard and support children and young people to remain safely with their families.	Local companies in the City donated laptops and iPads to children in residential homes and foster care to help them with their school work. Welsh Government Integrated Care Fund has awarded capital funding for Project Perthyn which is aimed at bringing children back into the City where they can receive better standards of care and be closer to their families. The funding will be used towards the development of a third home in the City which can be used by other Councils in Gwent for children with complex needs.
Improve opportunities for Active Travel and work towards improved air quality.	In collaboration with Network Rail further development has been made with the installation of a new accessible walkway from Devon Place to Queensway. Network Rail have announced that this winter they will close the line that will enable the necessary works to take place. The new footbridge will provide a safer route for pedestrians and improve access for disabled people in the city.
Regulate businesses and support consumers / residents to protect and improve their health.	Regulatory Services will be supporting businesses reopening as restrictions are eased over the next two months.
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.	Transporter Bridge Main Capital Works programme will be initiated during this period subject to Welsh Government confirmation of matched funding. Newport Live's leisure, fitness, and cultural provision only digital and online keeping people active and supporting their wellbeing with community programmes operational. Facilities not open other than the tennis courts outdoors, and open to elite sport in the velodrome, and vulnerable young people through alternative education programme at the Connect Centre. Newport Centre being used for the successful Mass Vaccination Programme supporting Public Health and Newport City Council. Newport Live's <i>#happyandhealthyathome</i> campaign is to grow into a wider programme citywide to include Home, Facilities, Parks, Communities, Workplaces, and Schools with activation opportunities, social prescribing, health checks, and engagement through physical activity to support mental wellbeing and increases in being active amongst all ages over the next 6-12 months.
Sustain a safe, healthy and productive workforce.	Risk assessment for the Civic Centre has been reviewed and an audit will be undertaken by the end of the month by the Health and Safety Manager.

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

April'21 Update (By Exception)

With advice that shielding will pause on 31st March, guidance will be reissued to managers to enable them to bring staff back to work safely from 1st April.

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

April'21 Update (By Exception)

Work together with our partners to reduce poverty, address homelessness and support our most vulnerable people as a priority.

- HSG spend plan finalised to include a number of supported housing projects, posts and research that will help reduce homelessness
- HSG funding to prioritise services developed during the pandemic and to support WG phase 2 capital projects
- Emergency accommodation continues to be reviewed and has been secured for a further 6 months to ensure continuity of service.

Assess and address the inequalities that Covid 19 has highlighted or contributed to within our communities.

The Policy, Partnership and Involvement Team has been leading on 'Our Voice, Our Choice, Our Port' Participatory budgeting project. This project is focused on enabling community projects to access health funding to help support their work. Using the NCC Community Impact Assessment on Covid 19, we identified eight vulnerable groups to have been highly affected and five cross cutting themes were identified as affecting multiple groups. The Participatory Budget Steering Group (consisting of public sector, third sector and community members) to support the development of videos and bids. Over 80 applications have been received. On 27th and 28th March, Newport residents will be able to vote for the community projects that they would like to support and receive the funding.

Identify, develop and seek to sustain any positive developments emerging during the crisis.

The Council's Chief Executive contributed towards the Audit Wales review on *the 'importance of kindness'* and how we worked together in the Council, our partners and with communities.

Developing opportunities for people to access suitable and affordable housing

Social Housing Grant slippage funding has been obtained for the development of 9 affordable flats by Melin Homes which will be prioritised for homeless households.

Deliver a community cohesion programme that effectively responds to community tensions and creates a shared sense of identity across the city.

- Welcome to Newport App under development in partnership with Cardiff University and Software Academy; design being led by refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and focussed on creating a share narrative of living in Newport
- Hate Crime training delivered to Hungarian and Polish communities in community languages.
- Hong Kong Citizens Support steering group established in preparation to welcome newcomers to the city and anticipate demand for services.

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
Prevent and address instances of antisocial behaviour (ASB) impacting upon the residents and the business community of Newport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU Citizens Rights session delivered with partners to around 80 professionals working across NCC and other organisations, focussed on reducing risk of discrimination experienced by EU citizens in Newport <p>The continued work to support the reduction in ASB includes:- Working closely with partners when young people are identified as being involved with ASB. The identification of the young people continues to be a challenge as some young people are following the Covid guidelines and wear masks. However, there has been an increase in referrals recently. These are being managed through the Youth Justice Service.</p> <p>The ASB Operations Group has met to discuss plans for being post Covid ready and how this will look in relation to diversionary alternatives for Young People. Partners include Newport Live, Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue, Housing and Community Hubs</p> <p>The ASB Group has continued with discussions on the sharing of data and also a consistent social media response. We are hoping that the data shared will help form the needs for diversionary support moving forward. A consistent approach to social media messages from the partnership will help with understanding the needs of the City. This work continues. A further meeting is planned this month to discuss how the voice of the community can be heard to improve the response to ASB.</p> <p>Newport Live's Positive Futures programme, funded predominantly by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, supports ASB group, Police and Community Partners, and will link to Safer Newport. The team are engaging and supporting children 'on doorsteps' with their families, identified through Early Intervention Youth Project in partnership with Youth Justice Service, engaging children identified at Pillgwenlly and Maindee Primary Schools, linked to community safety and youth justice partners (other schools include Alway and Tredegar Park).</p>
Re-establish Community Regeneration facilities and services where it is safe to do so for staff and its service users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flying Start: all playgroups operating as normal, adhering to protective measures set out by WG. Interventions being offered virtually.• Families First: strands are continuing to work with service users as needed, in a virtual capacity or via telephone contact. Plans are being developed in preparation for reopening face-to-face delivery when possible. SPACE panel has seen a 25% increase compared to this time last year.• Neighbourhood Hubs: remain open in a reduced capacity with contact with service users mainly being via email, phone and Teams where possible. North Hub (Bettws Community Centre) – maintenance work is in progress, including roof and window repairs, painting and branding, to establish the centre as the new home of the north community hub.

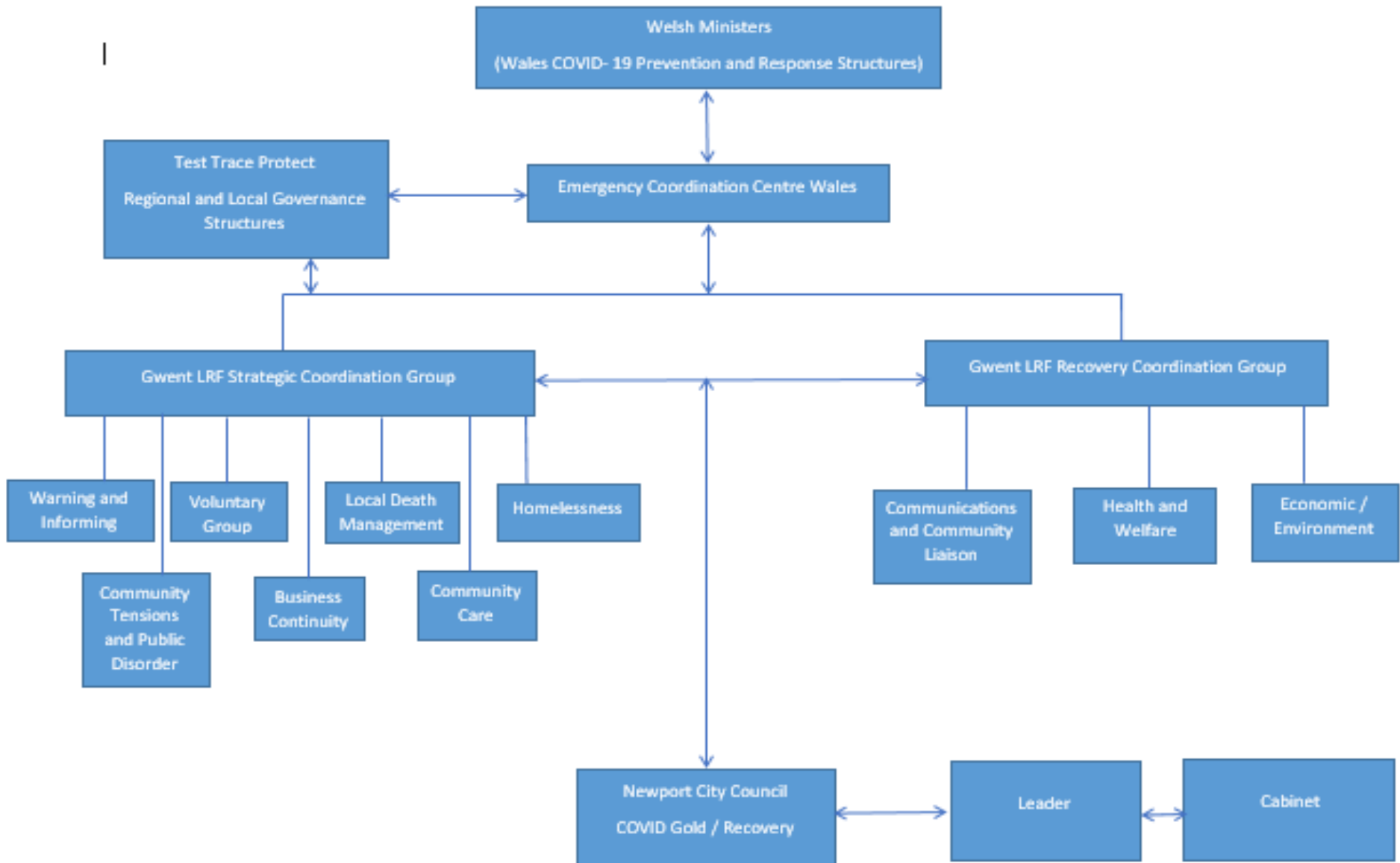
Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play Development: holiday provision has continued to run in October and February half terms but limited to vulnerable children only. Intended to be repeated during the Easter holidays. <p>Hubs and Libraries will prepare for gradual opening up of services with Welsh Government restrictions.</p>
Develop opportunities for community involvement participation and engagement.	The Council's Policy, Partnership Team has been working with Newport Communities as part of the Participatory Budget work with Health enabling Community groups to submit bids to deliver local projects. Using the NCC Community Impact Assessment the work has been focused on the City's most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. With bids being submitted they will be assessed and awarded.

Appendix 2 – Covid 19 Prevention and Response Structure





Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 7 April 2021

Subject Post Brexit / Trade Agreement – Newport City Council Update

Purpose To present an update to Cabinet following the outcomes of the UK Government and EU Trade negotiations; and an update on Newport City Council's response and monitoring of the post Brexit arrangements after 31st December 2020.

Author Chief Executive
Head of People and Business Change

Ward All

Summary Since the last report to Cabinet on 10th March 2021, the UK has been operating under the new arrangements for over three months. In this period many business trading with the EU have had to adapt to these new changes and there remains uncertainty over the medium to long term impact that these arrangements will have on the City's economy and also Newport Council.

For EU citizens living in Newport there are now less than four months for people to apply for EU Settled Status before the 30th June 2021 deadline. The Council and its partners are continuing to promote and encourage people to apply before the deadline. In addition to this there are also changes to the migration laws and a new points based system that is now in place.

Proposal Cabinet is asked to consider the contents of the report and note the Council's Brexit response.

Action by Corporate Management Team

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Heads of Service and officer Brexit 'Task and Finish' group

Signed

Background

On the 31st December 2020 the UK officially left the European Union (EU) and the Single Market. The UK and EU have agreed a trade arrangement that will prevent tariffs being imposed on EU and UK goods. But the new regulations now require businesses that trade with the EU to complete a number of forms and documents in order to continue to meet the new arrangements. The [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#) published its first statistics on UK trade since we left the EU in March. The figures reported the UK saw a 40% drop in exports and 29% drop in imports to the EU. Whilst the ONS believes this is largely in part due to businesses stockpiling before the 31st December deadline, we will need to see if further statistical data confirms this to be a continuing trend or this will balance itself over time. As the economy reopens through the easing of Covid restrictions this may also reveal some of the impacts that Brexit has had on the economy in Wales.

Since the UK left the EU, there remains many legislative areas to be ratified across the UK. In March, the UK Government announced two subsidy schemes that will replace EU Structural Funding that many areas in South East Wales including Newport benefited from:

1. [Levelling Up Fund](#)

£800m has been allocated to the devolved nations (although the exact amount Welsh authorities will receive are unknown) to priority areas. Newport has been categorised as a Priority 1 area and will focus on three investment themes: Transport investments; Regeneration and town centre investment and cultural investment. Local authorities will be able to submit one bid for every MP that lies in their boundary which means Newport will be able to submit two bids. Bids can also be submitted in collaboration with neighbouring authorities on cross boundary schemes.

2. [UK Community Renewal Fund \(precursor to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund\)](#)

The UK Community Renewal Fund is the precursor to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund that will be available for 2021/22. The UK Government announced £220 million of investment but it is not clear at the time of this report how much Wales will be able to access this fund. The UK Government has also identified 100 priority areas most in need based upon productivity, household income, unemployment, skills and population density. For Newport, we were not identified as a priority area under this criteria but we can still submit bids for funding albeit subject to tighter evaluation requirements in comparison to the Top 100 areas. The Council, local community groups, education establishments will be able to submit bids (Up to £3m) to the Lead Authority (Newport Council) which will have to be assessed and selected by panel before formally submitted to the UK Government. Planning for this has commenced.

Both of these funds will require Newport Council to submit bids to the UK Government which will be subject to an assessment and compete with other local authorities across the UK. Therefore it will not be guaranteed that Newport will be successful with this bids. Both funds must have bids submitted by June 2021 and there will be further work which the Council and partners need to do to identify and submit robust proposals.

Moving forward it will be important to ensure that new / existing local and regional projects are able to maximise these opportunities and that Newport Council with its regional partners ensure sustainable investment continues to be delivered for its communities and economy.

This work will also support the Welsh Government (WG) position published in its '[End of Transition Action Plan](#)' which sets out the WG priority areas. In addition to this WG has also published its paper [The New relationship with the EU](#) which outlines what the new trade arrangements, security, travel and rights of UK / EU Citizens. New migration and travel rules have also come into place from the 1st January 2021 including:

- New points based immigration system for all non UK residents (excluding Irish Citizens) looking to move and work in the UK.
- Travellers into and out of the UK will have to follow new rules including travel insurance with health cover. From 2022 UK nationals will have to pay for an electronic authorisation to travel to the EU.

- UK citizens looking to move to the EU will no longer have an automatic right to live or work and will require necessary resident permits or requirements of that country.

EU Settled Status / Post Brexit Rights

There is now less than three months for EU Citizens to apply for EU Settled Status by the 30th June deadline. EU Citizens living and working in Newport significantly contribute towards the City's economy and its communities. To date over 8,000 applications have been made in Newport. It will be important that we ensure all EU families and individuals living in the City apply before the deadline and to ensure that they are not disadvantaged after this date. Since the scheme has been in operation, Newport Council alongside our partners at Newport Homes, Newfields Law, Citizens Advice Bureau and others have been working closely with our communities to support them through this process. Welsh Government alongside the WLGA are very aware of the uncertainty and issues being faced by EU Citizens and are seeking assurances from the Home Office over their rights after the deadline and if the deadline can be extended due to the issues faced because of the lockdown measures.

In March, Newport Council and Newfields Law hosted an event to businesses and organisations explaining the rights of EU people living in Newport to continue to provide services effectively and fairly.

The Council has raised these concerns with the Welsh Government Local Government Association Brexit Co-ordinators Group and Welsh Government. The Council alongside its partners will also work towards local work to provide necessary advice, guidance and support to businesses and residents.

A summary of the Council's ongoing work is outlined below:

Communication – We have been sharing communications from the Council and Welsh Government on EUSS, Business support and providing services to EU residents in the city. The Council's internal communications team will also be sharing further information on EUSS and post Brexit rights.

Finance – The Council's Finance team are monitoring the impact that the new arrangement will have on the delivery of Council services and major capital projects. 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. The Council will be considering the prospectuses of the Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund to support key projects in Newport.

Procurement – Since the new trade arrangements came into place, no significant issues have been reported by service areas in relation to the supply chain as a result of the new trade arrangements. Some areas of the Council have noted price increases in the purchasing of goods and services but it is difficult to determine whether it is as a result of Covid or the new Brexit arrangements. Social Services residential homes, care providers and Education services have not reported any issues relating to food, medicine and other supplies. The Council's IT Provider (Shared Resource Service) have identified supply issues relating to IT equipment such as laptops. However, major IT manufacturers have been struggling to keep up with demand due to the pandemic and there is a delay in the supply of key microchips.

Regulatory Services and Environmental Health – The Council's Regulatory Service have appointed an officer who is contacting businesses in Newport establishing if they require any support with Covid and Brexit compliance. Environmental Health Food Safety team are now fully trained to undertake EU Health Certificate checks. Civil Contingencies and Regulatory Services have not identified any issues with Newport Port.

Education – Education Services have agreed to provide free school meals to children that have no recourse to public funds.

Community Cohesion / EUSS – Community Cohesion officers continue to engage with EU Citizens and community leaders encouraging the uptake of the EU Settled Status application before 30th June 2021. Food Poverty work continues and are offering small grants to Newport Food organisations to support households impacted by Covid and Brexit. The work of Community Cohesion officers is also focusing on post-Brexit rights and access to key services in the City.

The Council will also be receiving additional funding in 2021/22 to support communities with Food Poverty with additional emphasis on providing Housing and debt advice / support.

The council are aware of a growing number of EU and non-EU nationals who are finding themselves with no recourse to public funds as a result of EUSS outcomes, and the hidden demand for support which is at present masked by extended COVID duties which require LAs to house people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), as well as the current restrictions on private evictions. As we move into a period where people are more at risk of having an insecure migration status, or living unlawfully in the UK, these risks will be compounded.

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.

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 3 of 2020/21 the Brexit risk score decreased to 12 reflecting the new trade agreement but also the uncertainty of short to medium term impacts on the economy, EU Citizens and new regulatory requirements. The Quarter 3 risk update will be presented to Cabinet in March 2021.

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?
Brexit	4	3	See Report.	Corporate Management Team and Brexit Task & Finish Group

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 still 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 as part of the considerations of uses for the projected 2020/21 revenue budget underspend and further one-off funding that the 2021/22 new budget will also generate, the Head of Finance recommends that these, in part, are set aside for the Brexit / Covid residual risks in the short term. As the risk stabilises with time, any unused provision/reserve can then be re-allocated into other priorities. More details on this will be made in the 2020/21 revenue budget outturn and 2021/22 new budget reports to Cabinet.

Officers will continue to explore the possibilities of accessing the various grants that are being made available to public bodies in supporting the potential impact of the new arrangements.

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 have now been mitigated by the belated trade deal, subject to ratification by the member states. However, despite the agreement regarding no tariffs and quotas on imported and exported goods, there is still remaining uncertainty regarding the impact on other areas, such as services and data security. 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 details of the trade agreement are clarified and implemented in national legislation. Despite the non-imposition of tariffs and quotas, additional port health checks will be required in terms of certifying compliance with new Regulations. Environmental Health officers have now been trained to undertake import and export food health certificate checks, and this will have significant resource implications once the port activity increases. Local business advice and support is also being provided in relation to Brexit compliance. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the implementation of the Internal Markets legislation will have implications in terms of public sector contracts and procurement and also equivalent state-aid, fair competition requirements.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

The new trade arrangements with the EU will provide much certainty for businesses and the Council and has significantly reduced the risk for the Council and businesses in Newport. 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 officer 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.

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: 7 April 2021

Appendix 1 – Summary actions taken through the Task & Finish Group

Theme	Progress of Activity completed by Newport Council to 1 st April 2021
Your Organisation (Communications)	We have been sharing communications from the Council and Welsh Government on EUSS, Business support and providing services to EU residents in the city. The Council's internal communications team will also be sharing further information on EUSS and post Brexit rights.
Your Organisation (Finance and Funding)	The Council's Finance team are monitoring the impact that the new arrangement will have on the delivery of Council services and major capital projects. 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. The Council will be considering the prospectuses of the Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund to support key projects in Newport.
Supplies and Services (including social services and ICT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the new trade arrangements came into place, no significant issues have been reported by service areas in relation to the supply chain as a result of the new trade arrangements. • Some areas of the Council have noted price increases in the purchasing of goods and services but it is difficult to determine whether it is as a result of Covid or the new Brexit arrangements. • Social Services residential homes and care providers and Education services have not reported any issues relating to food, medicine and other supplies. • The Council's IT Provider (Shared Resource Service) have identified supply issues relating to IT equipment such as laptops. However, major IT manufacturers have been struggling to keep up with demand due to the pandemic and there is a delay in the supply of key microchips.
Security / Data Protection arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's IT provider SRS have necessary virus protection and firewalls in place and continuously monitoring threats to its systems. • Information Commissioner's Office have confirmed EU Data Flow arrangements have been extended for 6 months. NCC audit of key IT suppliers and arrangements have not identified any such arrangements in place.
Supplies and Services (Regulatory Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's Regulatory Service have appointed an officer who is contacting businesses in Newport establishing if they require any support with Covid and Brexit compliance. • Enquiries are being received by the team. • Animal feed imports have been received at the port and their surveillance has increased since EU Exit. • Environmental Health Food Safety team are now fully trained to undertake EU Health Certificate checks.
Local Community (Civil Contingencies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Contingencies and Regulatory Services have not identified any issues with Newport Port. • No issues have been identified since the transition impacting on Civil contingencies in Newport but the team will continue to monitor these.
Local Community (Community Cohesion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Settled Status / EU communities • Food Poverty • Homelessness (EU Citizens) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Cohesion officers continue to engage with EU Citizens and community leaders encouraging the uptake of the EU Settled Status application before 30th June 2021. • Post Brexit rights webinar has been held in March and further engagement work will be undertaken to encourage EU Citizens to apply.

Theme	Progress of Activity completed by Newport Council to 1 st April 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community cohesion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Poverty work continues and are offering small grants to Newport Food organisations to support households impacted by Covid and Brexit. • Newport Council will be receiving new funding from April 2021 to support more food poverty work and providing housing / debt advice. • The work of Community Cohesion officers is also focusing on post-Brexit rights and access to key services in the City. • The council are aware of a growing number of EU and non-EU nationals who are finding themselves with no recourse to public funds as a result of EUSS outcomes, and the hidden demand for support which is at present masked by extended COVID duties which require LAs to house people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), as well as the current restrictions on private evictions. • Education have confirmed that children that are in NRPF families will have access to free school meals. • As we move into a period where people are more at risk of having an insecure migration status, or living unlawfully in the UK, these risks will be compounded.



Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 7 April 2021

Subject Cabinet Work Programme

Purpose To report and agree the details of the Cabinet's Work Programme.

Author Governance Team Leader/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 /Governance Team Leader

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 April 2021

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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
CABINET 08-JAN-21	Revenue Budget and MTFP: Draft Proposals	HoF
	Revenue Budget Monitor	HoF
	Capital Budget Monitor	HoF
	Mid-Year Performance Analysis 2020/21	HP&BC
	Wales LG Bill	HP&BC
	COVID-19 Recovery - Update	CX
	Brexit Update	HP&BC
	PSB Summary Document (for information/awareness)	HP&BC
	Work Programme	COM
COUNCIL 26-JAN-21	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	
CABINET 22-FEB-21	Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy	HoF
	Revenue Budget and MTFP: Final Proposals	HoF
	Proposed Leisure and Wellbeing Facility	HRIH/HCS
	Transporter Bridge Funding	HRIH
	Guidance on Socio-Economic Duty	HP&BC
	COVID-19 Recovery - Update	CX
	Brexit Update	HP&BC
	Work Programme	COM
COUNCIL 03 MAR-21		
	Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy	HoF
	Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan	HoF
CABINET 10-MAR-21	Pay and Reward Statement 2021/22	HP&BC
	WG White Paper and Consultation – Rebalancing Care and Support	CD - People
	Corporate Risk Register Update (Quarter 3)	P&BC
	COVID-19 Recovery - Update	CX/P&BC
	Brexit Update	CX/P&BC
	Work Programme	GLT
CABINET 07-APR-21		
	Key Stage Outcomes	CEdO
	EAS Business Plan 2020/21	CEdO
	Replacement of LDP Post consultation	HRIH
	Anti Fraud	IAO
	Code of Corp Governance	IAO
	Covid Recovery Update	CX/HP&BC

	Brexit Update	CX/HP&BC
	Work Programme	GTL
COUNCIL 27-APR-21	IRP Annual Report NNDR Rate Relief reports for Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Pay and Reward Statement 21/22 Provide Feedback on Review Report and Delivery	HoF HoF H&PBC
CABINET 05-MAY-21	Annual Safeguarding Report Updated Corporate Report Template including the Socio economic duty COVID-19 Recovery – Update Brexit Update	SD-People HP&BC CX/HP&BC CX/HP&BC
	Work Programme	GTL
COUNCIL 11-MAY-21	AGM LDP Review, Delivery Agreement and Review Report	HRIH