

# Agenda



## Delegated Decisions - Leader

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Date: Wednesday, 8 April 2020

To: Councillor Councillor J Mudd

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### Item

### Wards Affected

1 School Admission Arrangements 2021/22 (Pages 3 - 38)

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Date of Issue: 31 March 2020

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# Report

## Leader of the Council

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### Part 1

Date: 8 April 2020

**Subject** School Admission Arrangements 2021/22

**Purpose** To consider the responses received during the recent consultation exercise and as a result to determine the Council's school admission arrangements for the academic year commencing September 2021

**Author** Service Manager - Education Planning & Resources

**Ward** All

**Summary** In accordance with Welsh Government's statutory School Admissions Code, the Council is required to undertake an annual consultation on admission arrangements in the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.

Accordingly, a consultation was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and concluded on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in relation to the proposed admission arrangements for September 2021 onwards. A consultation report has now been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received.

Whilst the consultation report is attached at Appendix 1 for reference, this decision report references the content and recommends that the admission arrangements be determined as outlined in the consultation document. In accordance with the statutory code, these arrangements must be determined by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

**Proposal** To determine and set the Council's school admission arrangements for September 2021 as outlined in the recent consultation with stakeholders.

**Action by** Chief Education Officer

**Timetable** Immediate. In accordance with legislation, these arrangements must be determined by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Corporate Management Team
- Education Senior Management Team
- Senior HR Business Partner
- Senior Finance Business Partner

**Signed**

## **Background**

Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Council has responsibility for the discharge of the school admissions function for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport. As an admission authority, the Council acts in accordance with the Welsh Government School Admissions Code and the School Admissions Appeals Code.

It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. The consultation must conclude by 1<sup>st</sup> March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15<sup>th</sup> April in the determination year. The determination year is the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.

Consequently, a consultation was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and concluded on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in relation to the proposed admission arrangements for September 2021 onwards. A consultation report has been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received. There is now a requirement to consider the feedback received to these proposals and as a result to determine the Council's school admission policy for September 2021.

A copy of the Consultation Report is attached at Appendix 1 but there now follows a synopsis of the feedback received.

## **Proposals for Change**

1. To redefine the Caerleon Comprehensive School catchment area to align with the Newport City Council boundary, thereby removing all areas of Monmouthshire and Torfaen from the catchment area;
2. To move Somerton Primary School from the Lliswerry cluster and catchment area to the Llanwern cluster and catchment area;
3. To replace the guaranteed school place for children of UK service personnel in any school of their choice with the catchment school;
4. To remove the specific priority for children who are on the child protection register.

The rationale behind these proposals, along with details of the impact that implementing each of them might have, are described in more detail within the Consultation Report at Appendix 1 (pages 2-5 of the report).

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

The School Admissions Code provides lists of bodies that admission authorities must and should consult with on changes to admission arrangements. A list of the statutory and non-statutory consultees who the Council engaged with in relation to this consultation is included within the Consultation Report at Appendix 1 (pages 5 and 6 of the report). The consultation was also publicised through the Council's 'Have your say' web page and via agreed social media channels.

## **Consultation Responses**

In total, 52 responses were received during the consultation period, all of which related to the proposal to amend the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School. Of these, 47 responses raised concerns regarding the proposal. The remaining five responses neither supported nor objected to the proposal but merely raised questions in relation to their particular circumstances. Respondents included pupils, parents and carers, members of the public, Community Councils, Governing Bodies, Members of Parliament, Elected Members, neighbouring Local Authorities and the Diocese of Monmouth.

Whilst some respondents raised more than one issue in their response, the comments can be summarised into seven categories as follows:

- Impact on local community cohesion and pupil wellbeing (46 comments);
- Distance to an alternative school and safety of home to school transport routes (40 comments);
- Impact on transition and siblings (23 comments);
- Environmental impact and wellbeing of future generations (21 comments);

- Consultation process and methodology (11 comments);
- Impact on educational standards (10 comments);
- Cost of alternative home to school transport (4 comments).

Further details, including the LAs responses to these comments, are included within the Consultation Report at Appendix 1 (pages 6-8 of the report).

No comments, either positive or negative, were received regarding any of the other three proposed changes out forward within this consultation.

### Learner Voice

The Council is keen to gain the views of learners when proposing policy changes. As a result, whilst the School Admissions Code does not stipulate that consultation should include engagement with learners, attempts were made for this to be undertaken. This was the first year that this has been attempted in relation to the annual consultation on admission arrangements and was facilitated via an on-line SNAP survey that was circulated via the schools listed in the section above.

Some of these surveys were issued late in the consultation period, and the Education Service acknowledges therefore that this engagement was not as effective as it was intended. As a result, the Learner Voice is difficult to assess effectively in this case. Notwithstanding this, 66 responses were received by the deadline date. Further information about this feedback is included within the Consultation Report at Appendix 1 (page 9 of the report).

### Financial Summary

There are no costs associated with this proposal.

### 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?
Failure to determine the admission arrangements for 2021 by the required date	M	L	This is an annual process, and consultation has already been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the statutory code.	Chief Education Officer

\* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

### Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015  
 Corporate Plan  
 Council Improvement Plan (*Aspirational People* theme)  
 Education Service Plan

### Options Available

Option 1: To determine and set the Council's school admission arrangements for September 2021 as outlined in the recent consultation with stakeholders.

Option 2: To determine and set the Council's school admission arrangements for September 2021 as outlined in the recent consultation with stakeholders but with modifications to take account of feedback received.

Option 3: To determine and set the Council's school admission arrangements for September 2021 as per the agreed admission arrangements for September 2020.

### **Preferred Option and Why**

The preferred option is Option 1. This will assist the Council as it seeks to maximise the number of school places available to Newport pupils across the city.

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

There are no financial implications to this report.

### **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

The Council has a statutory duty, under section 20 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Admissions Regulations, to undertake consultation on its proposed admission arrangements during the period from 1st September to 1st March in the school year which is two years before the commencement of the school year in which the arrangements are to take effect. Therefore, the Council has carried out consultation on proposed amendments to its admission policy for maintained schools, which will apply as from September 2021. The outcome of the consultation and the responses received are set out in the Report. The consultation process has been carried out in accordance with the Welsh Government's statutory School Admissions Code, which prescribes the various statutory consultees who had to be engaged in the process and the details that had to be included in the proposed admissions policy/arrangements. The statutory consultation process is fully compliant with the Council's general equalities and well-being duties and consistent with the Children and Families Measure. The purpose of the public consultation process is to maintain openness and transparency and to ensure that admission arrangements are fair and equitable. The proposed admission policy for 2021 include a number of specific changes, as identified in the Report. The proposed change to the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School to exclude out-of-county areas of Monmouthshire and Torfaen is in accordance with the Council statutory powers, as it is only required to set catchment areas for pupils resident within the LEA area. Monmouthshire have already taken steps to amend their own admission arrangements to exclude areas of Newport. This will not exclude pupils from out of the area applying for a place at the school, but they would not have catchment area priority. The proposal to move Somerton Primary school to the Llanwern cluster and catchment area simply reflects the federation arrangement with Eveswell Primary school. The proposed changes to the priorities given to children of UK services personnel and children on the child protection register are in accordance the School Admissions Code and the current arrangements afford them additional priorities that are outside the strict requirements of the Code. The Cabinet Member is now required determine the final School Admission Arrangements for September 2021, in the light of the consultation responses, by 15th April 2020.

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

The annual consultation on schools admissions arrangements help to meet sustainable development duties under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015, in particular the duty to 'involve' stakeholders and work collaboratively. Effective consultation with a range of stakeholders can help assess the adequacy and acceptability of the arrangements and it is noted that in this case concerns have been expressed relating to the proposed changes to the Caerleon Comprehensive catchment area, these are listed in the report. The Council's responses to these concerns and relevant mitigation is also set out in the report.

There are no human resources implications in this report.

### **Comments of the Cabinet Member for Education & Skills**

I have been fully briefed on the consultation and the feedback that was received, and am in support of the proposals being put forward in relation to the Council's admission arrangements for September 2021.

## Comments from Non-Executive Members

### Councillor M Evans:

I understand the rationale and need to maximise the number of school places available to Newport pupils across the city. I accept the decision to redefine the Caerleon Comprehensive School catchment area to align with the Newport City Council boundary. I do feel however we need to honour current arrangements so that those who already have siblings at the school are still prioritised if they have other children who wish to attend.

I fully support the decision to move Somerton Primary School from the Lliswerry cluster and catchment area to the Llanwern cluster and catchment area. I do not support the proposal to replace the guaranteed school place for UK service personnel in any school of their choice with the catchment school. I believe this would only be a small number of people and there are exceptional circumstances in their case as they are often required to move at short notice.

### Response from Councillor Mudd:

The parents of pupils affected by this proposal will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-catchment applicants. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those with relevant siblings already attending the preferred school will have a higher priority in terms of securing a place. This is in line with previous changes that the Council has made to catchment areas for other schools, for example Welsh-medium primary schools.

Newport's current policy in relation to children of UK service personnel is far more generous than required by legislation. The proposed change aligns with legislation. Notwithstanding this however, it is anticipated that should the proposed changes be implemented, the revised policy will continue to support those specific personnel that are required to move at short notice and, as a result, cannot comply with the usual school admission procedures.

### Councillor Kellaway:

I would accept A & B

C - The current situation with COVID 19 simply shines a light on the debt we owe those that protect and serve us including the Armed forces and should remain unchanged.

D - I would retain the status quo regarding the children that are on child protection register, we as councillors and governors have a duty of care to those children and any advantage they have that would offer extra protection should be retained.

### Response from Councillor Mudd:

Newport's current policy in relation to children of UK service personnel is far more generous than required by legislation. The proposed change aligns with legislation. Notwithstanding this however, it is anticipated that should the proposed changes be implemented, the revised policy will continue to support those specific personnel that are required to move at short notice and, as a result, cannot comply with the usual school admission procedures.

The proposal to remove the specific priority for children who are on the child protection register was put forward on the advice of the Council's Law & Regulation Team who felt that the various arrangements already otherwise in place were satisfactory to meet the needs of these pupils.

### Councillor J Watkins:

I understand Monmouth CC wishing all children residing in Monmouthshire must attend a school in their catchment area, however there may be children with siblings attending Caerleon schools, those in that category should be allowed to take up places in Caerleon providing MCC pay the appropriate costs. With regard to children living in Ponthir, it makes no sense to me that they should have to attend schools in the Torfaen area when they are virtually within walking distance of schools in Caerleon, providing Torfaen cover the necessary costs these children should have the option of attending schools closer to their homes ie schools in Caerleon particularly Caerleon comprehensive school for those needing to

access secondary education seems sensible to move Somerton into the same cluster as Liswerry and in terms of Armed Forces personnel I guess the numbers will be small . I do have concerns re children travelling from across the city to access places at Caerleon Comp given the serious air quality issues in the village and also we must bear in mind how the Campus site application pans out, if granted we will see an influx of children looking for school placement in Caerleon.

Response from Councillor Mudd:

The parents of pupils affected by this proposal will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-catchment applicants. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those with relevant siblings already attending the preferred school will have a higher priority in terms of securing a place. This is in line with previous changes that the Council has made to catchment areas for other schools, for example Welsh-medium primary schools. In relation to costs, there is currently no agreement between Council's to recoup fees from the home LA for mainstream education places.

Caerleon has been designated an air quality management area due the elevated levels of pollution caused by road traffic. Any reduction in the number of vehicles that travel through Caerleon will help alleviate some of the pressure causing the high pollution levels. Furthermore, in the recent Centre for Cities report (<https://www.centreforcities.org/city/newport>), Newport has been identified as the third highest emitter of the greenhouse gas Carbon Dioxide per head of population. A reduction in the distance of the school commute will likely result in a reduction in the generation of greenhouse gases. Whilst both reductions (air pollution and carbon dioxide) are relatively minor in the grand scheme of things, every little action that can be taken to reduce commuting distances can contribute to an overall improvement. Given that there is no intention to increase the overall capacity of the secondary school, the number of pupils travelling to the school from outside Caerleon will not significantly change.

Councillor White:

Regards the above in most circumstances I do not think it is right for Newport to accept pupils from out of the City if our schools are already full. In some circumstances where schools are under subscribed and are likely to be in the future then it could be acceptable to maintain their income levels. In the case of Caerleon that school will see an increase in pupil numbers if the Caerleon Campus development goes ahead so places there should be planned for.

Regarding the armed forces I believe the agreement in place should be adhered to. The only exception could be where the parents have retired from the services and set up permanent roots in a community.

Response from Councillor Mudd:

The proposal will not restrict pupils from outside Newport from applying for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, but it does mean that these children will no longer receive priority for admission over Newport residents.

Newport's current policy in relation to children of UK service personnel is far more generous than required by legislation. The proposed change aligns with legislation. Notwithstanding this however, it is anticipated that should the proposed changes be implemented, the revised policy will continue to support those specific personnel that are required to move at short notice and, as a result, cannot comply with the usual school admission procedures.

## **Local issues**

Whilst the proposed catchment area changes will specifically affect certain wards (Alway, Caerleon and Liswerry), the proposed changes in relation to Armed Forces families and children on the child protection register are Citywide.

## **Scrutiny Committees**

None

## Equalities Impact Assessment

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. A Fairness & Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) has been developed and updated, and is attached at Appendix 2.

## Children and Families (Wales) Measure

As outlined, the Council is keen to gain the views of learners when proposing policy changes. As a result, whilst the School Admissions Code does not stipulate that consultation should include engagement with learners, attempts were made for this to be undertaken. This was the first year that this has been attempted in relation to the annual consultation on admission arrangements and was facilitated via an on-line SNAP survey that was circulated via the schools listed in the section above.

Some of these surveys were issued late in the consultation period, and the Education Service acknowledges therefore that this engagement was not as effective as it was intended. As a result, the Learner Voice is difficult to assess effectively in this case. Notwithstanding this, 66 responses were received by the deadline date. Further information about this feedback is included within the Consultation Report at Appendix 1 (page 9 of the report).

## Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

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

- Long term: the importance of balancing short- term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long – term needs.  
***Newport's population is continuing to increase and with it the number of school age children. Primary and secondary cohorts for the September 2019 annual admissions round were the largest to date with an unprecedented demand for Year 7 English-medium places across the city as a whole. Welsh Government recommends 10% as the optimum level of surplus school places. In terms of English-medium places, Newport schools have only a 7.6% surplus at primary level and a 9.6% surplus across secondary schools. This is also a concern in the context of the significant number of in-year school applications traditionally received in previous years. The Council is therefore seeking to maximise the number of school places available to Newport pupils across the city, through a variety of methods.***
- Prevention: How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help us meet our objectives.  
***There has been a rise of 1,949 children in Newport schools between 2011 and 2019. Pupil population forecasts indicate that by 2024 there will be 14,097 primary school and 12,260 secondary school children in Newport, which represents an additional 2,038 children compared with 2019. Welsh Government recommends 10% as the optimum level of surplus school places.***

***In terms of English-medium places, Newport schools have only a 7.6% surplus at primary level and a 9.6% surplus across secondary schools. Whilst it would appear that this surplus at secondary level is broadly in line with Welsh Government's recommendation, a significant element of this is located in just two schools, both of which are located in the East of the City. In addition, the actual number of surplus places are much lower in Years 7 and 8 than they are in Years 9, 10 and 11.***

- Integration: Consider how the proposals will impact on our wellbeing objectives, our wellbeing goals, other objectives or those of other public bodies.

***This proposal supports the well-being objective to improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities and the following well-being goals:***

- ***a resilient Wales;***
- ***a more equal Wales;***
- ***a Wales of more cohesive communities;***
- ***a globally responsible Wales.***

***These will be achieved by improving access to education across the city through the adoption of an improved, fair and consistent admissions policy, by aligning primary catchments and secondary clusters to support effective partnership working and effective transition, and through ensuring sufficiency of school places for Newport pupils.***

- Collaboration: have you considered how acting in collaboration with any other person or any other part of our organisation could help meet our wellbeing objectives.

***Welsh Government has confirmed that the responsibility for designating alternative catchment schools lies with the Local Authority (LA) in which a pupil is resident. As a result, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified in September 2019 that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis. Advance engagement took place with the governing bodies of Caerleon Comprehensive, Llanwern High, Lliswerry High and Somerton Primary but no formal responses were received during the consultation. The proposal was the subject of full public consultation between 8th January 2020 and 28th February 2020, in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government statutory school admissions code.***

- Involvement: The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the wellbeing goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the City we serve.

***It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. Subsequently, in accordance with the Code, formal consultation was carried out between 8th January 2020 and 28th February 2020 with statutory and non-statutory consultees. The consultation document was also publicised through the Council's 'Have your say' web page and via their social media channels.***

***The Council is keen to gain the views of learners when proposing policy changes. As a result, whilst the School Admissions Code does not stipulate that consultation should include engagement with learners, attempts were made for this to be undertaken via an on-line SNAP survey that was circulated via the schools identified as potentially being affected. Following conclusion of the consultation, a consultation report has been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received.***

## **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**

Stakeholder consultation has been carried out and is outlined in some detail in the attached consultation report.

## **Background Papers**

Consultation Report (attached at Appendix 1)

FEIA (attached at Appendix 2)

Dated: March 2020

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# Newport City Council

## School Admission Arrangements 2021/22

### Consultation Report

#### Legislation

It is a statutory requirement of the Welsh Government School Admissions Code that Newport City Council, as the admissions authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport, carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. The consultation must conclude by 1<sup>st</sup> March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15<sup>th</sup> April in the determination year.

The determination year is the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply. Consequently, Newport City Council recently undertook public consultation on proposed changes to the admission arrangements that will become effective from September 2021.

#### Consultation Period

Whilst the School Admissions Code states that consultation on admission arrangements must be carried out between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> March in the determination year, the actual length of the consultation period is not specified. Newport City Council's consultation on admission arrangements for 2021 therefore commenced on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and closed on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020. This afforded a consultation period of seven weeks, including the February half term.

#### Purpose of the report

To inform consultees and other interested parties of the outcome of the consultation on admission arrangements for the academic year 2021/22.

This consultation report includes the following sections:

- Proposals for change
- Rationale for the proposals
- Stakeholder engagement
- Consultation responses
- Learner Voice
- Recommendations

## Proposals for change

1. To redefine the Caerleon Comprehensive School catchment area to align with the Newport City Council boundary, thereby removing all areas of Monmouthshire and Torfaen from the catchment area;
2. To move Somerton Primary School from the Lliswerry cluster and catchment area to the Llanwern cluster and catchment area;
3. To replace the guaranteed school place for children of UK service personnel in any school of their choice with the catchment school;
4. To remove the specific priority for children who are on the child protection register.

## Rationale for the proposals

### ***Access to school places***

Newport's population is continuing to increase and with it the number of school age children. There has been a rise of 1,949 children in Newport schools between 2011 and 2019. Pupil population forecasts indicate that by 2024 there will be 14,097 primary school and 12,260 secondary school children in Newport, which represents an additional 2,038 children compared with 2019.

Primary and secondary cohorts for the September 2019 annual admissions round were the largest to date with an unprecedented demand for Year 7 English-medium places across the city as a whole. In response to this demand, the Council negotiated additional Year 7 places across four English-medium secondary schools for this specific year group. A similar issue has since arisen in relation to the September 2020 Year 7 cohort, with additional provision created at two English-medium secondary schools.

Welsh Government recommends 10% as the optimum level of surplus school places. In terms of English-medium places, Newport schools have only a 7.6% surplus at primary level and a 9.6% surplus across secondary schools. Whilst it would appear that this surplus at secondary level is broadly in line with Welsh Government's recommendation, it is worth noting that a significant element of this surplus is located in just two schools, both of which are located in the East of the City (Llanwern High and Lliswerry High). In addition, the actual number of surplus places are much lower in Years 7 and 8 than they are in Years 9, 10 and 11.

This is also a concern in the context of the significant number of in-year school applications traditionally received in previous years. The Council is therefore seeking to maximise the number of school places available to Newport pupils across the city, through a variety of methods.

### ***How will the proposed admission arrangements achieve this?***

In the event that a school (or schools) has more applications than there are places available, admission authorities must have in place, criteria to determine priority for the allocation of places. This is termed "oversubscription criteria".

Currently the oversubscription criteria for Newport's community maintained primary and secondary schools is as follows:

*"Where a school is named in a statement of Special Educational Needs, the Council has a duty to admit the child to the named setting before the over-subscription criteria is applied against applications received. This will reduce the amount of places available to other applicants.*

*If the total number of preferences for admission to a school exceeds the number of places, then the following order of priority will be applied to allocate the available places:*

1. *Looked-after children (children in public care) and previously looked-after children;*
2. *Pupils living within the catchment area and making an application on medical grounds or placed on the Child Protection Register and recommended by Social Services;*

3. *Pupils living within the catchment area but with relevant siblings;*
4. *Pupils living within the catchment area;*
5. *Pupils living outside of the catchment area and making an application on medical grounds or placed on the Child Protection Register and recommended by Social Services;*
6. *Pupils living outside of the catchment area but with relevant siblings;*
7. *Pupils living outside the catchment area.*

*After considering the above categories, or if the number of applications in any one of the above categories exceeds the published admission number, priority will be based on those residing closest to the preferred school."*

In addition, and under the heading of "Armed Forces Personnel", the policy states that:

*"Where the application is for a child of armed forces personnel that are either serving or returning from service at the time the application is made, the Council will admit the child to the school if the application is accompanied by an official proof of posting declaring:*

- *a definite return date;*
- *confirmation of the new address wherever possible;*
- *confirmation of the serving / returning family status."*

### **Details of Proposals**

In view of the pressure on school places across the city, some of these priorities present too broad a position for the Council to sustain and therefore consultation sought to change this via a range of proposals as follows:

**(a) To redefine the Caerleon Comprehensive School catchment area to align with the Newport City Council boundary, thereby removing all areas of Monmouthshire and Torfaen from the catchment area**

Historically, since the days of Gwent County Council, parts of Monmouthshire (Usk and Goytre) and Torfaen (Ponthir) have fallen within the designated catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School. This has meant that Monmouthshire and Torfaen pupils residing within this agreed catchment area receive a higher priority for a place at the school than Newport children living outside of the catchment area – thus reducing their chances of gaining a place at the school.

However, in determining its admission arrangements for September 2020, Monmouthshire County Council took the first steps to change this position by, following public consultation, designating Monmouthshire secondary schools as the catchment schools for the Usk and Goytre areas. Newport City Council supported this proposal; however, the timing of the consultation did not allow Newport sufficient time to include any catchment area changes in its own consultation on admission arrangements for 2020. Consequently, with effect from September 2020, some Monmouthshire residents will have two designated catchment secondary schools – one in Newport and one in Monmouthshire.

In moving to align the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School with the proposals put forward and agreed by Monmouthshire County Council, this Council was mindful that the current catchment area for the school also extends into Ponthir, which falls within Torfaen. As a result, pupils living in this area also currently have priority for admission to the school over Newport children. In view of the significant demand for secondary school places in Newport, the proposal to align the Caerleon Comprehensive School catchment area with the city boundary will in effect remove the catchment priority that non-Newport residents currently have over Newport pupils. If the proposal is approved, all non-catchment pupils whether resident within or outside of Newport will be deemed equal in terms of priority for admission to this school.

Welsh Government has confirmed that the responsibility for designating alternative catchment schools lies with the Local Authority (LA) in which a pupil is resident. As a result, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified in September 2019 that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis. As has already been noted, Monmouthshire County Council has already designated alternative catchment schools for families in Usk and Goytre.

It is important to note that this proposal does not exclude any applicants from expressing a preference for Caerleon Comprehensive School. Reducing the size of the catchment area simply increases the opportunity for out-of-catchment applications to be successful. As a result, many Monmouthshire and Torfaen residents may continue to apply for a place at this school, and some applications will undoubtedly be successful based on sibling priority and/or home to school distance.

**(b) To move Somerton Primary School from the Lliswerry cluster and catchment area to the Llanwern cluster and catchment area**

Secondary catchment areas also represent groups of schools, known as clusters, where the primary schools in the defined area work with the co-located secondary school to share best practice and support pupil transition.

In June 2019, a joint proposal was taken forward by the governing bodies of Eveswell Primary School and Somerton Primary School and Newport City Council to formally federate Eveswell and Somerton Primary Schools under one single governing body. The proposal followed a three-year collaborative arrangement whereby the Headteacher of Eveswell Primary School had also been the Executive Headteacher of Somerton Primary School. This proposal was approved in the autumn term of 2019 and implemented in January 2020.

One issue however is the fact that the two primary schools currently sit within separate secondary school clusters. During the consultation process, it was noted that longer term, working across two separate clusters could be a potential barrier to the success of the federation. Currently, Somerton Primary School is aligned with the Lliswerry High cluster despite being geographically located between two Llanwern cluster primary schools. Eveswell Primary School currently sits within the Llanwern High cluster.

Given this current position, the Executive Headteacher is required to work across two clusters and to two separate cluster plans. In order to support effective partnership working, it seems logical to use this opportunity to align the two schools to the same secondary cluster.

In taking this forward, consideration was given to two options – moving Eveswell into Lliswerry or moving Somerton into Llanwern. However, the second option is preferred due to the geographic location of Somerton Primary School, and the fact that the combined admission number of the year 6 cohorts in the current Lliswerry cluster primary schools exceeds the admission number of the secondary school.

**(c) To replace the guaranteed school place for children of UK service personnel in any school of their choice with the catchment school**

Since 2017, the school admission policy has facilitated the admission of children of UK Service Personnel to their preferred school, even if the year group is already full. However, this position is far more generous than the statutory School Admissions Code requires. Consequently, in relation to applications for children of UK service personnel, the proposed change is as follows:

- To afford catchment priority to the preferred school but not guarantee a place there, unless it is also the catchment school;
- To afford priority to those families that have moved to Newport as a direct result of a posting only, and no longer a discharge.

Notwithstanding this change, it is anticipated that the revised policy will continue to support those specific personnel that are required to move at short notice and, as a result, cannot comply with the usual school admission procedures.

**(d) To remove the specific priority for children who are on the child protection register**

Admission authorities must ensure that their arrangements will not unfairly disadvantage, either directly or indirectly, a child from a particular social group. As the Council has various arrangements in place to serve the interests of vulnerable children there is no requirement for a specific priority for children who are on the child protection register. Consequently, the proposal is to remove this statement from the current oversubscription criteria.

## Stakeholder Engagement

In accordance with Welsh Government's School Admissions Code, formal consultation was undertaken with the following statutory and non-statutory consultees:

Statutory consultees	
The governing body of relevant schools	The governing bodies of all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport
All neighbouring local authorities	Caerphilly County Borough Council Cardiff City Council Monmouthshire County Council Torfaen County Borough Council
Admission authorities for all other maintained schools in the area	The governing bodies of all voluntary aided schools in Newport
In the case of schools with a religious character, such body or person representing the religion or religious denomination in question	Diocesan Director, Church in Wales Diocesan Director, Roman Catholic
Non-statutory consultees	
The admission forum serving the area	Newport School Admissions Forum
Parents of children attending the primary schools likely to be affected	Parents of children attending: <i>Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary</i> <i>Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Goytre Fawr Primary</i> <i>Langstone Primary</i> <i>Ponthir Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Somerton Primary</i> <i>Usk Church in Wales Primary</i>
Headteachers	The Headteachers of all schools in Newport plus the following affected schools in Monmouthshire and Torfaen: <i>Goytre Fawr Primary</i> <i>Ponthir Primary</i> <i>Usk Church in Wales Primary</i>
Elected members	All Newport City Council elected members
Community councils	All community councils in Newport
Representatives of UK Service Personnel	The Regional Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officer Newport Armed Forces Champion UK Service families attending Newport schools

Non-statutory consultees	
Other organisations	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations Newport Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership
Newport City Council Teams	Children & Young People's Services Law & Regulation Family Information Service Flying Start Housing & Regeneration Integrated Transport Vulnerable People Relocation Project
Pupils attending the primary schools likely to be affected	Pupils attending the following schools: <i>Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary</i> <i>Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Goytre Fawr Primary</i> <i>Langstone Primary</i> <i>Ponthir Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Somerton Primary</i> <i>Usk Church in Wales Primary</i>
Pupils attending the relevant secondary schools	Pupils attending the following schools: <i>Caerleon Comprehensive</i> <i>Llanwern High</i> <i>Lliswerry High</i>

The consultation document was also publicised through the Council's 'Have your say' web page and via their social media channels.

## Consultation Responses

In total, 52 responses were received during the consultation period, all of which related to the proposal to amend the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School. Of these, 47 responses raised concerns regarding the proposal. The remaining five responses neither supported nor objected to the proposal but merely raised questions in relation to their particular circumstances. Respondents included pupils, parents and carers, members of the public, Community Councils, Governing Bodies, Members of Parliament, Elected Members, neighbouring Local Authorities and the Diocese of Monmouth.

Whilst some respondents raised more than one issue in their response, a breakdown of the number and type of objections, along with the Council's responses, is summarised as follows:

Reason for Objection	Number Received	Council Response
Impact on local community cohesion and pupil wellbeing	46	Whilst the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School has traditionally extended into the areas of Usk, Goytre and Ponthir, the demand for school places amongst Newport residents means that this is no longer sustainable. Notwithstanding this, parents will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School albeit as an out-of-catchment applicant.

Reason for Objection	Number Received	Council Response
Distance to an alternative school and safety of home to school transport routes	40	The parents of pupils affected by this proposal will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-catchment applicants. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those closer to the school will have a better chance of securing a place. In terms of alternative schools, your home local authority may provide home to school transport in accordance with their agreed policy.
Impact on transition and siblings	23	The parents of pupils affected by this proposal will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-catchment applicants. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those with relevant siblings already attending the preferred school will have a higher priority in terms of securing a place. Transition arrangements will continue to be facilitated between primary and secondary schools after the offer of a secondary school place has been made.
Environmental impact and wellbeing of future generations	21	Caerleon has been designated an air quality management area due the elevated levels of pollution caused by road traffic. Any reduction in the number of vehicles that travel through Caerleon will help elevate some of the pressure causing the high pollution levels. Furthermore, in the recent Centre for Cities report ( <a href="https://www.centreforcities.org/city/newport">https://www.centreforcities.org/city/newport</a> ), Newport has been identified as the third highest emitter of the greenhouse gas Carbon Dioxide per head of population. A reduction in the distance of the school commute will likely result in a reduction in the generation of greenhouse gases. Whilst both reductions (air pollution and carbon dioxide) are relatively minor in the grand scheme of things, every little action that can be taken to reduce commuting distances can contribute to an overall improvement. Given that there is no intention to increase the overall capacity of the secondary school, the number of pupils travelling to the school from outside Caerleon will not significantly change.

Reason for Objection	Number Received	Council Response
Consultation process and methodology	11	The consultation is compliant with Welsh Government's statutory School Admissions Code and is in line with similar arrangements in previous years.
Impact on educational standards	10	There is no negative impact on standards anticipated because of this proposal at any of Newport's primary or secondary schools.
Cost of alternative home to school transport	4	Each Local Authority is responsible for agreeing an individual Home to School Transport policy to support access to school. Newport's policy provides free transport to those pupils living three miles or more from their catchment school or their nearest available school. If parents apply for their child to attend a school that is not their catchment or nearest available school, parents are fully responsible for all transport costs and arrangements. It is not anticipated therefore that the costs to Newport will increase because of this proposal but it is acknowledged that there may be an impact for other LAs.

In terms of the specific responses from neighbouring LAs, Torfaen noted that they would be unable to make provision for the displaced (Ponthir) pupils in readiness for September 2021. In response, Newport noted that they had made Torfaen aware of the proposal in September 2019, thus giving almost two-years notice of the change.

Having already considered similar changes in 2019 to take effect in 2020, Monmouthshire was broadly in favour of Newport's proposal. However, they asked that consideration be given to two matters as follows:

- An area within Monmouthshire's boundary that currently falls within the catchment area for Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary School (this is a voluntary aided school responsible for its own admission arrangements). This area was omitted from Monmouthshire's proposal and therefore is now in danger of being without a denoted secondary catchment school. This was not identified as an issue by any party prior to the launch of Newport's consultation, and
- That additional priority be afforded to pupils whose older siblings were admitted to Caerleon Comprehensive School when it was their catchment school.

Whilst sympathising with the issues raised in relation to the first point, this would lead to some disparity with other areas of Monmouthshire and Torfaen, and therefore after consideration it does not seem reasonable to accommodate this request. In response to the comment about sibling links, the Council would advise that the parents of pupils affected by this proposal would still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-catchment applicants. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those with relevant siblings already attending the preferred school will have a higher priority in terms of securing a place

No comments, either positive or negative, were received regarding any of the other three proposed changes out forward within this consultation.

## Learner Voice

The Council is keen to gain the views of learners when proposing policy changes. As a result, whilst the School Admissions Code does not stipulate that consultation should include engagement with learners, attempts were made for this to be undertaken. This was the first year that this has been attempted in relation to the annual consultation on admission arrangements and was facilitated via an on-line SNAP survey that was circulated via the schools listed in the section above.

Some of these surveys were issued late in the consultation period, and the Education Service acknowledges therefore that this engagement was not as effective as it was intended. As a result, the Learner Voice is difficult to assess effectively in this case. Notwithstanding this, 66 responses were received by the deadline date as follows:

*Proposal 1* - Sixteen responses were received with 15 (93.8%) identifying that they understood the proposal. The same number noted that they felt the proposal would affect them. Closer analysis identified that parents rather than pupils had submitted some of the responses. In all cases, the respondents referred to their close proximity to Caerleon Comprehensive School, established transition links and the fact that family members already attend the preferred school. The Council's response to these issues is already covered in the previous section.

*Proposal 2* - Forty-six responses were received, with 39 (86.7%) identifying that they understood the proposal. Only 12 pupils (27.3%) felt that the proposal would affect them, and noted concerns including being unable to attend PE events at the current cluster secondary school. Should this proposal be taken forward however, similar events would likely be arranged at the new cluster secondary school. One comment also noted the distance to the alternative school. This proposal will not however preclude families from applying to any school of their choice.

*Proposal 3* - Four responses were received and all confirmed that they understood the proposal. All respondents felt that the proposal would impact unnecessarily on Armed Forces families, and that the current arrangements should continue. As noted previously, Newport's current policy is far more generous than the statutory School Admissions Code requires. Notwithstanding this change, it is anticipated that the revised policy arrangements would continue to support those specific personnel that are required to move at short notice and, as a result, cannot comply with the usual school admission procedures.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that the changes proposed via this consultation be taken forward for implementation with effect from September 2021.

This decision will be now referred to the Leader of the Council and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

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To request a hard (paper) copy of this document please contact Newport City Council by telephoning 01633 656656 or emailing [school.admissions@newport.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@newport.gov.uk)

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# Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment (FEIA)

Version 3.6 May 2017

The purpose of this assessment is to provide balanced information to support decision making and to promote better ways of working in line with equalities (Equalities Act 2010), Welsh language promotion (The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011), sustainable development (Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015), and the four parameters of debate about fairness identified by the Newport Fairness Commission (NFC Full Report to Council 2013).

**Completed by:** Deborah Weston **Role:** Service Manager

**Head of Service:** Chief Education Officer **Date:** 05/03/2020

**I confirm that the above Head of Service has agreed the content of this assessment**

**Yes / No**

**When you complete this FEIA, it is your responsibility to submit it to**  
 impact.assessments@newport.gov.uk

## **1. Name and description of the policy / proposal being assessed. Outline the policy's purpose.**

### **Newport City Council School Admissions Policy 2021/22**

Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Council has responsibility for the discharge of the school admissions function for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport. As an admission authority, the Council acts in accordance with the Welsh Government School Admissions Code and the School Admissions Appeals Code.

It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. The consultation must conclude by 1<sup>st</sup> March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15<sup>th</sup> April in the determination year. The determination year is the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.

Consequently, a consultation was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and concluded on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in relation to the proposed admission arrangements for September 2021 onwards, and a consultation report has been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received. There is now a requirement to consider this feedback and as a result to determine the Council's school admission policy for September 2021.

The proposals for change are as follows:

1. To redefine the Caerleon Comprehensive School catchment area to align with the Newport City Council boundary, thereby removing all areas of Monmouthshire and Torfaen from the catchment area;
2. To move Somerton Primary School from the Lliswerry cluster and catchment area to the Llanwern cluster and catchment area;

3. To replace the guaranteed school place for children of UK service personnel in any school of their choice with the catchment school;
4. To remove the specific priority for children who are on the child protection register.

**2. Outline how you have/will consult with stakeholders who will be affected by the policy/proposal.**

It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. The consultation must conclude by 1st March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15th April in the determination year. The determination year is the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.

In September 2019, and in advance of the proposal being launched, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis. In November 2019, the proposed changes were presented to the Newport School Admissions Forum, a statutory committee that has a key role in ensuring a fair admission system.

Subsequently, in accordance with the Code, formal consultation was carried out between 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 with the following list of statutory and non-statutory consultees:

Statutory consultees	
The governing body of relevant schools	The governing bodies of all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport
All neighbouring local authorities	Caerphilly County Borough Council Cardiff City Council Monmouthshire County Council Torfaen County Borough Council
Admission authorities for all other maintained schools in the area	The governing bodies of all voluntary aided schools in Newport
In the case of schools with a religious character, such body or person representing the religion or religious denomination in question	Diocesan Director, Church in Wales Diocesan Director, Roman Catholic
Non-statutory consultees	
The admission forum serving the area	Newport School Admissions Forum
Parents of children attending the primary schools likely to be affected	Parents of children attending: <i>Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary</i> <i>Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Goytre Fawr Primary</i> <i>Langstone Primary</i> <i>Ponthir Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Somerton Primary</i> <i>Usk Church in Wales Primary</i>

Headteachers	The Headteachers of all schools in Newport plus the following affected schools in Monmouthshire and Torfaen: <i>Goytre Fawr Primary</i> <i>Ponthir Primary</i> <i>Usk Church in Wales Primary</i>
Elected members	All Newport City Council elected members
Community councils	All community councils in Newport
Representatives of UK Service Personnel	The Regional Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officer Newport Armed Forces Champion UK Service families attending Newport schools
Other organisations	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations Newport Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership
Newport City Council Teams	Children & Young People's Services Law & Regulation Family Information Service Flying Start Housing & Regeneration Integrated Transport Vulnerable People Relocation Project
Pupils attending the primary schools likely to be affected	Pupils attending the following schools: <i>Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary</i> <i>Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Goytre Fawr Primary</i> <i>Langstone Primary</i> <i>Ponthir Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Somerton Primary</i> <i>Usk Church in Wales Primary</i>
Pupils attending the relevant secondary schools	Pupils attending the following schools: <i>Caerleon Comprehensive</i> <i>Llanwern High</i> <i>Llisbury High</i>

The consultation document was also publicised through the Council's 'Have your say' web page and via their social media channels.

The Council is keen to gain the views of learners when proposing policy changes. As a result, whilst the School Admissions Code does not stipulate that consultation should include engagement with learners, attempts were made for this to be undertaken. This was the first year that this has been attempted in relation to the annual consultation on admission arrangements and was facilitated via an on-line SNAP survey that was circulated via the schools listed in the section above.

Some of these surveys were issued late in the consultation period, and the Education Service acknowledges therefore that this engagement was not as effective as it was intended. As a result, the Learner Voice is difficult to assess effectively in this case. Notwithstanding this, 66 responses were received by the deadline date.

Following conclusion of the consultation, a consultation report has now been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received. The report recommends that the changes proposed via this consultation be taken forward for implementation. This decision will be now referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

**3. What information/evidence do you have on stakeholders? e.g. views, needs, service usage etc. Please include all the evidence you consider relevant.**

The School Admissions Code provides lists of bodies that admission authorities must and should consult with on changes to admission arrangements. A consultation document was prepared and distributed to these stakeholders. Comments and questions arising were submitted to the Council and are reflected within the consultation report.

Evidence used to complete the consultation report includes:

- Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data
- School specific data relating to Caerleon and Somerton (e.g. ALN and BAME data, LA projections and admissions trends)
- Consultation responses
- Online pupil survey responses

**4. Equalities and Welsh language impact**

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Age	☒	☒	☒	<p>The proposal will affect children and young people of school age.</p> <p><b>Negatively:</b> The proposal seeks to change secondary school catchment areas. This will likely impact negatively on primary-aged children currently living in the affected areas as the catchment area priority they are currently benefitting from will no longer apply. This could particularly affect pupils whose older siblings are already attending the preferred school and were admitted when it was their catchment school. Such pupils will however continue to be able to make an application for the school and could qualify for other priorities in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria, e.g. sibling priority or home to school distance, depending upon individual family circumstances.</p> <p>School-aged children of UK Service Personnel families that are moving to Newport as a result of the parent's discharge from service will no longer be given the advantage of a guaranteed a place at the school of their choice and, if the school is already full in the relevant year group, the application will be refused. However, they will be subject to the same conditions as all other applicants under the school admissions policy and as such, any refusal of a school place will trigger the applicant's right to appeal against the decision to an independent panel.</p>

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
				<p><b>Positively:</b> Reducing the size of the Caerleon Comprehensive School catchment area, and thereby the number of in-catchment pupils, will increase the number of places available for non-catchment applicants, either from within or outside of Newport. This means that Newport pupils will no longer be designated a lower priority than non-Newport pupils. In addition, given that a significant proportion of Somerton pupils already elect a preference for Llanwern High School, the change in catchment will have a positive impact on the success of their application.</p> <p><b>Neither:</b> As the Council has various arrangements in place to serve the interests of vulnerable children, it is anticipated that the proposal to remove the Child Protection statement will have a neutral impact on this protected characteristic.</p>
<b>Disability</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.</p> <p>This proposal applies to mainstream admission only and not to pupils placed in specialist learning resource bases. All Newport secondary schools run internal in-house provision to support mainstream pupils with a range of difficulties but these are funded from within school budgets. Consequently, all schools are able to provide the same standard of mainstream provision for pupils with additional learning needs.</p>
<b>Gender reassignment/transgender</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
<b>Marriage or civil partnership</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
<b>Pregnancy or maternity</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
<b>Race</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.</p> <p>Gwent Education Minority Ethnic Service is able to provide the same standard of language support in all schools as such support is dependent upon need and languages available, regardless of school base.</p>

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Religion or Belief or non-belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The schools will continue to follow the National Curriculum including Cwricwlwm Cymraeg. In addition, from September 2020, Welsh Second Language A-level courses will be on offer at Caerleon Comprehensive School and Llanwern High School. Students on roll at Lliswerry High School wishing to take A-level Welsh can access this through the collaboration with St Julians School.</p> <p>However, the proposal is unlikely to make a meaningful contribution to Newport's 5-Year Welsh Language target of increasing the number of Welsh speakers across the city.</p>

## 5 How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable development principle in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term needs</p>	<p>Newport's population is continuing to increase and with it the number of school age children. There has been a rise of 1,949 children in Newport schools between 2011 and 2019. Pupil population forecasts indicate that by 2024 there will be 14,097 primary school and 12,260 secondary school children in Newport, which represents an additional 2,038 children compared with 2019.</p> <p>Primary and secondary cohorts for the September 2019 annual admissions round were the largest to date with an unprecedented demand for Year 7 English-medium places across the city as a whole. In response to this demand, the Council negotiated additional Year 7 places across four English-medium secondary schools for this specific year group. A similar issue has since arisen in relation to the September 2020 Year 7 cohort, with additional provision created at two English-medium secondary schools.</p> <p>Welsh Government recommends 10% as the optimum level of surplus school places. In terms of English-medium places, Newport schools have only a 7.6% surplus at primary level and a 9.6% surplus across secondary schools. Whilst it would appear that this surplus at secondary level is broadly in line with Welsh Government's recommendation, it is worth noting that a significant element of this surplus is located in just two schools, both of which are located in the East of the City (Llanwern High and Lliswerry High). In addition, the actual number of surplus places are much lower in Years 7 and 8 than they are in Years 9, 10 and 11.</p> <p>This is also a concern in the context of the significant number of in-year school applications traditionally received in previous years. The Council is therefore seeking to maximise the number of school places available to Newport pupils across the city, through a variety of methods.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together to deliver objectives</p>	<p>Welsh Government has confirmed that the responsibility for designating alternative catchment schools lies with the Local Authority (LA) in which a pupil is resident. As a result, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified in September 2019 that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis. Both LAs subsequently responded to the formal consultation. Torfaen noted that they would be unable to make provision for the displaced (Ponthir) pupils in readiness for September 2021. In response, Newport noted that they had made Torfaen aware of the proposal in September 2019, thus giving almost two-years notice of the change.</p> <p>Having already considered similar changes in 2019 to take effect in 2020, Monmouthshire was broadly in favour of Newport's proposal. However, they asked that consideration be given to two matters as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An area within Monmouthshire's boundary that currently falls within the catchment area for Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary School (this is a voluntary aided school responsible for its own admission arrangements). This area was omitted from Monmouthshire's proposal and therefore is now in danger of being without a denoted secondary catchment school. This was not identified as an issue by any party prior to the launch of Newport's consultation, and</li> <li>• That additional priority be afforded to pupils whose older siblings were admitted to Caerleon Comprehensive School when it was their catchment school.</li> </ul> <p>Whilst sympathising with the issues raised in relation to the first point, this would lead to some disparity with other areas of Monmouthshire and Torfaen, and therefore after consideration it does not seem reasonable to accommodate this request. In response to the comment about sibling links, the Council would advise that the parents of pupils affected by this proposal would still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-catchment applicants. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those with relevant siblings already attending the preferred school will have a higher priority in terms of securing a place</p> <p>Advance engagement took place with the governing bodies of Caerleon Comprehensive, Llanwern High, Lliswerry High and Somerton Primary but no formal responses were received during the consultation.</p> <p>The proposal was the subject of full public consultation between 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020, in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government statutory school admissions code.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p data-bbox="245 1016 347 1032">Involvement</p> <p data-bbox="145 1061 427 1167">Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p data-bbox="459 304 1406 591">It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. The consultation must conclude by 1st March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15th April in the determination year. The determination year is the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.</p> <p data-bbox="459 613 1406 815">In advance of the proposal being launched, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified in September 2019 that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis. In November 2019, the proposed changes were presented to the Newport School Admissions Forum, a statutory committee that has a key role in ensuring a fair admission system.</p> <p data-bbox="459 848 1406 1016">Subsequently, in accordance with the Code, formal consultation was carried out between 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 with the list of statutory and non-statutory consultees outlined in the response to question 2. The consultation document was also publicised through the Council's 'Have your say' web page and via their social media channels.</p> <p data-bbox="459 1050 1406 1285">The Council is keen to gain the views of learners when proposing policy changes. As a result, whilst the School Admissions Code does not stipulate that consultation should include engagement with learners, attempts were made for this to be undertaken. This was the first year that this has been attempted in relation to the annual consultation on admission arrangements and was facilitated via an on-line SNAP survey that was circulated via the schools listed in the section above.</p> <p data-bbox="459 1308 1406 1476">Some of these surveys were issued late in the consultation period, and the Education Service acknowledges therefore that this engagement was not as effective as it was intended. As a result, the Learner Voice is difficult to assess effectively in this case. Notwithstanding this, 66 responses were received by the deadline date.</p> <p data-bbox="459 1509 1406 1711">Following conclusion of the consultation, a consultation report has now been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received. The report recommends that the changes proposed via this consultation be taken forward for implementation. This decision will be now referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>Newport's population is continuing to increase and with it the number of school age children. There has been a rise of 1,949 children in Newport schools between 2011 and 2019. Pupil population forecasts indicate that by 2024 there will be 14,097 primary school and 12,260 secondary school children in Newport, which represents an additional 2,038 children compared with 2019.</p> <p>Primary and secondary cohorts for the September 2019 annual admissions round were the largest to date with an unprecedented demand for Year 7 English-medium places across the city as a whole. In response to this demand, the Council negotiated additional Year 7 places across four English-medium secondary schools for this specific year group. A similar issue has since arisen in relation to the September 2020 Year 7 cohort, with additional provision created at two English-medium secondary schools.</p> <p>Welsh Government recommends 10% as the optimum level of surplus school places. In terms of English-medium places, Newport schools have only a 7.6% surplus at primary level and a 9.6% surplus across secondary schools. Whilst it would appear that this surplus at secondary level is broadly in line with Welsh Government's recommendation, it is worth noting that a significant element of this surplus is located in just two schools, both of which are located in the East of the City (Llanwern High and Lliswerry High). In addition, the actual number of surplus places are much lower in Years 7 and 8 than they are in Years 9, 10 and 11.</p> <p>This is also a concern in the context of the significant number of in-year school applications traditionally received in previous years. The Council is therefore seeking to maximise the number of school places available to Newport pupils across the city, through a variety of methods.</p>
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>This proposal supports the well-being objective to improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities and the following well-being goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a <i>resilient Wales</i>;</li> <li>• a <i>more equal Wales</i>;</li> <li>• a <i>Wales of more cohesive communities</i>;</li> <li>• a <i>globally responsible Wales</i>.</li> </ul> <p>These will be achieved by improving access to education across the city through the adoption of an improved, fair and consistent admissions policy, by aligning primary catchments and secondary clusters to support effective partnership working and effective transition, and through ensuring sufficiency of school places for Newport pupils.</p> <p>During the consultation, responses referred to concern over community cohesion in the wider-Caerleon area. Whilst the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School has traditionally extended into the areas of Usk, Goytre and Ponthir, the demand for school places amongst Newport residents means that this is no longer sustainable. Notwithstanding this, parents will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School albeit as an out-of-catchment applicant.</p>

## 6 Will the proposal/policy have a disproportionate impact on a specific geographical area of Newport?

Whilst the proposed catchment area changes will specifically affect certain wards (Alway, Caerleon and Lliswerry), the proposed changes in relation to Armed Forces families and children on the child protection register are Citywide.

## 7 How does the proposal/policy relate to the parameters of debate about Fairness identified by the Newport Fairness Commission?

### Parameter 1: Equal treatment while recognising difference

The proposal to change the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School removes the priority that non-Newport pupils currently have over Newport pupils. If the proposal is approved, all non-catchment pupils whether resident within or outside of Newport will be deemed equal in terms of priority for admission to this school. It is important to note that this proposal does not exclude any applicants from expressing a preference for Caerleon Comprehensive School. Reducing the size of the catchment area simply increases the opportunity for out-of-catchment applications to be successful. As a result, such applicants may continue to apply for a place at this school, and some applications will undoubtedly be successful based on sibling priority and/or home to school distance.

The proposal in relation to Somerton Primary School is logical to enable the two schools within the Eveswell and Somerton Primary School Partnership to work within one single cluster. In taking this forward, consideration was given to two options – moving Eveswell into Lliswerry or moving Somerton into Llanwern. However, the latter is preferred due to the geographic location of Somerton Primary School, and the fact that the combined admission number of the year 6 cohorts in the current Lliswerry cluster primary schools exceeds the admission number of the secondary school.

The proposal in relation to children of UK service personnel aligns Newport's policy with the guidance outlined in the statutory School Admissions Code. Notwithstanding this change, it is anticipated that the revised policy will continue to support those specific personnel that are required to move at short notice and, as a result, cannot comply with the usual school admission procedures.

In terms of the proposal in relation to pupils on the child protection register, admission authorities must ensure that their arrangements will not unfairly disadvantage a child from a particular social group. As the Council has various arrangements in place to serve the interests of vulnerable children there is no requirement for a specific priority for children who are on the child protection register.

### Parameter 2: Mutual obligations between citizens and local government

Welsh Government has confirmed that the responsibility for designating alternative catchment schools lies with the Local Authority (LA) in which a pupil is resident. As a result, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified in September 2019 that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis.

### Parameter 3: Interdependency and reciprocity within community relations

Whilst the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School has traditionally extended into the areas of Usk, Goytre and Ponthir, the demand for school places amongst Newport residents means that this is no longer sustainable. Notwithstanding this, parents will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School albeit as an out-of-catchment applicant.

### Parameter 4: Transparency and accountability in decision-making

This proposal has been subject to consultation in line with the guidance outlined in the School Admissions Code. It is recommended that the changes proposed via this consultation be taken forward for implementation with effect from September 2021. This decision will be now referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

## 8. Equality Impacts and Actions

In total, 52 responses were received during the consultation period, all of which related to the proposal to amend the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School. Of these, 47 responses raised concerns regarding the proposal. The remaining five responses neither supported nor objected to the proposal but merely raised questions in relation to their particular circumstances. Respondents included pupils, parents and carers, members of the public, Community Councils, Governing Bodies, Members of Parliament, Elected Members, neighbouring Local Authorities and the Diocese of Monmouth. Whilst some respondents raised more than one issue in their response, a breakdown of the number and type of objections, along with the Council's responses, is summarised as follows:

Impact identified	Who does it affect?	What will you do to mitigate the impact? If you plan to take no action, please justify your rationale	Who is responsible?
Impact on local community cohesion and pupil wellbeing	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	Whilst the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School has traditionally extended into the areas of Usk, Goytre and Ponthir, the demand for school places amongst Newport residents means that this is no longer sustainable. Notwithstanding this, parents will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School albeit as an out-of-catchment applicant.	Newport City Council Torfaen County Borough Council Monmouthshire County Council
Distance to an alternative school and safety of home to school transport routes	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	The parents of pupils affected by this proposal will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-catchment applicants. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those closer to the school will have a better chance of securing a place. In terms of alternative schools, your home local authority may provide home to school transport in accordance with their agreed policy.	Newport City Council Torfaen County Borough Council Monmouthshire County Council
Impact on transition and siblings	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as	The parents of pupils affected by this proposal will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-catchment applicants. If the school is	Newport City Council Torfaen County Borough Council

	living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those with relevant siblings already attending the preferred school will have a higher priority in terms of securing a place. Transition arrangements will continue to be facilitated between primary and secondary schools after the offer of a secondary school place has been made.	Monmouthshire County Council
Environmental impact and wellbeing of future generations	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	Caerleon has been designated an air quality management area due the elevated levels of pollution caused by road traffic. Any reduction in the number of vehicles that travel through Caerleon will help elevate some of the pressure causing the high pollution levels. Furthermore, in the recent Centre for Cities report ( <a href="https://www.centreforcities.org/city/newport">https://www.centreforcities.org/city/newport</a> ), Newport has been identified as the third highest emitter of the greenhouse gas Carbon Dioxide per head of population. A reduction in the distance of the school commute will likely result in a reduction in the generation of greenhouse gases. Whilst both reductions (air pollution and carbon dioxide) are relatively minor in the grand scheme of things, every little action that can be taken to reduce commuting distances can contribute to an overall improvement. Given that there is no intention to increase the overall capacity of the secondary school, the number of pupils travelling to the school from outside Caerleon will not significantly change.	Newport City Council
Consultation process and methodology	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for	The consultation is compliant with Welsh Government's statutory School Admissions Code and is in line with similar arrangements in previous years.	Newport City Council

	Caerleon Comprehensive School		
Impact on educational standards	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	There is no negative impact on standards anticipated because of this proposal at any of Newport's primary or secondary schools.	Newport City Council
Cost of alternative home to school transport	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	Each Local Authority is responsible for agreeing an individual Home to School Transport policy to support access to school. Newport's policy provides free transport to those pupils living three miles or more from their catchment school or their nearest available school. If parents apply for their child to attend a school that is not their catchment or nearest available school, parents are fully responsible for all transport costs and arrangements. It is not anticipated therefore that the costs to Newport will increase because of this proposal but it is acknowledged that there may be an impact for other LAs.	Newport City Council Torfaen County Borough Council Monmouthshire County Council

## 9. Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing

In accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code, the Council's School Admissions Policy is reviewed and consulted upon annually. The effectiveness of admission arrangements is monitored by the Newport School Admissions Forum, which meets on a termly basis. An annual Admission Forum report is submitted to Welsh Government each Autumn term.

## 10. Involvement

As outlined, the admission arrangements for 2021 have been subject to consultation with stakeholders and a consultation report has been drafted which outlines the method of consultation and the feedback received.

The report recommends that the changes proposed via this consultation be taken forward for implementation with effect from September 2021. This decision will be now referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

In accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code, these changes must be determined by 15<sup>th</sup> April and confirmed to stakeholders by 29<sup>th</sup> April. The new policy will be published on the Newport City Council by this date.

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