

Agenda



Cabinet

Date: Wednesday, 13 July 2022

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Council Chambers - Hybrid

To: Councillors J Mudd (Chair), D Batrouni, J Clarke, D Davies, Y Forsey, D Harvey, J Hughes, L Lacey and S Marshall

Item		Wards Affected
1	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>	
2	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	
3	<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting</u> (Pages 3 - 12)	
4	<u>2021/22 Revenue Budget Outturn</u> (Pages 13 - 40)	All Wards
5	<u>2021/22 Capital Outturn and Additions</u> (Pages 41 - 66)	All Wards
6	<u>Shared Prosperity Fund</u> (Pages 67 - 94)	All Wards
7	<u>RDLP - Vision, Issues and Objectives</u> (Pages 95 - 306)	All Wards
8	<u>Welsh Language and Annual Report</u> (Pages 307 - 336)	All Wards
9	<u>Welsh Government Consultation, One Network, One Timetable, One Ticket: Planning buses as a public service for Wales - NCC Response</u> (Pages 337 - 362)	All Wards
10	<u>Post EU Transition and Key Issues</u> (Pages 363 - 374)	All Wards
11	<u>Work Programme</u> (Pages 375 - 382)	
12	<u>Part 2 Exempt or Confidential Items</u> To consider whether to exclude the Press and Public during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it will involve the likely disclosure of exempt or confidential information as defined in schedule 12A of the Local Government	

Contact: Anne Jenkins, Governance Team Leader
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Date of Issue: 6 July 2022

Act 1972 and exclusion outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

a Newport Indoor Market - Presentation

Stow Hill

Minutes



Cabinet

Date: 15 June 2022

Time: 4.00 pm

Present: Councillors Councillor J Mudd (Chair), D Batrouni, J Clarke, D Davies, Y Forsey, D Harvey, J Hughes, L Lacey and S Marshall

1 Apologies for Absence

None received.

2 Declarations of Interest

None received.

3 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes from 28 April were confirmed as a true record.

4 Corporate Risk Register Update (Q4)

The Leader presented the Corporate Risk Register Update (Q4) report to Cabinet for their consideration. This was an update for the end of Quarter Four (1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022).

The Council's Risk Management Policy and Corporate Risk Register effectively identified, managed and monitored those risks which could prevent the Council from achieving its objectives in the Corporate Plan (2017-22) and to undertake statutory duties as a local authority.

The Quarter four risk report would also be presented to the Council's Governance and Audit Committee in July 2022 to review the Council's risk management process and governance arrangements.

At the end of quarter four the Council had 44 risks recorded across the Council's eight service areas.

The risks that were deemed to pose the most significant risk in the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and services were escalated to the Council's Corporate Risk Register for monitoring.

At the end of quarter three, 16 risks were recorded in the Corporate Risk Register; these being nine Severe Risks (15 to 25) and seven Major Risks (7 to 14).

In comparison to quarter three, there were no new and/or escalated risks and no risks were closed.

Twelve risks remained at the same score as quarter three.

Two risks (Safeguarding risk and In Year Financial Management) were de-escalated from the Corporate Risk Register to Service area risk registers for monitoring.

One risk (Pressure on Housing and Homelessness service) increased from 16 to 20.

Three risks (Covid-19 Pandemic outbreak, Demand for Additional Learning Needs and Special Education Needs support, and Schools Finance / Cost pressures) had their risk scores decreased.

The Leader went on to highlight further decreased risks, these included:

Safeguarding Risk (Children Services) and In Year Management (Finance).

At the end of the quarter, the Covid-19 Pandemic Outbreak (20 to 16) risk score reduced following Welsh Government's announcement on easing restrictions.

Cabinet agreed to an additional £.12M to address the discrepancy between the funding to statemented pupils and their actual costs, in relation to Demand for Additional Learning Needs and Special Education Needs support (16 to 12).

Schools Finance / Cost Pressures (12 to 9) decreased as those schools currently subject to the Deficit Recovery process were each demonstrating much improved financial positions. Two of these three schools were expected to end the 2021/22 financial year in surplus, and only one school is considered as likely to need to submit an application for a further licence for the 2022/23 financial year.

WG Covid related guidance in relation to Pressure on Housing and Homelessness Service (16 to 20) continued. There were consistently over 400 households in temporary accommodation, with less than 20 being rehoused each month due to the lack of availability of permanent accommodation. In the absence of the Covid-19 Hardship Fund for 2022-23, additional grant funding was awarded by WG to support the authority to continue to meet the requirement to accommodate a high number of homeless households. This funding, however, would not fully meet the additional costs of continuing to provide high levels of temporary accommodation and the associated staffing and property management expenditure. In addition, the introduction of the Renting Homes Act in July 2022 and the cost-of-living crisis were likely to increase the number of those presenting to the authority as homeless as it was anticipated that private landlords would exit the market and accommodation would become increasingly unaffordable. The pressures on temporary and move-on accommodation was likely to be exacerbated by the demand for housing for Ukrainian evacuees.

Comments of Cabinet Members:

- Councillor Davies referred to recommendation 10 and 15 which had moved down risk register. These were in relation to ALN and SEN support. Cabinet agreed £.12M towards education in relation to these areas of education and further funding would be provided for teaching advisors for pupils at risk of exploitation. An incredible amount of work from education finance officers had been undertaken and the Cabinet Member thanked all those staff involved in education services. The Leader echoed Councillor's Davies' comments and those that volunteered within Education Support.

- Councillor Hughes highlighted the improvement the Council was making in relation to safeguarding practices including charities and volunteers within the city maintaining a level of service at a time when cost of living crisis was hitting the community. Social Care staff in particular were working hard to support the vulnerable in community.

Decision:

Cabinet considered the contents of the quarter four update of the Corporate Risk Register.

5 Local Area Energy Plan

The Leader referred to Council in November 2021, where Council declared an Ecological and Climate emergency. As part of the declaration, the Council pledged to develop a city-wide Local Area Energy Plan. With this in mind, the Leader was pleased to present that plan to Cabinet.

Over the last year, the Council collaborated with stakeholders from the public, private and third sectors to develop the plan which set out a vision and route map for reaching a zero-carbon local energy system for the whole of Newport by 2050.

The plan built on the city's existing strengths, including our industrial heritage and our track record of innovation, and would enable us, as a local authority, to support residents and businesses in Newport to decarbonise heat, electricity and local transport and realise local renewable energy production.

This was another positive step on the way to decarbonising Newport and tackling climate change in our city.

The Leader invited the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Biodiversity, Councillor Forsey to comment.

Councillor Forsey was pleased to see the final draft of this plan. It was an ambitious plan, of which the Cabinet Member would monitoring progress closely and requesting regular progress updates to ensure that the Council continued to proceed at the speed that would be required.

There were some uncertainties on the pathway to 2050, but seven priority areas of work were identified and key actions for each of these areas would be undertaken for the first five years. Support from a wide range of stakeholders and partners was recognised, to deliver this plan and the Cabinet Member looked forward to working together across the city with residents, businesses and public and third sector organisations.

Comments of Cabinet Members:

- Councillor Davies mentioned that this was being implemented when the Cabinet Member portfolio was handed over to Councillor Hughes. It was exciting to be part of the first steps with Conwy. The key priorities to make the changes to Newport an innovative place to be and a credit was given to those involved in the plan. We were leading the way, in Wales to be carbon neutral by 2050 but could not do this in isolation therefore working with businesses and WG in tandem was important.
- Councillor Hughes paid tribute to those officers who was involved within the plan and, as Councillor Davies had previously mentioned, Newport had led the way on this and therefore fully supported the report.

The Leader thanked Cabinet Members for their valued contribution.

Decision:

Cabinet approved the draft city-wide Local Area Energy Plan for the whole Newport Local Authority area.

6 Information Station Project

The Leader reminded colleagues that Cabinet previously agreed to seek an alternative commercial use for the ground and first floor of the Information Station and relocate staff and services to the Central Library and Museum building. Officers were working on the delivery of this project and to date had managed to agree heads of terms with Tramshed Tech as the operator of the proposed tech hub and co-working space. The Council had also secured £1.3m of Welsh Government Transforming Towns funding for the refurbishment of part of the Central Library and Museum to provide a new face to face facility.

There was extensive and protracted negotiations with the landlord of the Information Station with regard to the sub-lease to Tramshed Tech, however the Leader was pleased to advise Cabinet a point was reached where those overarching consents were in place. What also occurred in the intervening period, however, was a global increase in price for construction projects. Unfortunately, this resulted in the cost of delivering this project increasing by £140,000.

Despite the cost increases, this project provided the Council with an opportunity to deliver new co working and tech hub space in the City Centre. This would build upon and improve current access to co-working space and strengthen our ambition to be a centre for data and tech. Furthermore, by co-locating our face-to-face service alongside our central library service, our residents would have better access to a wider range of support and services all in the same place.

Current tender prices were only held until the 30 June 2022 and any further delay in finalising the lease to Tramshed Tech and appointing contractors presented a real risk of costs increasing further. The Leader recognised that the increase in project costs puts added pressure on financial resources but given the amount of external funding secured and the benefits which flowed from this project for residents and businesses, the Leader proposed Cabinet endorse the report and support the increased budget requested.

Comments of Cabinet Members:

- Councillor Harvey welcomed the report and mentioned that there had been so many delays and was therefore behind the project and eager for the work to commence. The Leader shared the Cabinet Member's sentiment.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed to meet the increased costs of the project in order to allow the proposal to proceed.

7 Levelling Up Fund Round 2 - National Institute of Technology (Report to follow)

The Leader mentioned that Cabinet colleagues would recall that the UK Government launched a £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund last year. Round 1 bidding took place last year and Newport put forward a proposal which focussed on public realm investment opportunities around the Newport Station area. Unfortunately, the Council was not successful with that bid but UK Government had now opened bidding for round 2. This remained a competitive bidding process and up to £20m of capital funding was available for regeneration and cultural projects. The deadline for the submission was 6 July 2022.

Newport was identified as a Priority 1 area and whilst this provided an advantage in terms of hierarchy of need, it remained a competitive process and funding would be awarded on the basis of the quality of the bid and not priority status.

The Leader was very pleased to present this report requesting Cabinet's approval to submit a round 2 bid which focussed on the creation of a City of Newport National Technology Institute. This new Technology Institute would be based in the City centre and would complement and build upon the delivery of the Newport Knowledge quarter. This facility would be delivered in collaboration with Cardiff Capital Region, Further and Higher Education, business and industry experts, and employers. The focus would be on delivering targeted and focused courses and qualifications where employer demand was greatest. It was expected to:

- significantly increase the number of learners with higher technical qualifications
- provide the skills that employers need, both now and in the future, which were crucial to local, regional and national productivity growth
- attract a diverse range of learners to address the lack of diversity in some parts of the technical workforce, to maximise their social as well as economic impact, and
- support adult learners, whether in employment or not, who want flexible access to higher-level education

This would be a different offer to existing Further Education and Higher Education provision and local partners were supportive of this bid. It was important to acknowledge that this bid was developed as a result of ongoing feedback from employers and representatives through our regional and local partnerships. Our employers and businesses were telling us that they desperately needed a pipeline of suitably qualified and trained people in the local area to meet their current needs and enable their businesses to grow. Newport had already seen how alternative offers such as the National Software Academy and the Cyber Security Academy could succeed, and this concept expanded on those offers.

The Leader reiterated that this was a competitive process, with no guarantee of success. There may or may not be a third round of funding and the Council needed to pursue all grant funding opportunities available in order deliver on ambitious regeneration plans for the City Centre.

Comments of Cabinet Members:

- Councillor Lacey, with an IT background herself, the Cabinet Member fully supported the report and felt it was an exciting move for the future generations in Newport.
- Councillor Davies also echoed the comments of Councillor Lacey and supported the report. The potential opportunities for children and students within Newport was phenomenal and would provide the qualifications to take children further.
- Councillor Hughes the potential for children to stay within their communities was also an asset there was exciting times ahead and therefore supported the report.
- Councillor Marshall mentioned as an LEA Governor he had seen children coding in school, which was fascinating and this would also benefit the not only the city as a whole but wider ranging for neighbouring cities.
- Councillor Harvey, moving forward, this was clean future for the next generation of children in Newport.

Decision:

- Cabinet approved the submission of a bid to the second round of the Levelling Up Fund relating to the provision of a National Technology Institute in Newport City Centre.

- Cabinet also to approved a change in the capital programme, as outlined in the financial summary, to fund the potential 'match-funding' for this project.

8 Treasury Management Report

The Leader presented the report. Before Cabinet was the 2021/22 Outturn on Treasury Management. This report was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee, with no comments or observations requiring the Cabinet's or the Council's attention were made. From here, it would go to full Council who were responsible for setting the Council's Treasury Management strategy and the various indicators and limits that managed this activity.

The report explained the Council's borrowing and investing activities in 2021/22 and its position against the indicators and limits set.

Regarding borrowing, a substantial difference could be viewed relative to the expected position. The Council had a long-term requirement to borrow and in pursuing an internal borrowing strategy, should normally have minimal investments (spare cash) which it invested over the short term.

Due to the on-going impacts of the Covid pandemic, following a second year of significant capital expenditure slippage, the take up of expected borrowing did not materialise. The 'need' to borrow was there and would happen but slippage that this had not materialised as quickly as expected.

This second year of significant underspending and the resulting increase in reserves which have yet to be spent also meant that cash resources were much higher than expected. This allowed some small maturing loans to be repaid without re-financing and for spare cash levels to be high and invested.

As outlined in the report, this was a temporary position and as the Council worked to catch up on capital projects and with the financial support linked to Covid now ended, cash resources and investments would reduce, then borrowing resume, in line with requirements over time.

Officers were undertaking a detailed review of the capital programme to gain a better understanding of delivery timescales, and this would be reported to Cabinet in due course.

On the indicators and limits, the report highlighted one area where these were not met, which was unusual.

The indicator related to the Council's exposure to *interest rate changes*. Borrowing costs increased if the interest rate increased and our income from investing activities would reduce if the interest rate dropped.

It could be noted that the issue was highlighted due to a different interpretation of our LOBO (Lender Option Borrower Option) loans as variable interest loans rather than fixed interest rate loans. It was therefore more of a 'technical' issue as opposed to one caused by borrowing decisions made. Indeed, the report confirmed that given the nature of these LOBO loans, if the interest rate did increase; the Council would be more likely to make a budgetary saving rather than being exposed to the risk of costs increasing.

Regarding the limit, this breach occurred because amounts invested was much greater than that envisaged when setting the indicator. Again, this was of no concern as the Council's budget target for interest receivable had not changed and even if rates decreased; it would not impact on that budget.

It should be noted that managing the Council's cash-flows was particularly challenging over these last two exceptional years, therefore, the Leader thanked the Finance team for their work during this time.

Decision:

Cabinet noted the report on treasury management activities for the period 2021/22 and would provide comments to Council.

9 **Covid Update Report**

Since the last report in April, the Leader advised that the Welsh Government announced the removal of the last legal restrictions for people to wear face coverings in health and care settings.

People were still being asked to self-isolate if they displayed symptoms and/or test positive for covid. Vaccinations were offered to over 75s who could still receive the vaccine if they had not done to date. Further vaccinations would be offered in the autumn for residents in care home settings (including staff), frontline health and social care workers and adults aged 65 and over; and those in clinical risk group (16 to 65).

Covid financial support for those self-isolating and unable to work from home would be coming to an end at the end of June. Other financial support was continuing to be offered to households and businesses that were struggling post pandemic and through the increasing cost of living.

Various schemes were available from the Council and Welsh Government for households and businesses to access. On behalf of this Cabinet and Councillors across Newport, people were encouraged to contact the Council if they were struggling or required assistance.

Restrictions at Council buildings were removed in line with Welsh Government guidance. Office based staff were still encouraged to work from home and to only work at Council buildings if it was necessary.

The Council's New Normal project is finalising its policy and procedures to fully undertake hybrid and flexible working.

The Council welcomed new and existing Councillors following the local elections and successfully conducted its first hybrid Council meeting. Cabinet looked forward to future scrutiny and regulatory meetings using this technology.

The Leader invited Cabinet Members to highlight work in their portfolios:

Comments of Cabinet Members:

- Councillor Harvey stressed that members of the public must try to apply for some form of benefit if they were struggling and to contact the council as a matter of priority. The Cabinet Member thanked all the teams and officers for their help for the last two years, adding that people must never take their friends and family for granted and neither must Cabinet take officers for granted. The Leader echoed comments and thanked previous Cabinet colleagues in their responses and actions to the unprecedented situation.
- Councillor Davies also echoed the Leader's and Councillor Harvey's thanks. There was concern during last year that exams would not go ahead however, they were now in full swing and it was tough at the time for pupils as they did not have the opportunity to access education in the normal way. Supportive measures were in place by the WG and Councillor Davies was pleased to report that across Newport, exams were going really

well. The Cabinet Member thanked staff in Newport schools who helped pupils to take their next steps.

- Councillor Marshall attended a foster carers event and where he received positive feedback about the council over the course of the last two years.
- Councillor Lacey added that it was so nice to see the community out especially during the Jubilee celebrations and looking forward. LL thanked Cabinet for their hard work over the past two years.

Decision:

Cabinet considered and noted the contents of the report and would receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.

10 Post EU Transition Report

The Leader presented to Cabinet an update on the post EU Transition and wider economic and global challenges impacting Newport's communities and economy

Since the last report in April, households and businesses were continuing to see increases in their general cost of living.

Inflation was reported at 7.8% to April 2022 and was expected to continue rising. Businesses were also having to pass on increased costs to the consumer.

Many low to middle income households were having to make very difficult decisions between food, utility bills and transport.

The UK energy regulator Ofgem already indicated that the fuel cap would rise to £2,800 in October.

The Council's Council Tax team encouraged households in bands A to D to claim the £150 cost of living payment.

A further announcement would be made by the Council on the provision of an additional £1.2m support for most vulnerable households.

The Welsh Government's campaign 'Claim What's Yours' was also available for people to access benefits to assist them with the help they needed.

Newport Council was also offering a £500 payment for unpaid carers who look after someone for 35 hours or more and were on low incomes.

Businesses in the City were also able to claim rate relief from the Council. Grants were also available to start up and existing businesses.

Council made £100k available earlier in 2022 to support the City's foodbanks. Newport Council was now working in partnership GAVO offering capital grants for foodbank and community organisations to deliver food security projects.

Cardiff Capital Region was leading on delivering the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund. Newport City Council was developing its local investment plan to support the delivery of local priorities for communities across Newport. A further announcement would be made in due course by this Cabinet on the Plan.

The Leader turned to the citizens of Newport, a city that recognised the contribution of its residents in making Newport a rich, diverse and inclusive place to live. Citizens had been

welcomed from across the world and supported those seeking refuge and safety in Newport and Wales.

The Council and its partners continued to support EU/EAA citizens with their Settled Status claims and ensuring citizens were able to access the services they need.

The war in Ukraine caused the displacement of many tens of thousands of Ukrainian people from their homes. Ukrainians arriving in Newport and Wales were being supported by the Council, health, school, and community groups to settle in the city. In the last month Newport Council and partners approved 80 visa applications issued in connection with 52 active Ukrainian placements across 22 sponsors.

Council services had undertaken additional responsibility, helping to process applications, complete necessary safeguarding checks and administer financial payments to host and Ukrainians.

The Council's schools also welcomed Ukrainian children into their school communities and helped them to settle into the schools.

The Leader thanked everyone that opened up their homes to accommodate Ukrainian families during this time of crisis. Also outstanding achievement from local charity and Leader was involved in this project and visited a celebration event from the Women of Newport and as Leader it was a great opportunity to be invited to open the doors of the Westgate Hotel that represented democracy in Newport. It was such a privilege and the Leader was truly humbled by the support from the people of Newport.

Comments of Cabinet Members:

- Councillor Hughes echoed comments of the Leader and referred to a recent event he and his Cabinet Member job share colleague, Cllr Marshall attended which supported the Hungarian Community in Newport. It was informative to see how well they had settled in Newport and their children were learning Welsh. The community also supported Ukrainian evacuees and they appreciated the support from Newport City Council.

Decision:

Cabinet considered and noted the contents of the report and would receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.

11 **Work Programme**

This was the regular monthly report on the work programme.

Please move acceptance of the updated programme.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed the Work Programme.

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Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 13 July 2022

Subject Revenue Budget Outturn - 2021/22

Purpose This report explains the Council's financial position for the year ending 31 March 2022 and lists year-end reserve transfers for Cabinet's review and approval.

Author Head of Finance

Ward All

Summary The revenue outturn shows an underspend of £18,404k, after core budget contributions to/ from reserves, which represents a 6% variance against budget. This variance against budget has arisen, in the main, due to the following:

- Receipt of significant one-off Welsh Government (WG) funds over and above that received from the 'Hardship Fund' for Covid specific expenditure and lost income.
- Underspends across all service areas due to changes in service provision and working practices caused by Covid, and;
- Underspends against the general revenue contingency budget, capital financing, council tax reduction scheme and council tax income – all of which are non-service budgets.

The underspend has increased by £1,873k since the January forecast and, in the main, this is because of late distribution of additional funding from WG to support education initiatives within schools and other areas.

The report explains the key variances against budget for the financial year ending 31 March 2022 and provides a summary statement of key issues, which have the potential to impact upon financial management in future years.

This report makes recommendations to utilise the one-off underspend available to invest in the local communities and to protect the Council by enhancing its risk mitigation reserves. The details of which can be found within section 5 of this report.

Appendix 1 Overall budget dashboard – March 2022
Appendix 2 Revenue summary monitor - March 2022
Appendix 3 School balance outturn position
Appendix 4 2021/22 reserve movements
Appendix 4a 2021/22 detailed reserve movements

Proposal That Cabinet:

1. Note the outturn position, which is subject to audit; and the major variances for the year (sections 1-3);

2. To approve use of the underspend and other reserve transfers as set out in section 5 of the report, noting the resulting level of the Council's general and earmarked reserves;
3. Note the school's outturn and the position on the individual and total school reserves (section 3).

Action by Head of Finance

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Leader of the Council
- Chief Executive
- Strategic Directors
- Head of Finance
- Head of Law and Standards
- Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Signed

Background

1 Outturn summary

1.1 The 2021/22 revenue budget out-turn produced a net underspend, after core budgeted contributions to/ from reserves, of £18.4m against the £315.9m budget (6% variance). This variance has arisen for several reasons and individual service analysis of key variances are shown later in this report.

1.2 At a high level, the following explains the position:

- Receipt of significant one-off Welsh Government (WG) funds; over and above that received from the 'Hardship Fund' for Covid specific expenditure and lost income to support other WG policies that were notified late in the financial year.
- Underspends across all services in relation to (i) costs of general administration and service provision due to changes in working practices, (ii) staff savings resulting from recruitment delays and (iii) not undertaking planned/normal services, as they were not required or unable to be carried out due to the prioritisation of Covid response work.
- Resulting directly and indirectly from the above, the Council did not use its general revenue contingency budget. In addition, the Council also underspent on and overachieved on Council Tax reduction scheme and Council Tax income, respectively. Unanticipated capital grants at the end of the year also impacted on the Councils borrowing requirement therefore creating an underspend against the capital financing budget. These are all non-service budget areas.

1.3 The outturn position, which is subject to audit, is summarised below and reflects the above issues:

Underspending across service areas (exc schools)	(£7,789k)
Underspending across non-service areas:	
Capital financing	(£4,310k)
Additional RSG income from WG	(£3,056K)
Budget contingency	(£1,373k)
CTax Reduction Scheme saving	(£1,029k)
CTax income surplus	(£882k)
Other	£35k
Overall underspend	(£18,404k)

Allocation of the underspend

1.4 The resulting saving allows the Cabinet to consider how best to use this one-off resource to spend in the current and future years to help the City recover from the impacts of Covid and invest in other priorities.

1.5 Although the full extent of the underspend is not recommended to be allocated at this point, consideration has been given to a range of issues:

- Investing in local communities' infrastructure to encourage greater pride and cohesion.
- Protecting the Council's financial resilience and achievement of its priorities by enhancing its risk mitigation reserves.

- 1.6 The full list of the additions to existing reserves and the new reserves set up for the above are listed in appendix 4. The summary of reserves also shows the 'use from/ contribution to' existing reserves.

Council spending in response to the Covid pandemic and WG funding support

- 1.7 The continuation of the WG Hardship Fund to March 2022 has meant that the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years have not been a true representation of the continued challenge that the pandemic has caused. As we embark on a period of identifying and understanding the 'new normal', underlying issues which have been masked during this period by the availability of one-off funding will become apparent.
- 1.8 The financial support to the Council meant that additional costs, and income losses, were not borne by the Council. Key areas of support were as follows:

FUND/FINANCIAL SUPPORT	£'000
Local Government Emergency Hardship Fund - Additional Costs of responding to Covid	19,745
Local Government Emergency Hardship Fund – loss of income compensation	3,642
Council Tax Income Collection – compensation	740
NNDR – Covid admin grant	164
TOTAL	24,291

Additional WG grant received

- 1.9 In addition to the financial assistance from the Local Government Emergency Hardship Fund, unexpected grant income received from WG late in the year resulted in core spend being displaced and funded via external grant; therefore, increasing the overall underspend. These sources of income were as follows:

FINANCIAL SUPPORT	£'000
Amended Local Government revenue settlement announced March 22. The RSG for 2021/22 increased by £60m and Newport's share is as shown. This funding is non-recurrent	3,056
Social Care Winter Pressures	2,538
Education – Including LA Education Grant (LAEG), Winter of Wellbeing (WoW), Recruit, Recover & Raise (RRR), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	665
Additional Sustainable Waste Management Grant	243
TOTAL – NON SCHOOLS	6,502
TOTAL - SCHOOLS – Including LAEG, WoW, RRR, CAMHS (as above)	4,880

2 Main variances against budget

- 2.1 Service area budgets (exc. schools) underspent by just under £8m. It is evident that the pattern that has emerged this year is not too dissimilar to that seen last year as shown in para 1.2 above.
- 2.2 One thing that has differed to previous years is the extent of the additional one-off funding that has been allocated at the end of the year from WG. This income is in the region of £7m, excluding schools, and has impacted significantly on the overall outturn.
- 2.3 The following section explains:
- (i) Key variances against budget for each service area and the position in terms of some of the key recurring risk-based areas.
 - (ii) Delivery of 2021/22 savings.

(i) **Service area budgets**

	£'000
Children's – (£1,788k) overall underspend	
Areas of overspending	
Covid Recovery Grant: A £1.5m grant was received late in the year which was required to be spent in full during 2021/22. Service overspent against the grant allocation.	120
Pathways additional support (Looked after Children family support): A Mother and baby placement directed by the court resulted in an overspend against budget.	149
Areas of underspending	
Out of area residential placements: The budget of £3,155k can afford 20 placements. Numbers throughout the year were lower than what the budget could afford due to providers not accepting placements plus £393k of unbudgeted income from Education and ABUHB towards placements costs.	(689)
Independent fostering agencies: The budget of £2,462k can afford 58 placements. Although the total number of placements increased to 63 at the end of March 2022 compared to 60 at the end of January 2022, 9 placements were claimed from the Hardship fund in 2021/22 at a cost of £319k.	(305)
External legal fees: The budget of £930k has underspent due to a reduced number of care proceeding cases this year.	(226)
Youth offending team/ Child protection: Savings from restructuring and staff vacancies.	(510)
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC): This is a cost neutral budget, however; the Home Office have confirmed that funding is provided on the number of UASCs as opposed to the costs incurred and that this funding is not repayable. The number of UASC's have increased significantly over the year, 76 in March 2022 compared to 48 in March 2021.	(246)
Adults - (£5,088k) overall underspend	
Areas of underspending	
Community care: Combined budget more than £38m across community care. Underspend has arisen due to one off grant funding to cover winter pressures (£2.5m), the demand for services reduced during 2020 and the numbers have not yet increased to pre covid levels. Although there is a back log of requests for assessments/placements, staff shortages are causing delays. Furthermore, user contributions and £820k property sale income has further increased the underspend against this budget. Whilst the context for this is known, the continuation of this underspend is not certain given the temporary nature of the fluctuations in demand. These budgets require continued close monitoring to gauge the continued impact of the pandemic.	(3,754)
Hospital Team: £284k annual budget - One off grant contributions from Integrated Care Fund (ICF) and Home First.	(198)
In-house Adult residential homes: Annual budget £3,774k exc. fee payer's contribution. Non covid related costs reduced during the pandemic.	(375)

Education - (£837k) overall underspend	
Areas of overspending	
Home to School and SEN Transport: Annual budget of £2,586k. This overspend is due to increased demand and therefore costs for SEN and Special transport coupled with a duplicate year-end transaction which will be resolved in 22/23.	424
Areas of underspending	
SEN: The budget of £4,115k for Out of County (OOC), Recoupment and Local Provision would normally experience pressure as a result of the cost and volume of out of county placements, however in 2021/22 there was an underspend of (£495k) due to reduced new placements and investment in local provision. In addition, there was higher than budgeted recoupment income of (£110k) due to other local authorities accessing placements within Newport schools.	(736)
Breakfast clubs: Breakfast clubs have not been fully operational and in some instances have not reopened.	(228)
Bridge Achievement Centre: Grant income from Local Authority Education Grant (LAEG)/ Recruit, Recover & Raise (RRR) /Winter of Wellbeing (WoW) and additional income from schools which was received and not budgeted for.	(262)
Psychology/ ALN Team/ Education Welfare: Additional grant income received from schools in respect of ALN grant and LA Education (home elective) funding.	(397)
RIH - (£227k) overall underspend	
Areas of overspending	
Homelessness: Annual budget of £728k. Overspend relates to additional placements which were not recoverable from the Hardship Fund.	320
Commercial & Industrial Estate: Overspend relates to £183k income under recovery and £141k unbudgeted spend on roller shutters to satisfy Health and Safety requirements.	302
Station buildings: Annual budget of £127k. Delays in handover to new tenant has resulted in lost rental income creating the overspend.	164
Areas of underspending	
Development management: There is an annual budget of £345k and within that planning income over-achieved (£182k).	(214)
Community centres: There is an annual budget of £138k, which has no allowance for SLA income on internal room hire, which is being received.	(153)
Centralised properties: The annual budget of £4,341k was underspent as a result of an over achievement of profit share received from Norse (£210k) and reduction in contract payments and utilities (£88k).	(366)
City Services - £793k overall overspend	

Areas of overspending	
Waste disposal site: The annual 'credit' budget of £390k does not include a provision for landfill capping. £747k of costs have been incurred in relation to the revised tip capping provision based on the economic useful life of the site and the assessed intervention required.	595
Surveys & Inspections: The annual base budget of £286k includes no provision for dealing with ash die back and this incurred significant additional spend over and above normal spending levels.	573
Highways: Annual budget of £1,520k. The overspend relates to unplanned essential works.	167
Free bus fares for the month of December as agreed by Cabinet: This initiative was funded from the overall Council budget underspend that was forecast at that time.	233
Areas of underspending	
Head of City Services: The overall budget of £721k includes provision for city centre management which has not been spent (£100k) and further savings achieved against staffing budgets as a result of vacant posts.	(266)
Bus Station: The annual budget of £42k was underspent due to the reduction in the level of bad debt provision.	(218)
Benefits: The annual budget of £170k underspent due to unbudgeted grant income for self-isolation and winter fuel payments schemes offset by an overspend on postages.	(188)
Refuse collection: The annual budget of £3,067k has underspent as a result of decreased volumes collected during lockdown and reduced disposal and landfill tax costs due to waste being diverted away from landfill.	(168)
Directorate - (£47k) overall underspend	
Areas of underspending	
There is an overall budget of £525k, which achieved savings due to staff vacancies, offset partially by recruitment costs.	(47)
Finance - (£167k) overall underspend	
Areas of underspending	
NNDR: The annual credit budget of £237k has seen unexpected additional covid administrative grant income received late in the year. This has resulted in an underspend of £174k.	(174)
People & Business Change - (£70k) overall underspend	
Areas of underspending	
Training and development: The budget of £525k was significantly underspent due to delayed implementation of the training and development programme.	(400)
Areas of overspending	

SRS management fee: There is a budget of £2,836k, which was overspent due to catch up spend incurred during the year to satisfy the requirements of the rolling IT equipment replacement programme (£282k).	156
Council website: One off cost included for Strategic Communication improvements to the Council website.	232
Law & Regulation - (£358k) overall underspend	
Areas of underspending	
Legal Services: The overall budget of £1,217k saw an underspend as a result of staff savings (£53k) and other non-staff costs due to the delayed implementation of the case management system.	(89)
Hackney Carriages/ Private Hire: The annual credit budget of £72k was underspent by £175k as a result of overachieved income of £160k and £15k staff savings.	(175)
Non-service (£10,614k) overall underspend	
Areas of underspending	
Capital Financing Costs and Interest: Following the decision to frontload the revenue funding required to finance the full Capital Programme, as part of the 2021/22 budget, it was always anticipated that an underspend in the region of £2.5m would occur. However, the effect of general slippage across the Capital Programme, coupled with the quantity of WG grant awards in the latter part of the financial year, meant the anticipated level of new borrowing wasn't required. Consequently, a significant underspend against interest payable budgets (amounting to £1.6m) occurred, which was the main reason for the improvement between the January forecast and the final outturn.	(4,310)
Council tax benefits: There were significant underspends due to demand against the £13.4m budget.	(1,029)
Unused contingency budget: As the overall budget was underspent, the contingency budget was therefore not required, creating further underspend.	(1,373)
Revenue Settlement Grant (RSG) funding: In March 2022, an amended Local Government revenue settlement was announced. The RSG for 2021/22 increased by £60m and Newport's share of this was £3,056k. This funding is non-recurrent.	(3,056)
Council Tax collection:	(852)

(ii) Delivery of savings

- 2.4 Although, in some instances, the performance on delivery of savings has continued to be impacted by the Covid-19 situation throughout the year, the levels of achieved savings were 94% of target. In addition to the £190k shortfall this represents, there remains £407k of undelivered savings from 2020/21, which need to be addressed. Whilst the current delay is unavoidable, these areas were considered as part of the 2022/23 budget, although, no pressures were agreed as most of the undelivered savings are deliverable in 2022/23. Conversations are ongoing with Heads of Service to determine the plan of action to address the outstanding items. This is an area of on-going risk which will be closely monitored throughout the year.

Summary by Portfolio	People	Place	Corporate	Non Service	Total
2021/22 MTRP Target (£) Total	1,421	670	430	870	3,391
Total Savings Realised by Year End 2021/22	1,321	580	430	870	3,201
Variation to MTRP Target	-100	-90	0	0	-190
Variation % to MTRP Target	-7%	-13%	0%	0%	-6%
Undelivered Savings from Previous Years	-166	-41	0	-200	-407
Total Undelivered Savings	-266	-131	0	-200	-597

3 Schools

- 3.1 The 'schools' section of the overall dashboard and the schools outturn summary (appendix 1 and 3 respectively) outline the position on school finances. These show the individual schools, sector in-year under/ overspending for 2021/22 and their reserves position as at the end of the year.
- 3.2 There has been a significant improvement in school balances during February and March resulting in the overall school reserves increasing from £9.6m to £15.7m at year-end (£6.1m underspend against budget).
- 3.3 Schools made significant in year savings, mainly due to over £4.8m of unexpected grants being received late in the year. These included Welsh Government Revenue Maintenance (£2,445k) and Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards: the Accelerating Learning Programme (£1,694k), Winter of Wellbeing (£328k) and ALN new system funding (£392k). The outcome is that only two schools have a negative balance position at the end of the current financial year, one from the nursery sector (£123k) and one from the secondary sector (£57k). The cumulative forecast deficit for these two schools has reduced from £644k to £180k since last year.
- 3.4 Whilst the school balances have improved significantly in 2021/22, this is largely due to one off, non-recurring grant income. The nature of the grants means that they should be spent on the issues they were given for e.g., 'maintenance works' and 'catching up initiatives' etc. Therefore, schools will need to robustly monitor and manage their budgets effectively to ensure financial sustainability going forward.
- 3.5 Assuming everything remained equal, without the one off £4.8m WG grants that were allocated to schools at year-end the underspend would likely be in the region of £1m. Schools also claimed a total of c£2.2m from Covid hardship fund during 2021/22.
- 3.6 Schools are currently finalising their 2022/23 budgets and Governing bodies had until 31st May to approve. All were reminded to prepare budgets taking account of their reserves position and also provide detail of the use of any reserves for 2022/23. Officers will review budgets to gauge what the reserve position is planned to be over the medium term. The Head of Finance recommends that the Council's Executive team continue to support a robust monitoring process with the Education management teams to review financial management issues in detail.
- 3.7 There were no applications for licenced deficit requests for 2022/23 financial year although a large contributing factor was the significant grant funding received at year-end and the additional costs that were reimbursed through the WG hardship fund. This will continue to be closely monitored throughout the year.

4 Specific budget issues / focus for 2022/23

- 4.1 Whilst the outturn is positive for the Council's finances overall; it must be appreciated that this is a one-year benefit and that underlying budget issues will need to be carefully monitored and action taken where appropriate.
- 4.2 Whilst delivery of 2021/22 savings was impressive in the circumstances, there is £190k of savings to be delivered from 2021/22 proposals and £407k from 2020/21. The latter is late delivery with some dating back to 2019/20. These will need to be delivered on top of the new 2022/23 budget savings agreed for this year and whilst the Covid situation continues to improve, the context remains challenging in some areas. This will require specific oversight.

- 4.3 Global economic outlook – the pandemic has hugely fallen away as the highest risk impacting on the Council and instead Russia’s invasion of the Ukraine is adding to the pressures of global supply chains with associated significant cost increases across a range of goods and services. Reports from the UK Government and Welsh Government are indicating further inflationary and economic pressures throughout 2022 which will undoubtedly have specific financial implications for the Council. Some of these have already been reported to Cabinet via increases to capital budget for some projects and it will be important that budgets are closely monitored for this issue throughout 2022/23. The HoF has already issued specific advice and guidance on this aspect throughout the Council.
- 4.4 The WG Hardship Fund came to an end in March 2022. This has clear financial impacts as some specific costs and impacts on income budgets are still present. The budget for 2022/23 explained what mitigation was put in place for this and will need careful monitoring.
- 4.5 There are potential, additional issues that may need to be dealt with, such as future NJC and Teacher’s pay negotiations, cost increases beyond what was provided for in budgets, demand within social care, maintenance issues and catching up on the delivery of projects; albeit still within a challenging environment. These will, no doubt, bring about some challenges and uncertainties into 2022/23 financial year and will be reported, as needed, via regular monitoring reports.
- 4.6 The Council’s budget has contingency and some of the regular non-service underspending (capital financing, for example) should continue during this year, albeit at reduced levels.
- 4.7 Overspending in some non-service budgets, in particular on housing benefit costs require specific review and is an area of particular risk as demand and costs increase over and above what can be recovered from the Department for Works & Pension (DWP).

5 Use of reserves

- 5.1 The Council’s reserves are an integral part of how the Council deals with its financial risks, achievement of key priorities and complying with appropriate accounting practice. The reserves the Council holds, earmarked for the uses shown, illustrates how planning for and using reserves is integrated into the Council’s strategic financial planning. As financial risk and uncertainty continues, it becomes even more important that the Council considers and uses financial reserves to both protect its financial health and enable its ambitions and priorities.

In year reserve transfers

- 5.2 The total reserve balances will increase by £41.1m net in 2022/23, from £108.3m to £149.4m at 31 March 2022, as follows:

Opening balance as at 31 March 2021	(£108,270k)
Transfers actioned – base budgeted/approved in year <i>(appendix 4 - £6,477k transfer out of and (£29,212k) transfer in)</i>	(£22,735k)
Transfers to be approved – use of underspend (para 5.6)	<u>(£18,404k)</u>
Closing balance as at 31 March 2022	(£149,409k)

- 5.3 In terms of the ‘in-year’ reserve transfers / transfers actioned; all are included in the outturn. They are consistent with one or more of (i) in line with existing policy / accounting & funding requirements (ii) were integral to the base budget approved by Cabinet previously (iii) in relation to the original creation of the reserve and (iv) approved specifically in year.

The larger, main transfers already actioned are noted below for Cabinet’s attention, information, and comment and further detail can be found in appendix 4a:

- consistent with existing policy / accounting & funding requirements;

- (i) transferring school underspends into school's specific reserves - +£6,179k;
- (ii) capital displacement headroom resulting from late WG capital funding - +£10,279k;
- (iii) additional capital grants from WG - +£3,210k
- (iv) capital receipts received in year - +£2,655k

- specific to the creation of the reserves in the first instance / in base budget:

- (i) transfer from MTFP reserve in line with intended purpose - -£2,128k;
- (ii) use of approved invest to save funds to cover implementation costs of saving proposals - -£897k;
- (iii) transfer into general investment risk reserve to mitigate against potential future risk - +£651k
- (iv) a number of smaller transfers - £3,452k transfers out of and £23,742k transfers into reserves, as detailed within appendix 4.

- approved specifically in –year

- (i) creation of a 'discretionary rate relief' fund for city centre businesses - +£900k

Use of underspend / allocation

5.4 The following initial reserve transfers are recommended to utilise the £18,404k revenue underspend:

Investments previously announced/committed:

- (i) **Parks & Open Spaces investment** – In addition to the £300k permanent funding over two years to maintain play areas and equipment, agreed as part of the 2022/23 budget, additional resource is being allocated to support the positive health benefits of being outdoors and spending time in green spaces. £2,500k
- (ii) **Domiciliary care support** - The amended 21/22 RSG sets out the Minister's intention for £500k of the £3,056k to be set aside to enable a response to increasing domiciliary care support service capacity through funding driving lessons and providing access to electric vehicles £500k

Service delivery:

- (iii) St. Andrews primary – support costs of temporary accommodation whilst work ongoing £305k

Risk:

- (iv) General investment risk reserve to support city centre regeneration scheme £792k
- (v) Allocate to existing MTFP reserve to support achievement of the corporate plan and support future budget risks £6,412k

The above represents those key transfers which require funding to be set aside for the reasons shown at this point. It is recommended that a decision on the balance is taken later in the financial year when there is more certainty on some key budget risks, especially in relation to the Council's capital programme and key projects which officers are clarifying over the next few weeks.

- (vi) Residual balance to be allocated by Cabinet during Sept/Oct meeting £7,895k

5.5 Cabinet is asked to note and approve all reserve transfers set out within this section.

5.6 The reserves have been categorised according to the planned use of funding and type of reserve, whether this be risk, enabling, smoothing or other. Reserves are:

- All earmarked for specific purposes except for the 'general reserves', meaning that any use outside of those original purposes would require the original intention to be deferred/cancelled or the reserve paid back.
- All, with exception of the capital receipts reserve, can be used to fund either capital or revenue costs and are therefore transferrable to other reserves, if it were needed.

Timetable

Ongoing

Risks

Detailed financial risks are included in the report and appendices where applicable

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?
Outturn post audit is different	L-M	L	It will be possible to reduce the recommended transfer to reserves if required	HoF

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

A balanced budget position is reported, and the use of the contingency budget was not required to achieve this. The one-off underspend provides support for the City to recover from the impacts of Covid and contribute towards the Council's key priorities.

Options Available and considered

1. Cabinet can choose to accept officers' recommendation and transfer the underspend into specific earmarked reserves;
2. Cabinet can choose not to approve the reserve transfers and instead report an underspend of £18,404k, this would be transferred to the general reserve;
3. Cabinet can choose not to approve the reserve transfers and move to alternative earmarked reserves.

Preferred Option and Why

Option 1, as the £18,404k underspend is being reserved for future investment in the areas outlined in paragraph 5.4.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

The report deals with the outturn for the financial year 2021/22 and confirms a significant underspend of c£18m, for the reasons shown in the report.

The report recommends that Cabinet defer allocation of nearly £8m of this until officers have worked through some risks and issues in relation to a number of capital projects and other issues and will be brought to Cabinet again in September / October. In the meantime, a number of transfers are recommended for allocation now as they are needed to protect the Council's financial resilience and achievement of its priorities. These are therefore key issues for addressing at this point.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no legal issues arising from the Report. The use of the underspend and the approval of reserve transfers are executive decisions for Cabinet.

Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation

There are no direct HR implications arising from this report.

The revenue out-turn report describes the budget management process and outcome from the previous financial year, in this case 2020-21. The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires local authorities to ensure they consider the impact of decisions taken today on future generations. The report shows an overall underspend against the revenue budget; managing the budget effectively will have a positive impact on current and future years.

Scrutiny Committees

N/A

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

This update is against a backdrop of continued uncertainty that has been faced throughout the global pandemic and more recently Russia's invasion of the Ukraine adding to the pressures of global supply chains. Since the start of the year, the global economic challenges and uncertainty has continued to put pressure on households and businesses as costs continue to rise. The cost-of-living increases are not just affecting low-income households but also middle-income households as salaries are not keeping pace with the costs of living. Although these will have a lasting impact on the economy and the local community, the availability of the one-off resources allows the Council to support economic recovery and invest in the local community over the medium term.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 forms an integral part of the financial management of the Council and the MTFP process of which the outturn of the Council is essential part. Analysis and review of reserves are an important aspect on the future generations and the Head of Finance reviews and assesses the robustness and adequacy of these reserves as part of this outturn report.

Consultation

N/A

Background Papers

2021/22 Revenue Monitor reports

Dated: 6 July 2022

Appendix 1

Budget Monitoring Position – March 2022

Position by Directorate

	Current Budget £'000	Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
People (exc Schools)	93,861	86,149	(7,712)
Place	36,634	37,200	565
Corporate	19,651	19,009	(642)
Service Area Budget	150,146	142,357	(7,789)
Schools	111,731	111,731	0
Service Area Budget (Inc Schools)	261,877	254,088	(7,789)
Schools - transfer to reserve	0	0	0
Non Service	52,681	43,439	(9,242)
Total Budget (excluding contingency)	314,558	297,527	(17,031)
General Contingency	1,373	0	(1,373)
Total Budget (including contingency)	315,931	297,527	(18,404)

Position Summary

- Revenue outturn reports an underspend of £18,404k. This assumes that all expenditure and lost income connected to the COVID-19 pandemic will be reimbursed to the end of March.
- Whilst service area underspending (£7,789k) contributes to the outturn position, a large proportion of the underspending comes from:
 - £1,373k underspend against general contingency;
 - £4,310k underspend against capital financing costs;
 - £1,911k underspend against council tax benefit rebates and council tax surplus;
 - £3,056k additional RSG funding from Welsh Government (WG).
- Schools significantly underspent against budget. Not only did they have the ability to claim from the Hardship Fund for additional costs and lost income throughout the year but they also received £4.8m of unexpected grants late in the year relating to wellbeing and other education initiatives.
- The outturn has benefitted from one-off budget savings:
 - Delays and difficulties in recruitment resulting in lower staff costs;
 - Lower costs being incurred as resources continue to be focussed on covid related issues;
 - Demand and income levels, in some areas, not yet returning to pre pandemic levels;
 - Reimbursement of additional covid related costs and lost income;
 - Non service budgets significantly underspending, and the revenue contingency budget not being required;
 - Significant, unexpected grant income received from WG which has impacted on a number of areas.

Detailed explanations can be found within service area dashboards



Undelivered Savings:

- 2021/22 - £190k
- Previous years - £407k
- Overall, undelivered savings are resulting in overspend against budget of £597k. This is predominantly due to delays in implementation, some of which are due to the impact of COVID-19.

Budget Monitoring Position – March 2022

- Although the overall position is positive there are key budget issues to be addressed:
 - Undelivered 21/22 and prior year savings (£597k);
 - Increased demand/ costs for SEN home to school transport (£424k);
 - Increased demand for homelessness placements that were not recoverable from the Hardship Fund (£320k);
 - Overspend within the commercial and industrial portfolio as a result of income under recovery (£183k) and replacement roller shutter doors following health and safety checks (£141k);
 - Environmental services overspend due to increase expenditure on trees (£573k);

Key Assumptions and Risks

- Whilst the outturn is positive for the Council finances overall; service areas must appreciate that this is a one-year benefit and that underlying budget issues must continue to be carefully monitored and action taken where appropriate.
- The outturn is based on WG Hardship Fund reimbursing the Council for all additional costs and lost income that was claimed to the end of March. As the Hardship came to an end in March 2022 managers must be reminded that any costs continuing into 2022/23 must be met from within existing budget provision. This will also be the case for any continuation of overtime costs following the recent consideration of extending and making permanent increased overtime rates.
- Whilst delivery of 2021/22 savings was impressive in the circumstances, there is £190k of savings to be delivered from 2021/22 proposals and £407k from 2020/21. The latter is linked to late delivery with some dating back to 2019/20. These will need to be delivered on top of the new 2022/23 budget savings agreed for this year and whilst the Covid situation continues to improve, the context remains challenging in some areas. This will require specific oversight from the Executive Board.
- The pandemic has hugely fallen away as the highest risk impacting on the Council and instead Russia's invasion of the Ukraine is adding to the pressures of global supply chains. Since the start of the year, the global economic challenges and uncertainty has continued to put pressure on households and businesses as costs continue rise. The cost-of-living increases are not just affecting low-income households but also middle-income households as food, fuel and energy costs are increasing but salaries are not keeping pace. Businesses are also having to increase their own costs due to the ongoing inflationary pressures and are being passed onto the consumer. Reports from the UK Government and Welsh Government are indicating further inflationary and economic pressures throughout 2022 which will undoubtedly have specific financial implications for the Council. It is therefore important that costs are closely monitored and escalated where appropriate with any material.
- Overspending in non-service budgets, in particular on housing benefit administration/ costs require specific review.

Budget Monitoring Position – March 2022

Other Assumptions/ Key Points

- The financial support to the Council meant that additional costs were not borne by the Council. Key areas of support were as follows:

FUND/FINANCIAL SUPPORT	£'000
Local Government Emergency Hardship Fund - Additional Costs of responding to Covid	19,745
Local Government Emergency Hardship Fund – loss of income compensation	3,642
Council Tax Income Collection – compensation	740
NNDR – Covid admin grant	164
TOTAL	24,291

- In addition to the financial assistance from the Local Government Emergency Hardship Fund, unexpected grant income received from WG late in the year resulted in core spend being displaced and funded via external grant therefore increasing the overall underspend. These sources of income are as follows:

FINANCIAL SUPPORT	£'000
Amended Local Government revenue settlement announced March 22. The RSG for 2021/22 increased by £60m and Newport's share is as shown. This funding is non-recurrent	3,056
Social Care Winter Pressures	2,538
Education – Including LA Education Grant (LAEG), Winter of Wellbeing (WoW), Recruit, Recover & Raise (RRR), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	665
Additional Sustainable Waste Management Grant	243
TOTAL	6,502
Schools – Including LAEG, WoW, RRR, CAMHS (as above)	4,880

- In summary the outturn position is made up of the following:

Underspending across service areas (exc schools)	(£7,789k)
Underspending across non-service areas:	
Capital financing	(£4,310k)
Additional RSG income from WG	(£3,056k)
Budget contingency	(£1,373k)
CTax Reduction Scheme saving	(£1,029k)
CTax income surplus	(£882k)
Other	£35k
Overall underspend	(£18,404k)

Budget Monitoring Position – March 2022

Staff Forecasts

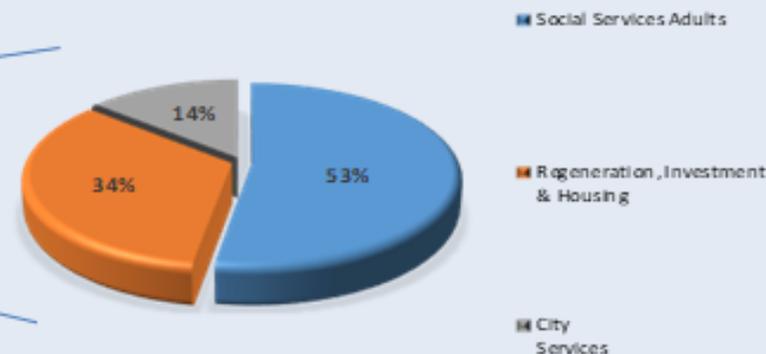
Overall Staffing	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Budget (£'000)		61,327	61,295	61,091	61,120	61,244	61,264	62,413	62,433	62,433	62,433	63,251
Forecast (£'000)		61,477	60,539	61,000	61,239	60,788	60,355	61,089	60,961	60,841	60,841	60,255
Variance (£'000)		0	150	(796)	(91)	139	(456)	(909)	(1,324)	(1,472)	(1,592)	(2,996)

- Whilst there have been a number of vacancies across the council and recruitment has been delayed in some areas these savings are being offset in part by an increased requirement for additional staff time and agency staff.

2021/22 Delivery of Savings



Analysis of Unachieved Savings



- The first chart shows that 94% of the total savings that were delivered in full in 2021/22;
- The second chart illustrates the areas where savings will not be delivered in year (6% of overall target);
- The delivery of savings in 2021/22 has been affected by the ongoing pandemic and the resulting overspends against budget have been reflected within the outturn;
- In addition to the £190k undelivered savings in 21/22 there remains £407k of undelivered savings from previous years, of which £166k relates to social care.

Overall Summary by Directorate

	People	Place	Corporate	Non Service	Total
2021/22 MTRP Target (£) Total	1,421	670	430	870	3,391
Total Savings Realised by Year End 2021/22	1,321	580	430	870	3,201
Variation to MTRP Target	-100	-90	0	0	-190
Variation % to MTRP Target	-7%	-13%	0%	0%	-6%

Budget Monitoring Position – March 2022

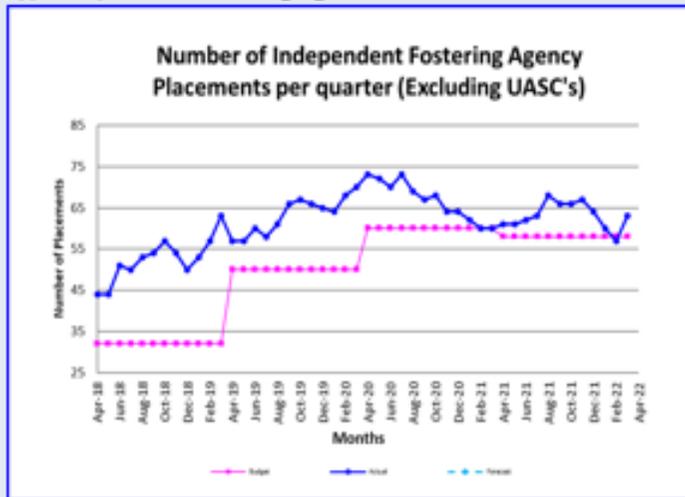
	Annual Budget £'000	Forecast £'000	Variance £'000	Graph Reference
Risk Based Areas				
Children & Young People				
Independent Fostering Agencies	2,462	2,157	(305)	I
Out of Area Residential	3,155	2,466	(689)	II
In House Fostering	3,587	3,467	(120)	
When I'm Ready	24	83	59	
Legal fees	930	704	(226)	
In House Residential	1,968	1,988	20	
Emergency Placements	200	46	(154)	
Inter-Agency Adoption Fees	326	399	73	
Direct Payments - Children Services	176	248	72	
Adult & Community Services				
Community Care - Residential	22,600	23,890	1,290	
Community Care - Supported Living	11,713	11,500	(213)	III
Community Care - Non Residential	12,805	11,748	(1,057)	IV
Community Care Income - Residential & Non Residential	(8,615)	(12,390)	(3,775)	
Education				
SEN Out of County - Local Authority	2,105	1,201	(904)	V
SEN Out of County - Independents	1,935	2,386	451	V
SEN Local Provision Development	879	739	(140)	
SEN Transport	1,739	1,938	199	
Special Home to School Transport	848	1,072	225	
Bridge Achievement Centre	1,250	998	(252)	
SEN Recoupment Income	(308)	(418)	(110)	
St Andrews contingency	0	315	315	
Regeneration, Investment & Housing				
Homelessness - B & B Costs	139	230	91	
Commercial & Industrial Properties Income	(1,406)	(1,207)	199	
City Services				
Commercial/ Asbestos Income	(1,424)	(1,660)	(236)	
Home to School Transport - Primary	1,029	981	(48)	
Home to School Transport - Secondary	1,218	1,319	101	
Home to School Transport - College	122	63	(59)	
CPE - Fines Income	(691)	(755)	(64)	
Burial fees	(653)	(710)	(57)	
Car parking income	(1,598)	(1,568)	30	
Law & Regulation				
Licensing - Hackney carriages / private hire	(369)	(538)	(169)	
Total Net Budget	56,144	50,691	(5,453)	

- In 2021/22, there are almost 30 budget areas identified as having the potential to be high risk or highly volatile. This list is reviewed on an on-going basis
- Although some of these areas have come in underspent against budget, they have continued to be monitored given the potential to have a significant impact, should the position worsen in any of these areas.
- There are six budget 'hotspot' areas within the risk based monitoring which demonstrate the significant financial impact and risk that only a small number of areas pose to the financial position of the Authority (graph ref i – v)
- The figures here do not reflect the COVID-19 related loss of income being claimed from WG to highlight the risk in these areas.

Budget Monitoring Position – March 2022

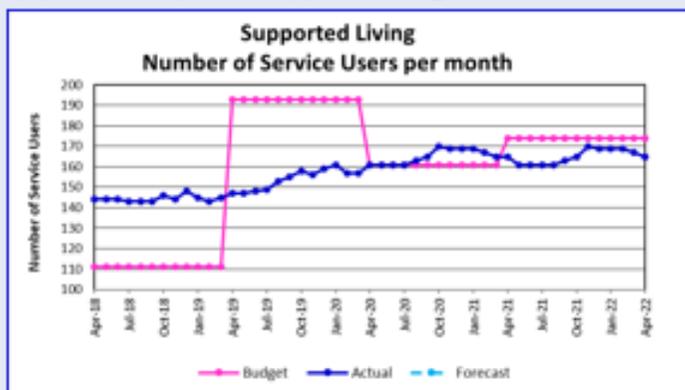
Risk Based Monitoring graphs

(i) Independent Fostering Agencies



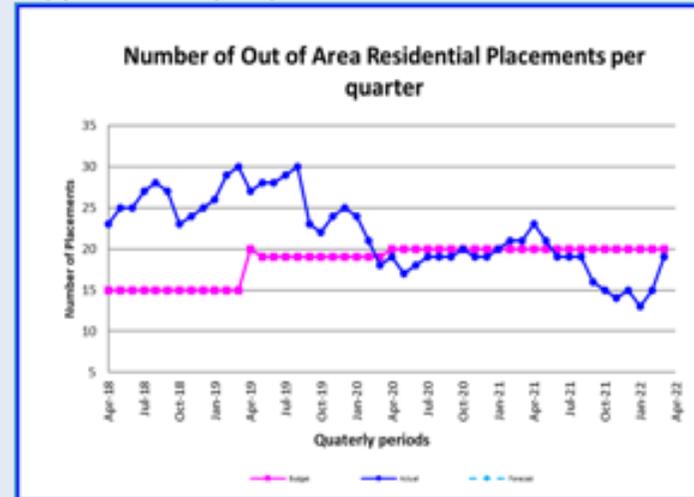
- The 2021/22 budget could afford 58 placements at an average cost. The number of placements increased to 63 at the end of March therefore reducing the underspend forecast previously to £304k. The underspend, in the main is due to certain costs being claimed against the Hardship Fund.

(iii) Community Care – Supported Living



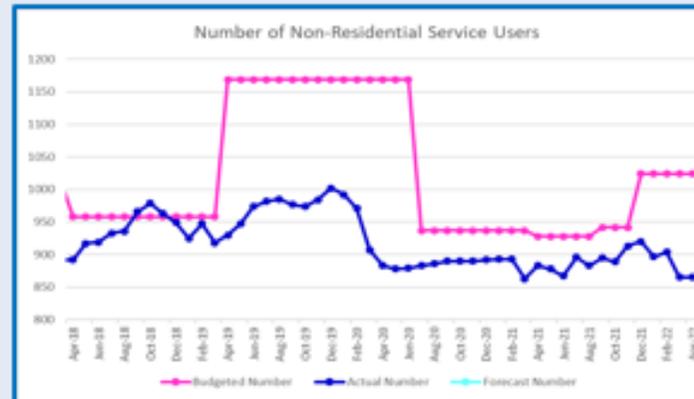
- Budget can afford 174 placements at an average cost. Numbers in March at 165 although almost a third of costs are higher than the average. £563k of placement costs were funded from the COVID recovery grant.

(ii) Out of Area (OOA) Residential Placements



- Budget can afford 20 placements at an average cost. Numbers throughout the year were lower than the budget could afford due to providers not accepting placements plus £393k of unbudgeted income from Education & ABUHB towards placements costs. £689k underspent reported at outturn

(iv) Community Care – Non Residential

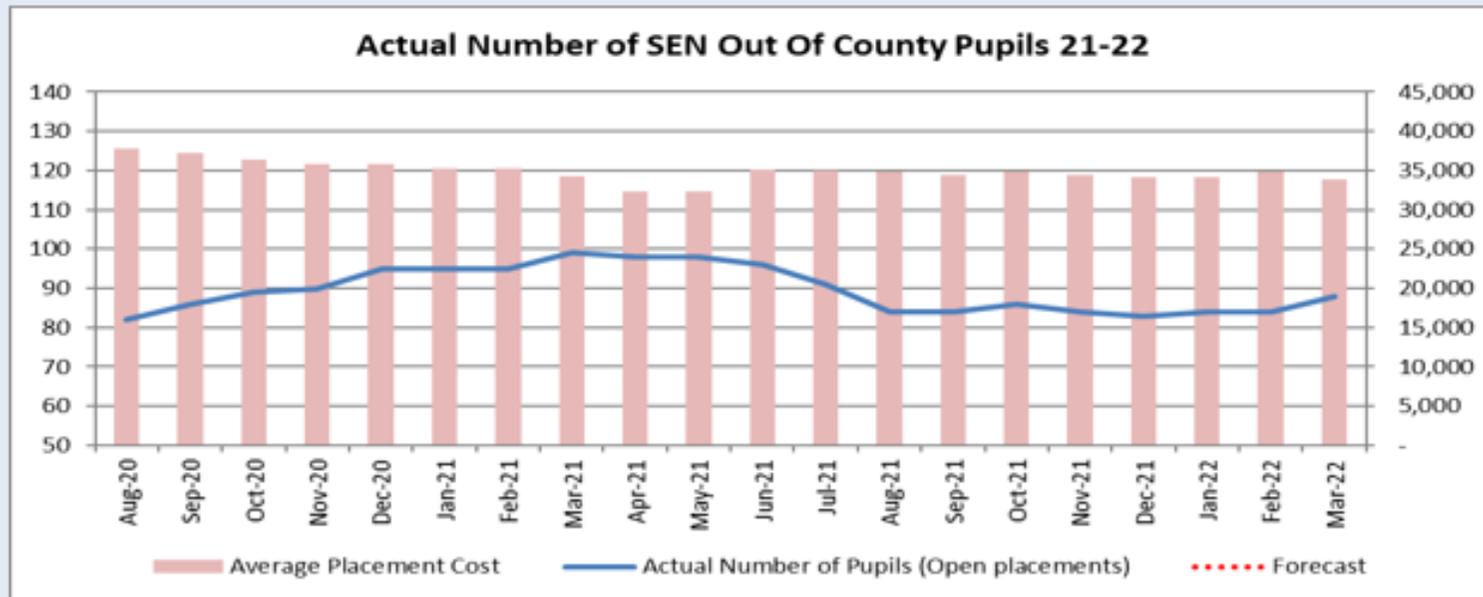


- Budget can afford 1,024 users per month at an average cost. Of the 865 users, there are currently 128 users with a care package cost of over £500 per week which is contributing to the overall position.

Budget Monitoring Position – March 2022

Risk Based Monitoring graphs

(v) SEN Out of County Placements – Local Authority and Independent



- SEN OOC budget can accommodate 120 placements at an average cost of £34k. There were 88 open placements at the end of the financial year which has meant that SEN out of county placements underspent against budget of £904k.
- Placements ranging between £10k and £20k account for 27% of the total number of placements. There are 2 placements costing in excess of £100k per year due to the complex needs of the individuals.

Budget Monitoring Position – March 2022

Schools

There has been a significant improvement in school balances during February and March resulting in the overall school reserves increasing by £9.6m to £15.7m at year-end (£6.1m underspend against budget). This assumes that the financial impact of COVID-19 is neutralised via the Hardship Fund. It is important to note that significant additional income (£4.8m) was received at year end, contributing to the in year underspend and therefore being added to school balances to enable schools to utilise next financial year.

8 out of 58 schools report an in year overspend.

Outturn by sector are shown below;

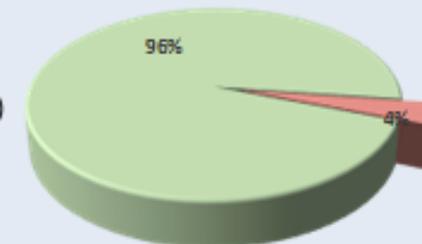
- Nursery £99k underspend (1 out of 3 nurseries reporting an in-year overspend position)
- Primary £1,995k underspend (7 out of 44 schools reporting an in-year overspend position)
- Secondary £3,701k underspend (0 out of 9 schools reporting an in-year overspend position)
- Special £290k underspend (0 out of 2 special schools reporting an in-year overspend position)

Schools forecasting deficit reserves at YE	March
Liswerry High	(57)
Kimberley Nursery	(123)
Total Net Budget	(180)

Schools are reporting an in year underspend of £6.1m therefore increasing school balances to £15.7m as at the end of March 2022. (£92k balance transfer relates to Kimberley & Fair oak reserve balance that has been transferred to Education).

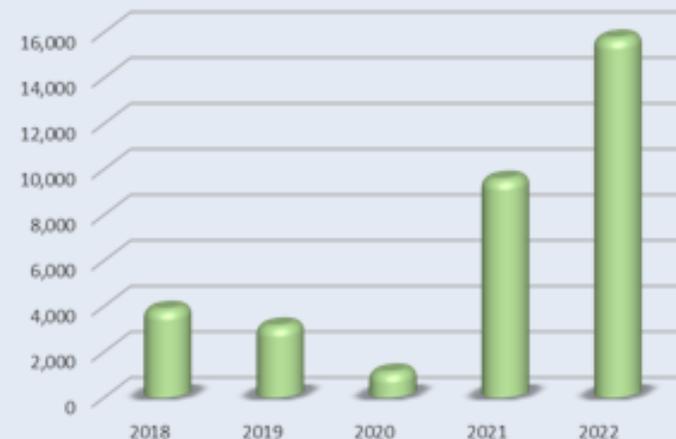
The significant underspend is largely due to one off, non-recurring grant income. The nature of the grants means that they should be spent on the issues they were given for e.g. 'maintenance works' and 'catching up initiatives' etc. Therefore, schools will need to robustly monitor and manage their budgets effectively to ensure financial sustainability going forward as without the savings made this year, some schools would have had minimal balances remaining on 31 March 2022 and the number of schools reporting a deficit position in 2022/23 would have increased.

Proportion of Schools Forecasting Deficit as at 31st March 2022



■ Schools in surplus as at 31st March 2022
 ■ Schools in deficit as at 31st March 2022

Balances held by Schools as at 31st March



APPENDIX 2 Revenue Summary Monitor - March 2022

Summary Revenue Budget 2021/22	Current Budget	Outturn before proposed transfers	Variance against budget	Change Since Last Statement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
People				
Children and Young People	26,743	24,955	(1,788)	311
Adult and Community Services	51,475	46,387	(5,088)	(409)
Education	15,643	14,807	(837)	(171)
Schools	111,731	111,731	-	2,022
	205,593	197,880	(7,712)	1,754
Place				
Regeneration, Investment and Housing	11,002	10,775	(227)	(216)
City Services	25,632	26,425	793	362
	36,634	37,200	565	145
Chief Executive				
Directorate	525	478	(47)	10
Finance	3,251	3,084	(167)	(167)
People and Business Change	9,117	9,047	(70)	395
Law and Regulation	6,758	6,400	(358)	(272)
	19,651	19,009	(642)	(34)
Capital Financing Costs and Interest				
Capital Financing Costs and Interest (Non-PFI)	16,455	12,361	(4,094)	(1,355)
Public Finance Initiative (PFI)	9,007	8,792	(216)	(216)
	25,462	21,153	(4,310)	(1,571)
Sub Total - Service/Capital Financing	287,340	275,241	(12,099)	294
Contingency Provisions				
General Contingency	1,373	-	(1,373)	0
Restructuring / Other Savings	-	-	-	-
Centralised Insurance Fund	593	599	7	7
Non Departmental Costs	40	-	(40)	-
Other Income and Expenditure	3,013	3,181	168	3,840
	5,018	3,780	(1,238)	3,847
Levies / Other				
Discontinued Operations - pensions	1,447	1,334	(113)	(29)
Discontinued Operations - Ex Gratia Payments	3	3	(0)	(0)
Levies - Drainage Board, Fire service etc	9,200	9,212	12	20
CTAX Benefit Rebates	13,375	12,346	(1,029)	(646)
Extraordinary Items	-	-	-	-
	24,025	22,895	(1,130)	(655)
Transfers To/From Reserves				
Base budget - Planned Transfers to/(from) Reserves	(452)	(452)	-	-
Earmarked reserves: Transfer to/(from) Capital	-	-	-	-
Earmarked reserves: Transfer to/(from) Schools	-	-	-	(2,022)
Earmarked reserves: Transfer to/(from) Schools Redundancy	-	-	-	-
Invest to Save Reserve	-	-	-	(1,113)
Invest to Save Reserve (from)	-	-	-	1,113
	(452)	(452)	-	(2,022)
Total	315,930	301,464	(14,467)	1,464
Funded By				
WG funding (RSG and NNDR)	(240,796)	(243,852)	(3,056)	(3,056)
Council Tax	(75,134)	(75,134)	-	-
Council Tax Surplus	-	(882)	(882)	(282)
Total	(0)	(18,404)	(18,404)	(1,873)

APPENDIX 3 School Balance Outturn Position

School Name	Opening Reserve 21/22	Final ISB Allocation (inc Post 16)	In Year U/(O) Spend March 22	Closing Reserve 31/03/22
	£	£	£	£
Bassaleg School	750,960	6,853,323	182,021	932,981
Newport High	172,214	4,880,553	395,753	567,967
Caerleon Comprehensive	(607,091)	5,995,556	886,906	279,815
The John Frost School	415,936	6,510,797	134,294	550,230
Llanwern High	(120,987)	4,475,243	417,709	296,723
Llisbury High	(548,940)	4,423,659	492,107	(56,833)
St Josephs R.C. High	403,577	5,505,961	194,160	597,736
St Julians School	292,851	6,785,879	799,060	1,091,911
Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed	102,196	2,389,120	198,711	300,908
Sub Total	860,716	47,820,090	3,700,722	4,561,438
Alway Primary	201,676	1,613,475	55,983	257,659
Caerleon Lodge Hill	231,628	1,238,648	23,760	255,388
Charles Williams CIW	459,262	1,854,721	161,617	620,879
Clytha Primary	78,885	830,600	23,225	102,111
Crindau Primary	210,870	1,402,682	42,740	253,609
Eveswell Primary	366,809	1,601,593	204,631	571,440
Gaer Primary	254,663	1,713,422	21,323	275,986
Glan Usk Primary	255,337	2,214,173	81,198	336,535
Glan Llyn Primary	114,736	1,305,693	116,307	231,043
Glasllwch Primary	115,850	840,437	501	116,351
High Cross Primary	26,327	948,719	52,357	78,684
Jubilee Park	145,587	1,382,021	136,028	281,615
Langstone Primary	224,708	1,208,496	17,383	242,091
Llanmartin Primary	94,405	794,472	73,437	167,842
Llisbury Primary	356,802	2,077,255	(130,292)	226,510
Maesglas Primary	113,867	1,077,511	(16,693)	97,174
Maindee Primary	203,186	1,791,780	22,494	225,681
Malpas CIW Primary	106,911	1,122,974	51,522	158,433
Malpas Court Primary	158,924	1,166,022	(20,652)	138,272
Malpas Park Primary	142,273	882,649	84,228	226,501
Marshfield Primary	133,314	1,509,125	55,436	188,750
Millbrook Primary	208,194	1,113,283	(20,466)	187,728
Milton Primary	172,468	1,690,230	78,015	250,483
Monnow Primary	217,620	1,554,695	12,761	230,381
Mount Pleasant	84,154	910,020	21,231	105,385
Pentrepoeth Primary	108,221	1,639,995	65,482	173,703
Pillgwenlly Primary	194,196	2,199,875	(125,173)	69,023
Ringland Primary	136,473	1,050,356	13,509	149,982
Rogerstone Primary	178,970	2,152,773	(80,998)	97,972
Somerton Primary	154,768	609,891	(18,557)	136,211
St Andrews Primary	230,911	2,460,472	63,324	294,235
St Davids RC Primary	157,110	800,892	59,659	216,769
St Gabriels RC Primary	120,919	710,750	84,604	205,523
St Josephs RC Primary	117,521	755,557	211	117,732
St Julians Primary	589,669	2,267,753	108,256	697,925
St Marys Rc Primary	182,770	1,395,508	119,308	302,078
St Michaels RC Primary	165,210	819,493	27,008	192,218
St Patricks RC Primary	100,364	767,250	27,736	128,100
St Woolos Primary	73,302	1,156,511	19,877	93,178
Tredegar Park Primary	536,353	1,566,863	186,347	722,700
Ysgol Gym Bro Teyrnnon	289,981	846,799	102,852	392,833
Ysgol Gym Casnewydd	341,608	1,340,992	27,558	369,166
Ysgol Gym Ifor Hael	171,794	761,357	42,895	214,689
Ysgol Gym Nant Gwenlli	0	228,509	123,397	123,397
Sub Total	8,528,594	57,376,291	1,995,371	10,523,965
Fairoak Nursery	29,783	67,640	908	30,690
Kimberley Nursery	(95,112)	92,904	(28,349)	(123,462)
Newport Nursery	0	291,216	127,060	127,060
Sub Total	(65,330)	451,759	99,618	34,288
Maes Ebbw	21,990	3,717,761	209,854	231,844
Bryn Derw	212,451	1,978,244	80,219	292,670
Sub Total	234,441	5,696,004	290,072	524,514
Assumed additional grant and other compensation			0	0
Kimberley & Fairoak reserve balance transfers to Education			0	92,772
Q3 & Q4 Covid Financial Impact - Alert Level 1			0	0
Grand Total	9,558,422	111,344,145	6,085,783	15,736,976

APPENDIX 4 2021/22 Reserve Movements

Reserve	Balance at 31-Mar-21	Movement in Reserves (within Out turn position)		Proposed Transfers	Balance at 31-Mar-22
		Transfers Out	Transfers In	Transfers In	
Council Fund:	(6,499)	-	(1)	-	(6,500)
Balances held by schools for future use	(9,558)	-	(6,179)	-	(15,737)
Earmarked Reserves:					
Music Service	(127)	-	-	-	(127)
Pay Reserve	(1,418)	-	-	-	(1,418)
Insurance Reserve	(1,162)	-	-	-	(1,162)
MMI Insurance Reserve	(602)	-	-	-	(602)
Health & Safety	(16)	16	-	-	-
Education Achievement Service	(92)	-	-	-	(92)
Schools Redundancies	(985)	-	(113)	-	(1,098)
General Investment Risk Reserve	(1,188)	64	(651)	(792)	(2,567)
European Funding I2A & CFW	(984)	36	(450)	-	(1,398)
Metro Bus	(9)	9	-	-	-
GEMS Redundancies	(78)	-	-	-	(78)
COVID Risk Reserve	-	-	(1,884)	-	(1,884)
SUB TOTAL - RISK RESERVES	(6,661)	125	(3,098)	(792)	(10,426)
Capital Expenditure	(9,928)	-	-	-	(9,928)
Displacement headroom	-	-	(10,279)	-	(10,279)
Capital Grants Unapplied	-	-	(3,210)	-	(3,210)
Invest to Save	(8,464)	897	-	-	(7,567)
Super Connected Cities	(298)	128	-	-	(170)
Landfill (fines reserve)	(332)	-	-	-	(332)
School Reserve Other	(432)	-	(497)	-	(929)
School Works	(27)	-	-	-	(27)
Schools ICT Sustainability	-	-	(50)	-	(50)
Investment Reserve	(497)	497	-	-	-
Usable Capital Receipts	(6,753)	18	(2,655)	-	(9,390)
Streetscene Manager Support	(66)	55	-	-	(11)
SUB TOTAL - ENABLING RESERVES	(26,796)	1,595	(16,691)	-	(41,892)
Municipal Elections	(164)	-	(16)	-	(180)
Local Development Plan	(688)	173	-	-	(515)
Glan Usk PFI	(1,607)	-	-	-	(1,607)
Southern Distributor Road PFI	(40,392)	452	-	-	(39,940)
Building Control	(81)	-	(43)	-	(124)
Loan modification technical reserve (IFRS 9)	(513)	-	-	-	(513)
Kingsway	(64)	-	-	-	(64)
SUB TOTAL - SMOOTHING RESERVES	(43,509)	625	(59)	-	(42,943)
Works of art	(21)	-	-	-	(21)
Theatre & Arts Centre	(232)	-	-	-	(232)
Cymorth Income	(25)	25	-	-	-
Blaen Y Pant	(4)	4	-	-	-
Homelessness Prevention	(38)	38	-	-	-

Reserve	Balance at 31-Mar-21	Movement in Reserves (within Out turn position)		Proposed Transfers	Balance at 31-Mar-22
		Transfers Out	Transfers In	Transfers In	
Environmental Health - Improve Air Quality	(49)	-	-	-	(49)
Refurbishment of a Children / Older People Homes	(41)	41	-	-	-
Apprenticeship Scheme	(17)	10	-	-	(7)
City Economic Development Reserve	(90)	-	-	-	(90)
Welsh Language Standards	(129)	2	-	-	(127)
Port Health	(16)	-	(4)	-	(20)
CRM	(52)	52	-	-	-
Financial System Upgrade	(600)	-	-	-	(600)
SS COVID Recovery Reserve	-	-	(563)	-	(563)
Events	(216)	-	(59)	-	(275)
MTFP Reserve	(5,117)	2,128	-	(6,412)	(9,401)
Voluntary Sector Grants	(43)	16	-	-	(27)
Bus Subsidy	(15)	15	-	-	-
Feasibility Reserve	(54)	-	-	-	(54)
IT Development	(53)	-	-	-	(53)
Leisure Delivery Plan	(103)	103	-	-	-
Chartist Tower	(256)	-	-	-	(256)
Joint Committee City Deal Reserve	(289)	-	(373)	-	(662)
NEW - Civil Parking Enforcement	(245)	52	-	-	(193)
Community Covid Recovery Fund	(500)	-	-	-	(500)
City Services – refurbishment & cleansing of open spaces	(500)	481	-	-	(19)
Green Recovery Task Force	(1,000)	-	-	-	(1,000)
Business Recovery Fund	(250)	-	-	-	(250)
Business Development Grants	(56)	-	(25)	-	(81)
Children's Service legal fees	(150)	150	-	-	-
Community Occupational Therapy	(53)	-	-	-	(53)
Directly Managed Community Centres Maintenance	(50)	-	-	-	(50)
IT Infrastructure	(120)	-	(527)	-	(647)
PSB Contribution	(40)	-	-	-	(40)
COVID Reserve	(596)	170	-	-	(426)
Highways road repairs [potholes]	(116)	116	-	-	-
Homelessness Prevention	(289)	-	(38)	-	(327)
Chief Education Grant	(765)	197	-	-	(568)
Home to School Transport	(801)	302	-	-	(499)
Housing Supply review	(25)	-	-	-	(25)
Anniversary tree planting / green canopy	(20)	17	-	-	(3)
Cariad Casnewydd	(170)	-	-	-	(170)
Soft Loan interest equalisation reserve	(1,861)	213	-	-	(1,648)
Community Gardening Schemes	(180)	-	-	-	(180)
Market Arcade Owner contributions	-	-	(51)	-	(51)
Strategic Development Plan	-	-	(110)	-	(110)
Parks & Open Spaces	-	-	-	(2,500)	(2,500)
Discretionary Rate Relief	-	-	(900)	-	(900)
Domiciliary Care Service Capacity	-	-	-	(500)	(500)
Social Services PPE Reserve	-	-	(212)	-	(212)
St Andrews Primary	-	-	-	(305)	(305)
Prior year Underspend - 21-22	-	-	-	(7,895)	(7,895)
Communications Corporate Requirement	-	-	(232)	-	(232)
Decarbonisation Projects	-	-	(90)	-	(90)
SUB TOTAL - OTHER RESERVES	(15,247)	4,132	(3,184)	(17,612)	(31,911)
RESERVES TOTAL	(108,270)	6,477	(29,212)	(18,404)	(149,409)

APPENDIX 4a 2021/22 Detailed Reserve Movements

Reserve	Balance at 31-Mar-21	Movement in Reserves (within Out turn position)		Proposed Transfers	Balance at 31-Mar-22	Notes
		Transfers Out	Transfers In	Transfers In		
Balances held by schools for future use	(9,558)	-	(6,179)	-	(15,737)	Consistent with existing policy - transfer of school underspend into individual school balances
Earmarked Reserves:						
Health & Safety	(16)	16	-	-	-	Repurposed to create covid risk reserve
Schools Redundancies	(985)	-	(113)	-	(1,098)	Used in line with intended purpose - to cover redundancy costs that arise in schools that face financial issues
General Investment Risk Reserve	(1,188)	64	(651)	(792)	(2,567)	Created to mitigate against potential future risk
European Funding I2A & CFW	(984)	36	(450)	-	(1,398)	Used and topped up in line with intended purpose. Requirement of partnership agreement to cover any one off 'exit' costs associated with the projects
Metro Bus	(9)	9	-	-	-	Repurposed to create covid risk reserve
COVID Risk Reserve	-	-	(1,884)	-	(1,884)	Repurposed to create covid risk reserve
SUB TOTAL - RISK RESERVES		125	(3,098)	(792)		
Displacement headroom	-	-	(10,279)	-	(10,279)	Late grant received from WG
Capital Grants Unapplied	-	-	(3,210)	-	(3,210)	Additional WG funding to compensate for lower allocation in 22/23
Invest to Save	(8,464)	897	-	-	(7,567)	Used in line with intended purpose - to enable funding of change and transformation projects to achieve savings to the revenue budget
Super Connected Cities	(298)	128	-	-	(170)	Used in line with intended purpose - to fund the costs associated with the Community Safety Network
School Reserve Other	(432)	-	(497)	-	(929)	Created for school specific schemes
Schools ICT Sustainability	-	-	(50)	-	(50)	Created for school specific schemes
Investment Reserve	(497)	497	-	-	-	Repurposed to create covid risk reserve
Usable Capital Receipts	(6,753)	18	(2,655)	-	(9,390)	To hold proceeds of sale of property, plant and equipment to finance new capital expenditure
Streetscene Manager Support	(66)	55	-	-	(11)	Used in line with intended purpose
SUB TOTAL - ENABLING RESERVES		1,595	(16,691)	-		
Municipal Elections	(164)	-	(16)	-	(180)	Increased in line with intended purpose - to ensure budget requirement over cyclical period is sufficient
Local Development Plan	(688)	173	-	-	(515)	Used in line with intended purpose - to ensure budget requirement over cyclical period is sufficient
Southern Distributor Road PFI	(40,392)	452	-	-	(39,940)	Used in line with intended purpose - to fund payments to the contractor
Building Control	(81)	-	(43)	-	(124)	Increased in line with intended purpose - held in line with Cipfa Local Authority building control accountancy guidelines
SUB TOTAL - SMOOTHING RESERVES	(41,325)	625	(59)	-		

Reserve	Balance at 31-Mar-21	Movement in Reserves (within Out turn position)		Proposed Transfers	Balance at 31-Mar-22	Notes
		Transfers Out	Transfers In	Transfers In		
Cymorth Income	(25)	25	-	-	-	Repurposed to create covid risk reserve
Blaen Y Pant	(4)	4	-	-	-	Repurposed to create covid risk reserve
Homelessness Prevention	(38)	38	-	-	-	Amalgamated with other homelessness prevention reserve
Refurbishment of a Children / Older People Homes	(41)	41	-	-	-	Repurposed to create covid risk reserve
Apprenticeship Scheme	(17)	10	-	-	(7)	Repurposed to create covid risk reserve
Welsh Language Standards	(129)	2	-	-	(127)	Repurposed to create covid risk reserve
Port Health	(16)	-	(4)	-	(20)	Increased in line with intended purpose - Port Health Authority reserve
CRM	(52)	52	-	-	-	Used in line with intended purpose - to cover associated costs of the project
SS COVID Recovery Reserve	-	-	(563)	-	(563)	Created to support learning disability pressure in 22/23 budget
Events	(216)	-	(59)	-	(275)	Annual budgeted transfer to fund events throughout the city
MTFP Reserve	(5,117)	2,128	-	(6,412)	(9,401)	Repurposed to create covid risk reserve (£1,185k). Balance used in line with intended purpose - to support operational and budget risks
Voluntary Sector Grants	(43)	16	-	-	(27)	Repurposed to create covid risk reserve
Bus Subsidy	(15)	15	-	-	-	Repurposed to create covid risk reserve
Leisure Delivery Plan	(103)	103	-	-	-	Used in line with intended purpose - to cover associated costs of the plan
Joint Committee City Deal Reserve	(289)	-	(373)	-	(662)	Technical reserve - increase NCC share of the CCRCD reserve
NEW - Civil Parking Enforcement	(245)	52	-	-	(193)	Used in line with intended purpose
City Services – refurbishment & cleansing of open spaces	(500)	481	-	-	(19)	Used in line with intended purpose
Business Development Grants	(56)	-	(25)	-	(81)	Create additional funding for business development grants
Children's Service legal fees	(150)	150	-	-	-	Used in line with intended purpose
IT Infrastructure	(120)	-	(527)	-	(647)	To deliver a number of IT relates initiatives
COVID Reserve	(596)	170	-	-	(426)	Used in line with intended purpose - to fund delayed infrastructure work and administration of business grants following the pandemic
Highways road repairs [potholes]	(116)	116	-	-	-	Used in line with intended purpose
Homelessness Prevention	(289)	-	(38)	-	(327)	To create additional capacity within homelessness prevention
Chief Education Grant	(765)	197	-	-	(568)	Used in line with intended purpose - to provide temporary financial support to schools

Reserve	Balance at 31-Mar-21	Movement in Reserves (within Out turn position)		Proposed Transfers	Balance at 31-Mar-22	Notes
		Transfers Out	Transfers In	Transfers In		
Home to School Transport	(801)	302	-	-	(499)	Used in line with intended purpose - to fund additional transport costs associated with St Andrews temporary accommodation
Anniversary tree planting / green canopy	(20)	17	-	-	(3)	Used in line with intended purpose
Soft Loan interest equalisation reserve	(1,861)	213	-	-	(1,648)	Used in line with intended purpose - drawdown of technical reserve
Market Arcade Owner contributions	-	-	(51)	-	(51)	
Strategic Development Plan	-	-	(110)	-	(110)	Created to cover associated future costs
Parks & Open Spaces	-	-	-	(2,500)	(2,500)	To provide one off investment in parks and open spaces
Discretionary Rate Relief	-	-	(900)	-	(900)	To fund local discretionary relief for non domestic rates
Domiciliary Care Service Capacity	-	-	-	(500)	(500)	To cover ministerial intention to provide support service capacity
St Andrews Primary	-	-	-	(305)	(305)	To support costs of temporary accommodation whilst work ongoing
Social Services PPE Reserve	-	-	(212)	-	(212)	Technical reserve for the potential write off of PPE
Prior year Underspend - 21-22	-	-	-	(7,895)	(7,895)	In year underspend to be allocated by Cabinet
Communications Corporate Requirement	-	-	(232)	-	(232)	To fund necessary improvements to the Council website
Decarbonisation Projects	-	-	(90)	-	(90)	To complete unfinished decarbonisation projects
SUB TOTAL - OTHER RESERVES		4,132	(3,184)	(17,612)		
RESERVES TOTAL		6,477	(29,212)	(18,404)		

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Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 13 July 2022

Subject **Capital Programme Outturn – 2021/22**

Purpose To provide to Cabinet the final Capital outturn for the 2021/22 financial year

To request Cabinet approval for the carry forward (slippage) of £13,895,892 unused budget to facilitate project expenditure in 2022/23 financial year.

To submit to Cabinet for approval, requests for new capital projects to be added to the Council's Capital Programme.

To update Cabinet on the current available capital resources ('headroom').

Author Chief Accountant and Assistant Head of Finance

Ward All

Summary The Council has an extensive capital programme, investing across the authority in areas such as schools, heritage assets, energy efficiency schemes, invest to save programmes and in the regeneration of the city centre. This report updates the Cabinet on its capital programme and the outturn for the 2021/22 financial year.

The 2021/22 outturn position highlights the following:

- The capital programme budget received by Cabinet in November for the year totalled £67.34m. Slippage of £9.8m was agreed by Cabinet, reducing the 2021/22 budget to £57.53m. Subsequent net additions/revisions have amounted to £10.16m in 2021/22 and £186k in 2022/23, taking the overall programme for 2021/22 to a combined budget of £67.7m.
- Against this budget, costs were incurred totalling £52.7m introducing £15m net underspend.
- Of this underspend, service managers and budget holders have confirmed that £13.9m relates to delayed progress or overly optimistic profiling and, as such, this is being requested for slippage approval and these amounts added to 2022/23 budgets.

Proposal

1. To approve the additions to the Capital Programme requested in the report (Appendix A).
2. To approve slippage of £13.9m from the 2021/22 budget into future years, noting the re-profiling of the programme this gives rise to.
3. To note the capital expenditure outturn position for 2021/22.
4. To note the available remaining capital resources ('headroom') and the earmarked usage of that resourcing.

Action by Assistant Head of Finance

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Service Budget Holders and Project Managers
- Capital Strategy and Asset Management Group (CSAMG)
- Norse Representatives

Signed

Background

The Council has a traditional 5-year capital programme, with the current one ending in 2022/23. Figures provided to members commonly also include some 2023/24 and 2024/25 costs, but this merely reflects funding in relation to current schemes that extend beyond our current 2022/23 programme end. For example, the conclusion of the Council's 21st Century Schools Band B programme. Cabinet receive monitoring updates throughout the financial year and the Capital Programme has been updated to reflect changes as they are received i.e. additions, slippage (moving budget into future years).

These revisions and the changes made to the programme throughout the financial year are shown in summary form in the table below, the detail of which is shown in Appendix A.

Table 1: Changes to the approved Capital Programme in 2021/22

Report	2018/19 Outturn	2019/20 Outturn	2020/21 Outturn	2021/22 Outturn	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Budget	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
August Report (July Forecast)	29,466	31,360	26,210	70,472	84,660	34,698	5,647	282,514
November Report (Sept Forecast)	29,466	31,360	26,210	65,985	91,212	34,698	5,647	284,579
January Report (Nov Forecast)	29,466	31,360	26,210	57,530	101,021	34,699	5,647	285,930
Outturn	29,466	31,360	26,210	67,687	103,491	34,699	5,647	298,560
Budget Position if slippage approved	29,466	31,360	26,210	53,791	117,386	34,699	5,647	298,560
Outturn	29,466	31,360	26,210	52,699	117,386	34,699	5,647	297,437

Additions

The budget changes and their associated funding are detailed in Appendix A and predominantly affected 2021/22 and, to a lesser extent, affect 2022/23. The growth to the capital programme is materially affected by the volume of extra grants secured. Material within these extra grant awards were free school meals kitchen works (£1.278m) and bus electrification grant (£6.323m), which, together with the 2021/22 Education Maintenance Grant award (£2.678m), imposed an unusual obligation on the Council to use that funding on other capital activities during 2021/22, as it was important to Welsh Government that they were able to report those grants as having being utilised in full. This, in turn, frees up traditional financing to be available in 2022/23 to progress their grant aspirations. This is known as a displacement exercise and adds to the extent of slippage reported at the end of financial year.

The following table summarises the source of funding for the additions and Cabinet is requested to note and approve the amendments detailed in Appendix B.

<u>Nature</u>	<u>Value £'000</u>
New Grants and Contributions	10,173
Section 106 funding	2
Net revision to schemes involving revenue contributions	167
Self-balancing revisions to schemes involving £364k	0
Total	10,342

Please note these figures exclude the approvals made by members as a result of specific reports, which have already been added to headline programme budget figures.

2021/22 Outturn Capital Expenditure Position

Following the additions, amendments and slippage detailed earlier in the report, the 2021/22 capital programme budget totalled £53.791m.

To recap, the budget total gets recast on a monthly basis based on service managers' prediction/estimation of costs likely at outturn. That variance between budget and outturn prediction is traditionally slipped forward into the following year where we have control of the financing (i.e. not in-year specific grant) and where the project costs are anticipated to continue into the following year. It is commonplace for service managers to make optimistic predictions of progress early in the financial year and retreat from those as the year goes on. This year exhibits the same trend. Factors affecting scheme progress can include for instance

- capacity issues where budget holders have had to manage other priorities/aspirations introduced during the year,
- the effect of inclement weather during winter months,
- missing a window to do work at schools whilst pupils are absent during holiday periods,
- supply chain management complications affecting materials or sub-contractors' availability,
- and, more recently, inflation volatility impacting upon whether projects can proceed as originally anticipated and within the approved budget.

The following table charts the changes to the budget throughout the year.

	Additions/changes	Slippage	Resultant Budget
	£,000	£,000	£'000
Capital Budget approved by Members			100,225
Quarter 1	335	-30,089	70,471
Quarter 2	2,064	-6,550	65,985
Quarter 3	3,029	-9,812	59,202
Quarter 4 (Outturn)	8,512	-13,923	53,791
Value of Amendments	13,940	-60,374	

Please note that the additions (and by association slippage) since November based reporting includes £10.279m worth of "late" grants from Welsh Government (WG) that require accounting for in the 2021-22 accounts through the displacement exercise described above.

Therefore, over the year, the controllable movements influenced by service colleagues are additions of £3.7m and slippage of £50m. The net additions result predominantly from extra grant, which also adds to service colleagues' responsibilities through the year and tends to influence their priorities. As a result, the focus tends to be on year-specific funding rather than projects that the Council has more control over and affords itself, and where there is more flexibility to move budgets into subsequent years.

An illustrative top 10 list of the projects that experienced the greatest slippage is captured in the following table.

Top 10 Projects that experienced slipped expenditure in 2021/22		
Rank	Project	Amount
1	Leisure Centre new build	£8.9m
2	Whiteheads School Band B	£8.12m
3	Transporter Bridge	£6.9m
4	Private Sector bus electrification	£6.3m
5	Education maintenance grant 2019-22	£5.7m
6	Cardiff City Region	£2.8m
7	Gwent Is Coed School Band B	£2.3m
8=	Place making capital projects	£1.7m
8=	Renewable energy investment	£1.7m
9	Bassaleg School Band B	£1.4m
10=	Central Library move (infostation)	£1.3m
10=	Free school meals grant	£1.3m
Total		£48.42m

The cumulative effect of slippage in recent years has seen the annual capital programme for 2022/23 grow to £117m. This is far more significant than has been incurred traditionally, necessitating a re-profiling exercise, taking place currently to better reflect delivery capacity within the Council and externally.

Spending/Outturn 2021-22

Against a budget of £53.79m, costs incurred were £52.67m, introducing a £1.12m net underspend.

Service Area	Adjusted Budget 2021/22 £000's	Outturn £000's	Variance £000's	Slippage £000's	(Under)/Over Spend £000's
Education	17,110	14,233	(2,877)	(2,894)	17
Regeneration, Investment & Housing	16,265	13,073	(3,192)	(3,133)	(59)
People & Business Change	888	612	(276)	(77)	(199)
Adult & Community Services	753	751	(2)	(2)	0
Children & Young People Services	2,224	1,597	(627)	(625)	(2)
City Services	30,447	22,404	(8,044)	(7,165)	(878)
TOTAL	67,687	52,669	(15,018)	(13,896)	(1,122)
2021/22 New Budget After slippage	53,791	52,669	(1,122)	N/A	(1,122)

Whilst the net underspend masks a minority of overspends afforded by additional unbudgeted grant or unbudgeted service revenue contributions, the major cause of the underspend can be attributed to grant afforded schemes which haven't been utilised to the fullest extent.

The more significant grant-backed underspends were

All Wales Play Initiatives	£122k
Newport Station Footbridge	£433k
Bettws/Malpas Canal Link	£199k
A467 Improvements	£588k
City Centre Active Travel Infrastructure	£180k
Total	£1,650k

Importantly, this net underspend introduces a further risk/volatility to the Capital Programme administration where the schemes are not yet complete. This is because there is a requirement to bid for these grants

again, with the inherent risk that the required funds are not made available to the Council and, therefore, the cost to finish the project falls upon the Council.

Policy on available capital resources ('headroom')

Since February 2018, the Council has been working within a framework which maximises capital expenditure whilst keeping within the level of capital resources and planned borrowing funded within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. The framework agreed that:

- Funding from sources other than borrowing needs to be maximised, by securing grant funding whenever possible and maximising capital receipts,
- Regeneration schemes would be funded from ring-fencing the capital expenditure reserve only and Joint Venture funds. Other kinds of support through making of loans etc. would then be considered to support schemes, where it was needed and appropriate, in particular taking account of existing loans already confirmed/approved and the risk profile this represents at any point in time.
- Any change and efficiency schemes or schemes which save money requiring capital expenditure would be funded by netting off the savings achieved.
- Schemes and projects which generate new sources of income would need to fund any capital expenditure associated with those schemes.

The framework seeks to limit the revenue pressures resulting from increased borrowing as far as possible, whilst maximising capacity to generate capital resources for use.

Capital Headroom

As part of its 2021/22 budget setting, the Council also prudently anticipated that there would be a need to provide some headroom to afford new costs/schemes before the end of this current 5-year capital programme. As a result, borrowing of headroom of £4.5m was financed to allow for this need. This borrowing headroom sits alongside uncommitted balances in the Capital Expenditure Reserve and uncommitted capital receipts to form the total headroom.

Since November's capital monitoring report, members have received reports requesting additional capital funding for the following schemes/bids and recommendations of how existing funding could be redirected to afford them. These have already been approved, but the following table seeks to bring those two aspects together in providing an outturn commentary.

Scheme	Reason	Amount (£000)
Transporter Bridge	Additional Costs	2,921
Central library works to accommodate staff from the Information Station	Additional Costs	140
Levelling up Round 2 bid	Match funding commitment	1,000
Northern Gateway commitment	Not formally in capital programme, but was an anticipated call upon capital headroom	(2,000)
Renewable Energy Investment (solar farm)	Decommitment from capital programme	(1,727)
Total		334

These changes have been actioned in the 2022/23 capital programme figures and their impact on the overall borrowing headroom is shown in the table that follows.

Borrowing Headroom to 2024/25	£'000
Level of Borrowing Approved as per 2021/22 Capital and TM Strategy	4,500
<u>Total Committed to Date</u>	
Transporter Bridge - Underwriting unconfirmed funding	-365
Rose Cottage Sewerage Works	-23
St Andrews Demountables	-349
Education Accessibility Works - Phase Two	-372
Newport Indoor Market	-1,000
Additional Transporter Bridge Costs	-2,921
Central Library works for staff displaced from Infostation	-140
<u>Potential Commitment - subject to change, not in the capital programme</u>	
Northern Gateway regeneration match funding potential	-2,000
Levelling up round 2 bid match funding potential	-1,000
<u>Decommitments</u>	
Northern Gateway Commitment	2,000
Solar Farm budget	1,727
Amount Remaining	57

This shows that this extra “borrowing” capital headroom is now largely exhausted, with only £57,000 of headroom remaining. Therefore, any future capital capacity to agree new schemes or additional costs will, in the near term, likely need to focus on the capital expenditure reserve and capital receipt balances.

Update on Capital Receipts

The Council has been successful in disposing of some assets to improve its capital receipts position from that previously reported. The table that follows shows the latest position in regards to capital receipts. The Council had a brought forward capital receipts balance of circa £5.5m at the start of 2021/22. It received £1.7m receipts (excluding joint venture receipts of £970k) during the year. It used £18k of receipts during 2021/22 and still has some unexpired commitments previously approved totalling £5.135m. This leaves uncommitted resourcing of £2.039m for use during 2022/23 and beyond.

The table below also shows capital receipts held for the NCC/WG ‘Joint Venture funds’. In relation to these receipts, the Council doesn’t have unilateral decision in their use. Commonly, it will involve engagement with Welsh Government and, as previously reported to Cabinet, these funds tend to be “ringfenced” for city centre regeneration given the original asset sales involved.

Asset Disposed	Receipts Received in Year £	Total Available Receipts 2021/22 £
GENERAL CAPITAL RECEIPTS		
Balance b/f from 2020/21		5,505,994
Sales		
Land adjoining 39 Brangwyn Crescent	9,000	
Land at Ladyhill Crescent	10,000	
Land on sw side of Victoria Inn, Caerleon Road	75,250	
Bowden's farm, Penhow	415,000	
Land at Michaelston y Fedw	12,000	
Queens Hill (non educational trust element)	349,564	
Queens Hill (Archdiocese Trust receipt)	600,000	
Vehicle sales	192,268	
Miscellaneous minor receipts	22,692	
		1,685,775
Usage		
Central Library Transformation	-17,918	
		-17,918
Commitments		
Fleet Replacement Programme	-1,619,000	
Replacement for Education maintenance grant funding 20/21 used on general activities	-1,565,763	
New Leisure Centre	-1,000,000	
St Mary's Primary School	-950,000	
		-5,134,763
Total Amount Uncommitted		2,039,087
NEWPORT UNLIMITED		
Balance b/f from 2020/21		1,245,875
Sales		
Alacrity House, Kingsway	970,000	
		970,000
Usage		
None	0	
		0
Commitment		
None	0	
		0
Total Amount Uncommitted		2,215,875
TOTAL NCC RECEIPTS (Uncommitted)		4,254,962

The collective capital headroom is as follows,

Borrowing, Capital Reserves & Receipts Headroom to 2024/25		£'000
Unallocated Capital Expenditure Reserve		4,468
Unallocated Capital Receipts		2,039
Borrowing Headroom		57
Potential Commitment - subject to change, not in the capital programme		
21st Century Schools - SOP Extension		-1,267
NCC share - Newport Centre demolition costs		-250
Asset management		-2,693
Total		2,354

Risks

Risk Title / Description	Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Risk Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	Risk Mitigation Action(s)	Risk Owner
Overspend against approved budget	M	L	Regular monitoring and reporting of expenditure in accordance with the timetables set by Cabinet/Council should identify any issues at an early stage and allow for planned slippage of spend.	Corporate Directors / Heads of Service / Head of Finance
Programme growing due to unforeseen events	M	M	Good capital monitoring procedures and effective management of the programme should identify issues and allow for plans to defer expenditure to accommodate urgent works. Priority asset management issues are now being dealt with through a specific programme allocation.	Corporate Directors / Heads of Service / Head of Finance
Excessive levels of slippage between financial years	M	H	Regular monitoring of capital expenditure takes place and slippage is identified at the earliest stage possible. A more robust approach will be taken when schemes are added to the programme to ensure that a realistic profile is initially captured in the programme.	Corporate Directors / Heads of Service / Head of Finance

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The programme supports a large number of the Council's aims and objectives.

Options Available and considered

- To approve the changes to the Capital Programme and note the outturn position as set out in the report, including the use of capital receipts.
- To note the current available headroom and prioritise future capital expenditure in order to maintain spend within the current affordability envelope.
- The Cabinet has the option not to take forward some or all of the changes to the Capital Programme set out in the report.

Preferred Option and Why

- To approve the changes to the Capital Programme and note the outturn position as set out in the report, including the use of capital receipts.
- Agree to prioritise capital expenditure to maintain spend within the current affordability envelope, recognising that the revenue pressures from future borrowing can add to any budget gap reflected in the MTFP.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

This report provides an overview of progress against the Capital Programme, including the success of the Council in generating additional capital receipts and accessing external grant funding, both of which accord with the agreed framework and achieve the aim of managing the level of borrowing required and, therefore, the impact upon the revenue budget.

However, the report also highlights a significant level of slippage being incurred against the original 2021/22 Capital Programme, with the total level of slippage in this financial year exceeding £60m. As a consequence, the projected capital expenditure levels in 2022/23 already exceed £117m and are likely to increase further as 2022/23 grant awards are sought and approved. This presents the Council with a significant challenge in terms of deliverability, considering the levels of capital expenditure that have been achieved in previous years. Officers are currently doing a detailed review of the programme with a view of reprofiling current budgets as needed.

This level of slippage gives rise to a number of risks, some of which are captured within this report, such as the risk that grant funding will be foregone and returned to the awarding body. In addition, where capital expenditure is planned to be funded via borrowing, there is a risk that the Council undertakes borrowing when not required, incurring interest costs in the process.

Therefore, going forward, it is essential that programme management arrangements are strengthened and that the accuracy and realism applied to expenditure profiling is increased. Officers have held a workshop to discuss this and a revised governance and reporting arrangement is being developed. By achieving this, it means that the Council can take informed treasury management decisions and ensure the impact upon the revenue budget is managed appropriately.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no legal issues arising from this report.

Comments of Head of People, Policy & Transformation

There are no direct HR implications associated with the report.

Budget additions will need to continue to be considerate of the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

Scrutiny Committees

N/A

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

For this report, a full Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken. This is because this report is not seeking any strategic decisions or policy changes, with its purpose being to update Cabinet on the prior year financial performance against the approved Capital Programme. However, fairness and equality are considered as part of service delivery and will feature in annual finance reports, such as the Budget Report and Capital Strategy.

An effective capital programme enables the Council to support long term planning in line with the sustainable development principle of the Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

Long-term - This capital programme looks at both short and long term and links with the Corporate Plan and its priorities. It considers the overall capital programme in terms of the Council's Treasury Management activities and its associated costs, both short and long term to the Council.

Prevention – The capital programme, where possible, acts to prevent problems occurring or getting worse by considering the overall Council estate and how that can best be managed and maintained.

Integration - This report meets a number of wellbeing goals and, in addition, supports three of Newport City Council's wellbeing objectives;

- To promote economic growth and regeneration while protecting the environment
- To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient
- To build cohesive and sustainable communities

Collaboration - The capital programme is developed and updated through engagement across the Council and certain projects are also being delivered in collaboration with other external bodies which helps the Council meet its Wellbeing objectives.

Involvement – Due to the variety of projects which are within the capital programme, there is involvement from a variety of stakeholders across the Council and the city which seeks to ensure that there is a key focus on sustainability, community benefit and wellbeing of citizens.

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.

The development and the monitoring of the Capital programme will ensure it does not discriminate but promotes equality and delivers the objectives of the corporate plan.

Consultation

N/A

Background Papers

Capital Strategy and Treasury Strategy - February 2021 and February 2022
Capital Programme Monitoring Report – November 2021

Dated: 6 July 2022

Appendix A – Additions and changes to the Programme

Funding Source	Narrative	Previous Years' Budget 2018/19 - 2020/21 £'000	2021/22 Budget £'000	2022/23 Budget £'000	2023/24 Budget £'000	2024/25 Budget £'000	TOTAL Budget for this Capital Plan £'000
	Budget Communicated and Agreed November 2021	87,036	57,530	103,305	34,699	5,647	288,217
	Revisions						
New grant	Bassaleg Secondary Band B		605				605
New Grant	Glan Llyn - Fixtures and Fittings Band B		5				5
New Grant	Maesglas Reducing classroom size		24				24
New Grant	Free school meals capital works		1,278				1,278
New Grant (£15k) and school contribution (£7k)	Rogerstone Primary Floodlights		22				22
New Grant	Gypsy/Traveller Site Development		19				19
New Grant	Low Carbon Heat Grant Newport International sports village (NISV)		246				246
New Grant	Low Carbon Heat Grant Caerleon Comp		121				121
New Grant	Low Carbon Heat Grant Kimberley Nursery		60				60
New Grant	Low Carbon Heat Grant Rogerstone Primary		476				476
New Grant	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure		175				175
New Grant	Disabled Facilities Grants		14				14
New Grant	Gaer/Ringland Flying Start -Upgrade storage facilities		15				15
New Grant	Maintenance work various Flying Start settings		40				40
New Grant	IT equipment new laptops		20				20
New Grant	Substance Misuse Action Fund		45				45
New Grant	Gwastad Mawr Flood Attenuation Works		61				61
New Grant	Core Allocation Yr 3		35				35
New Grant	Bus Stop Enhancements - Yr 2		50				50
New Grant	Electric Vehicle grant aided replacement		320				320
New Grant	Private sector bus electrification		6,323				6,323
New Grant	Beechwood Park Tennis Court Refurb		45				45
Ext Contribution	Lighthouse Inn gateway to the levels		176				176
Sc 106	Lliswerry Safeguarding		2				2

Funding Source	Narrative	Previous Years' Budget 2018/19 - 2020/21 £'000	2021/22 Budget £'000	2022/23 Budget £'000	2023/24 Budget £'000	2024/25 Budget £'000	TOTAL Budget for this Capital Plan £'000
Revenue	Flexiprint		54				54
Revenue	Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system		(65)				(65)
Revenue	Upgrade of Facilities NISV		4				4
Revision/revenue	City Services Annual Sums		(3)	152			149
Revision/revenue	Fleet Replacement Programme		25				25
Revision	Reducing Classroom size bids (St Woolos)		21				21
Revision	Education Maintenance Grant - 20/21		(21)				(21)
Revision	Education Maintenance Grant - 21/22		(5)	5			0
Revision	Asset Management Programme			1			1
Revision	Information Station		(285)				(285)
Revision	Library (infostation move)		285				285
Revision	Tredegar Park Cycle improvements		(2)				(2)
Revision	Safe Routes - St Davids RC Primary Year 2		2				2
Revision	Nature Networks - Monkey Island		(61)	61			0
Revision	Nature Networks - Shaftsbury Allotments		(22)	22			(0)
Revision	Nature Networks - Old Tredegar Golf Course		56	(56)			0
			10,157	185			10,342
	Reprofile/slippage requests		(13,896)	13,896			0
	Revised Budget	87,036	53,791	117,387	34,699	5,647	298,560

**The opening budget figure for 2022/23 (£103m) comprises the approved schemes from the November monitoring report, plus additional schemes subsequently approved via separate reports.*

Appendix B – Detailed Budget Breakdown of the 7 year Programme

	Outturn 18/19	Outturn 19/20	Outturn 20/21	Outturn 21/22	Budget 22/23	Budget 23/24	Budget 24/25	Total
21st Century Schools - Band A	8,046	1,220	30	0	0	0	0	9,296
21st Century Schools - Band B	675	1,711	3,421	11,217	45,369	13,424	165	75,982
Welsh Medium Primary School	0	150	44	1,233	2,074	2,300	0	5,801
Jubilee Park - Fixtures, Furniture & Equipment	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Blaen-y-Pant Bungalow (Educational Use)	52	0	14	0	0	0	0	66
St Mary's Toilet Refurbishment.	0	42	0	0	0	0	0	42
Somerton Primary - ICT Equipment	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Feminine hygiene hardware & toilet facilities.	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
Gaer Annexe Education Use	0	416	95	(16)	0	0	0	495
Lliswerry High (S106 Funds)	110	80	1	6	0	0	0	197
Lliswerry IT Replacements	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
Maesglas Reducing classroom size	0	64	109	422	0	0	0	595
Llanmartin Primary ICT	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Malpas Park Primary	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Reducing Classroom size bids	0	61	647	22	0	0	0	730
Bassleg Demountables	0	116	102	0	0	0	0	218
ICT Equipment Lease (Clytha Primary)	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
ICT Equipment Lease (St Mary's)	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
Bassaleg ICT	0	69	0	0	0	0	0	69
Ringland Perimeter Fence	0	0	85	0	0	0	0	85
St Patricks ICT	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	12
Bassaleg Demountables - year 7	0	0	765	14	0	0	0	779
EdTech Grant	0	0	202	84	76	0	0	362
Charles Williams Renovations	0	0	104	32	1,484	0	0	1,620
Lliswerry Safeguarding	0	0	51	2	0	0	0	54
Maindee Toilets	0	0	177	0	0	0	0	177
ICT Equip Lease Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
Pentrepoeth - site accessibility	0	0	0	135	559	0	0	694
St Andrews	0	0	0	447	553	0	0	1,000
St Mary's Urgent Capital repairs grant	0	0	0	0	3,590	0	0	3,590
Education Maintenance Grant 2018/19	0	1,470	574	49	0	0	0	2,093
Education Maintenance Grant 2019/20	0	0	732	352	672	0	0	1,755

Education Maintenance Grant 2020/21	0	0	0	132	2,384	0	0	2,516
Education Maintenance Grant 2021/22				0	2,678			2,678

	Outturn 18/19	Outturn 19/20	Outturn 20/21	Outturn 21/22	Budget 22/23	Budget 23/24	Budget 24/25	Total
Education Accessibility Studies	0	0	2	47	248	0	0	298
Education Asset Improvements - balance to be drawn down	1,055	200	1	0	0	0	0	1,256
Education Accessibility Studies - Phase 2	0	0	0	0	632	0	0	632
Milton IT replacement	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	25
St Michaels IT	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	16
Prior Year Scheme - Various	(38)	(39)	(3)	0	0	0	0	(80)
Free school meals capital works				0	1,278	0	0	1,278
Lliswerry High laptop refresh				33	0	0	0	33
Rogerstone Primary Floodlights				22	0	0	0	22
Education	10,032	5,614	7,194	14,233	61,598	15,725	166	114,562
Asset Management Programme	1,066	1,245	1,801	1,936	1,901	0	0	7,949
Gypsy/Traveller Site Development	2,993	78	10	30	44	0	0	3,155
Indoor Newport Market	(2)	0	1,086	4,473	0	0	0	5,557
Market Arcade Townscape Heritage Scheme	39	266	1,043	692	737	0	0	2,777
Civic Centre / Info Station Service Relocations	116	121	0	0	29	0	0	266
Info Station NSA enabling	536	0	0	0	0	0	0	536
123-129 Commercial Street (Pobl Regen)	623	623	0	0	0	0	0	1,246
Cardiff City Region Deal	1,208	0	196	0	7,998	0	0	9,402
Cardiff City Region Deal - Cost of Carry	0	0	0	0	1,850	9,987	5,482	17,319
Mill Street Development Loan	0	2,341	1,184	214	261	0	0	4,000
Neighbourhood Hubs	915	1,344	0	0	0	0	0	2,259
Arva Investment Loan	385	333	0	0	0	0	0	718
Chartist Tower	0	1,344	(1)	0	256	0	0	1,599
PAC System	0	57	0	0	0	0	0	57
Renewable Energy Investment	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
TRI Thematic Funding	0	0	49	398	632	0	0	1,079
Clarence House Loan	0	0	0	48	702	0	0	750
Information Station	0	0	141	0	248	0	0	389
Library (infostation move)	0	0	0	47	1,454	0	0	1,501
Refit	0	0	0	65	1,335	600	0	2,000
POBL Empty Properties Phase One	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	15

Low Carbon Heat Grant NISV	0	0	0	321	0	0	0	321
Low Carbon Heat Grant Caerleon Comp	0	0	0	119	0	0	0	119
Low Carbon Heat Grant Kimberley Nursery	0	0	0	91	0	0	0	91
Low Carbon Heat Grant Rogerstone Primary	0	0	0	482	0	0	0	482
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	200
	Outturn 18/19	Outturn 19/20	Outturn 20/21	Outturn 21/22	Budget t 22/23	Budget 23/24	Budget 24/25	Total
Disabled Facilities	898	1,092	784	909	1,259	0	0	4,942
DFG ICF Funding	0	0	0	48	0	0	0	48
Safety at Home	364	375	243	401	378	0	0	1,761
ENABLE Adaptations Grant	197	197	197	197	0	0	0	788
Homelessness Prevention Grant	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	98
Flying Start Schemes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flying Start Maintenance 1819 / 1920	31	38	0	0	0	0	0	69
Flying Start Shaftsbury Community Centre	183	0	0	0	0	0	0	183
Childcare - Flying Start	0	546	256	925	370	0	0	2,097
City Wide Maintenance & Repair of Premises	0	0	59	72	0	0	0	131
Improvements to Flying Start Facilities	0	0	116	(3)	0	0	0	113
All Wales Play Opportunities	0	0	144	0	0	0	0	144
Castle Kids Refurbishment Works	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	17
Flying Start Capital Grant 21/22	0	0	0	301	0	0	0	301
Flying Start East Hub ROSPA Inspection	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	24
Flying Start Hubs City Wide Redecoration & Repair	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	90
Childcare Offer IT	0	0	0	48	0	0	0	48
Childcare Offer Capital COVID	0	0	0	65	0	0	0	65
All Wales Play Opportunities 21-22	0	0	0	144	0	0	0	144
Gaer/Ringland Flying Start -Upgrade storage facilities	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	15
Maintenance work various Flying Start settings	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	37
IT equipment new laptops	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	20
Central Library - Structural Works	72	17	30	18	526	0	0	663
Transporter Bridge	72	913	80	0	0	0	0	1,065
Transporter Bridge - Phase 2 Delivery	0	0	0	519	9,802	3,716	0	14,037
Medieval Ship	0	0	0	8	4	0	0	12
Placemaking capital projects	0	0	0	0	1,650	0	0	1,650
Prior Year Scheme - Various	(7)	(18)	(9)	0	0	0	0	(34)
Regeneration, Investment and Housing	9,787	10,914	7,424	13,073	31,436	14,303	5,482	92,419

	Outturn 18/19	Outturn 19/20	Outturn 20/21	Outturn 21/22	Budget 22/23	Budget 23/24	Budget 24/25	Total
IT Replacement Schemes	94	9	0	423	392	0	0	918
Corporate Document Management System Rollout	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	13
Flexiprint	0	0	0	54	0	0	0	54
Customer Relationship management System	250	276	246	134	0	0	0	906
Itrent Development	0	91	164	0	0	0	0	255
Managed Printer Leasing	131	0	50	0	0	0	0	181
People and Business Change	475	389	460	612	392	0	0	2,327
Telecare Service Equipment	97	12	35	28	32	0	0	204
Equipment for Disabled Grant (GWICES)	165	165	165	165	165	0	0	825
Home Care System	(6)	(3)	0	0	0	0	0	(9)
Centrica Lodge	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
Substance Misuse Action Fund	320	305	296	558	0	0	0	1,479
Adult Call up System	0	0	76	0	0	0	0	76
Adults and Community Services	608	479	572	751	197	0	0	2,607
3 New Homes	701	792	588	(2)	0	0	0	2,079
Oaklands Respite Home	505	102	0	0	0	0	0	607
Windmill Feasibility Study	41	110	25	1,204	160	0	0	1,540
Rose Cottage Sewerage Tank	0	0	0	20	3	0	0	23
Rosedale Annexes				29	471	0	0	500
Disbursed accommodation and Covid-19 equipment	0	0	331	345	0	0	0	677
Children's and Families Services	1,247	1,004	945	1,596	635	0	0	5,427

	Outturn 18/19	Outturn 19/20	Outturn 20/21	Outturn 21/22	Budget 22/23	Budget 23/24	Budget 24/25	Total
City Services Annual Sums	0	322	125	954	615	0	0	2,016
Pye Corner Railway Station Development Works	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Bus station - Friars Walk Development	29	93	0	0	0	0	0	122
Fleet Replacement Programme	797	1,912	2,039	2,046	1,428	0	0	8,222
Flood Risk Regulation Grant	24	34	27	0	0	0	0	85
Cemetery Infrastructure Improvements	16	30	30	46	0	0	0	122
Composting	567	0	0	0	0	0	0	567
Docksway Cell 4 Development	1,555	1,046	0	0	0	0	0	2,601
Newport Station Footbridge - LTF	77	314	655	8,445	0	0	0	9,491
Decriminalised Parking	232	874	21	0	0	0	0	1,127
Update Facilities in Parks	18	47	0	0	0	0	0	65
Decommissioning of Cemetery Office & Toilets	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Building Improvements to Lodges	14	94	0	0	0	0	0	108
Small Scale Works Grant	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
Road Refurbishment Grant Scheme	931	198	0	0	0	0	0	1,129
Street Lighting LEDs	564	2,202	152	(15)	0	0	0	2,903
LTF - Active Travel Northern 2018/19	290	196	102	0	0	0	0	588
Local Transport Fund - Active Travel Design 2018/19	240	0	0	0	0	0	0	240
LTNF - ECO Stars	42	41	0	0	0	0	0	83
Safe Routes - St Davids RC Primary	84	145	37	1	0	0	0	267
Gwastad Mawr Flood Attenuation Works	2	0	25	41	52	0	0	120
Collection Change Programme	1,175	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,175
LTF Monkey Island Bridge Lliswerry Pill	29	121	0	0	0	0	0	150
LTF Sustainable Transport	25	309	0	0	0	0	0	334
Smaller Bins - MTRP BC	70	1,177	0	0	0	0	0	1,247
Riverside Park	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Road Safety Capital 2018/19	0	1,379	0	0	0	0	0	1,379
Tredegar Park Car Park	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	12
Bus Stop Enhancements	0	24	375	0	0	0	0	399
CCTV	0	37	8	0	0	0	0	45
Core AFT Allocation	0	340	0	0	0	0	0	340
Inner City Links	0	684	249	7	0	0	0	940
Tredegar Park Cycle improvements	0	3	62	44	45	0	0	154
Lliswerry Road (81)	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
28-30 Stow Hill (11/0269)	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Forbisher Road (15/0720)	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
Festive lighting	0	109	0	0	0	0	0	109
Improving Flats Recycling Towards 70%	0	344	0	0	0	0	0	344
Increased Recycling at Docks Way	0	86	0	0	0	0	0	86
Plastic Waste Prevention Project	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	30

	Outturn 18/19	Outturn 19/20	Outturn 20/21	Outturn 21/22	Budget 22/23	Budget 23/24	Budget 24/25	Total
Road Refurbishment Grant Scheme 2020/21	0	0	711	(4)	0	0	0	707
Road Refurbishment Grant Scheme 2021/22	0	0	0	715	0	0	0	715
Park Square Lights	0	0	71	0	0	0	0	71
Implementation of Household Collections AHP Waste	0	202	0	0	0	0	0	202
Safe Routes - St Davids RC Primary Year 2	0	0	21	20	0	0	0	41
Sustainable Transport Improvements Year 2	0	0	208	77	0	0	0	285
Upgrading and Replacement of Bus Stops	0	0	128	0	0	0	0	128
Road Safety Capital A48 Llandeud	0	0	74	0	0	0	0	74
Green Infrastructure	0	0	35	198	0	0	0	233
Resilient Roads	0	0	65	0	0	0	0	65
Carnegie Court Emergency River Works	0	0	1,096	12	154	0	0	1,262
Local sustainable transport measures in response to Covid	0	0	499	13	0	0	0	512
Western Corridor-Inner City Links	0	0	536	1,144	0	0	0	1,680
Monkey Island Bridge Yr 2	0	0	587	225	0	0	0	812
Core Allocation Yr 2	0	0	69	21	0	0	0	90
Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ultra Low Emission Grants	0	0	205	615	0	0	0	820
Creation of a Reuse+Repair Hub	0	0	456	57	0	0	0	513
Increased Recycling - Bag Sorting at Household Waste Recycling Centre	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	25
Velodrome Lights	0	173	128	36	0	0	0	337
Repair & Reuse Activites in Town Centres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Repair & Reuse Newport Makerspace	0	0	69	0	0	0	0	69
Green Recovery (Ash Die Back)	0	0	190	0	0	0	0	190
Newport Fflesci Demand Responsive Bus Pilot Scheme	0	0	0	968	0	0	0	968
Leisure centre New build	0	0	0	1,386	13,662	4,673	0	19,721
Core Allocation Yr 3	0	0	0	1,134	0	0	0	1,134
Bettws and Maplas Canal Link	0	0	0	1,008	0	0	0	1,008
Eastern Links	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	19
Bus Stop Enhancements - Yr 2	0	0	0	808	0	0	0	808
A467 Improvements Resilient roads	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	11
EV Development and Infrastructure	0	0	0	651	0	0	0	651
Road Safety Traffic Enforcement Cameras	0	0	0	136	0	0	0	136
SRIC & Road Safety Grant	0	0	0	192	0	0	0	192
Local Places for Nature Grant	0	0	0	109	0	0	0	109
Depot Infrastructure Charging	0	0	0	293	0	0	0	293
Allotment Support Grant	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	36

	Outturn 18/19	Outturn 19/20	Outturn 20/21	Outturn 21/22	Budget 22/23	Budget 23/24	Budget 24/25	Total
Nature Networks - Monkey Island	0	0	0	4	85	0	0	89
Nature Networks - Shaftsbury Allotments	0	0	0	2	51	0	0	53
Nature Networks - Old Tredegar Golf Course	0	0	0	58	15	0	0	73
City Centre Active Travel Infrastructure	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	31
Community Cycle Hub	0	0	0	52	0	0	0	52
Electric Vehicle grant aided replacement	0	0	0	0	320	0	0	320
Lighthouse Inn gateway to the levels	0	0	0	94	82	0	0	176
Private sector bus electrification	0	0	0	0	6,323	0	0	6,323
Lliswerry Recreation Ground Changing Rooms	4	339	0	0	0	0	0	343
Parry Drive Play Area Improvements	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	19
Brecon Road Play Area Improvements	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Improvements to Throwing Facilities at Newport Athletics Stadium	0	0	156	0	0	0	0	156
Pentonville Development (Sorrell Hill, Barack Hill and Allt-yr-yn)	0	0	26	0	26	0	0	52
Improvements to Marshfield Village Sports Pitches	0	0	14	13	0	0	0	27
Upgrade of Facilities NISV	0	0	0	238	0	0	0	238
Somerton Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Underwood Play Area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jubilee Gardens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sports Wales Verti Drainer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beechwood Park Tennis Court Refurb	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	45
Bridge Assessments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Active Travel Improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Road Safety and Training	455	0	0	0	0	0	0	455
General Traffic Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Streetwide Improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Street Lighting Column Replacement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peterstone Sewage Scheme	1	28	(13)	322	274	0	0	612
Flood recovery works - Tredegar Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingsway car park operation - expansion of car park services to take on the operation of Kingsway Car Park	0	0	343	73	0	0	0	416
Prior Year Scheme - Various	(11)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(11)
	0							0
City Services	7,316	12,958	9,614	22,404	23,131	4,673	0	80,096
Total	29,466	31,360	26,210	52,669	117,387	34,699	5,647	297,437

	Outturn 18/19	Outturn 19/20	Outturn 20/21	Outturn 21/22	Budget 22/23	Budget 23/24	Budget 24/25	Total
Financed By:								
General Capital Grant	4,756	3,858	4,107	4,083	4,000	1,173	37	22,014
Supported Borrowing	4,058	4,077	4,097	4,072	4,000	0	0	20,304
Unsupported Borrowing	2,126	5,787	1,771	8,297	37,197	17,037	5,519	77,734
Prudential Borrowing	84	123	0	33	0	0	0	240
External Grants	12,911	13,053	15,174	43,158	49,762	15,061	91	149,211
S106	868	523	410	1,216	3,069	1,412	0	7,498
Other Conts	242	268	75	42	685	15	0	1,328
Capital Receipts	3,136	820	25	18	3,131	0	0	7,130
Revenue Conts	75	68	38	553	793	0	0	1,527
Reserves	1,081	2,777	464	(8,932)	14,750	0	0	10,140
Finance Lease	131	0	50	128	0	0	0	309
Total	29,466	31,360	26,210	52,669	117,387	34,699	5,647	297,437

Appendix C – Capital Programme 2021/22

	Adjusted Budget 2021/22 £000's	Outturn £000's	Variance £000's	Slippage £000's	(Under)/ Over Spend £000's
21st Century Schools - Band B	10,884	11,217	333	333	-
Welsh Medium Primary School	1,228	1,233	4	4	-
Gaer Annexe Education Use	-	(16)	(16)	-	(16)
Llswerry High (S106 Funds)	7	6	(1)	-	(1)
Maesglas Reducing classroom size	422	422	-	-	-
Reducing Classroom size bids	21	22	2	-	2
Bassaleg Demountables - year 7	14	14	(0)	(0)	-
EdTech Grant	160	84	(76)	(76)	-
Charles Williams Renovations	56	32	(24)	(24)	-
Llswerry Safeguarding	2	2	-	-	-
Pentrepoeth - site accessibility	144	135	(9)	(9)	-
St Andrews	635	447	(188)	(188)	-
Education Maintenance Grant 2018/19	49	49	-	-	-
Education Maintenance Grant 2019/20	947	352	(596)	(596)	-
Education Maintenance Grant 2020/21	331	132	(198)	(198)	-
Education Maintenance Grant 2021/22	812	-	(812)	(812)	-
Education Accessibility Studies	97	47	(50)	(50)	-
Free school meals capital works	1,278	-	(1,278)	(1,278)	-
Llswerry High laptop refresh	-	33	33	-	33
Rogerstone Primary Floodlights	22	22	(0)	(0)	-
Education	17,109	14,233	(2,876)	(2,894)	18

	Adjusted Budget 2021/22 £000's	Outturn £000's	Variance £000's	Slippage £000's	(Under)/ Over Spend £000's
Asset Management Programme	1,972	1,936	(37)	(37)	-
Gypsy/Traveller Site Development	73	30	(44)	(44)	-
Indoor Newport Market	4,414	4,473	59	-	59
Market Arcade Townscape Heritage Scheme	1,429	692	(737)	(737)	-
Civic Centre / Info Station Service Relocations	29	-	(29)	(29)	-
Mill Street Development Loan	475	214	(261)	(261)	-
Arva Investment Loan	32	-	(32)	-	(32)
Chartist Tower	256	-	(256)	(256)	-
Renewable Energy Investment	150	-	(150)	(150)	-
Targetted Regenerative Investment (TRI) Thematic Funding	758	398	(360)	(360)	-
Clarence House Loan	750	48	(702)	(702)	-
Information Station	100	-	(100)	(100)	-
Library (infostation move)	285	47	(238)	(238)	-
Refit	90	65	(25)	(25)	-
POBL Empty Properties Phase One	15	15	-	-	-
Low Carbon Heat Grant NISV	246	321	75	-	75
Low Carbon Heat Grant Caerleon Comp	121	119	(2)	-	(2)
Low Carbon Heat Grant Kimberley Nursery	60	91	31	-	31
Low Carbon Heat Grant Rogerstone Primary	476	482	7	-	7
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	175	200	25	-	25
Disabled Facilities	1,136	957	(179)	(137)	(42)
Safety at Home	398	401	4	-	4
ENABLE Adaptations Grant	197	197	-	-	-
Childcare - Flying Start	1,101	925	(175)	(175)	-
City Wide Maintenance & Repair of Premises	74	72	(3)	-	(3)
Improvements to Flying Start Facilities	-	(3)	(3)	-	(3)
Flying Start Capital Grant 21/22	300	301	1	-	1
City Wide Equipment Replacement	110	105	(5)	-	(5)
Flying Start East Hub ROSPA Inspection	25	24	(1)	-	(1)
Flying Start Hubs City Wide Redecoration & Repair	90	90	0	-	0
Childcare Offer IT	60	48	(12)	-	(12)
Childcare Offer Capital COVID	100	65	(35)	-	(35)
All Wales Play Opportunities 21-22	266	144	(122)	-	(122)
Gaer/Ringland Flying Start -Upgrade storage facilities	15	15	0	-	0
Maintenance work various Flying Start settings	40	37	(3)	-	(3)
IT equipment new laptops	20	20	(0)	-	(0)
Central Library - Structural Works	18	18	(1)	(1)	-
Transporter Bridge - Phase 2 Delivery	400	519	119	119	-
Medieval Ship	8	8	(0)	(0)	-
Regeneration, Investment and Housing	16,265	13,073	(3,192)	(3,133)	(59)

	Adjusted Budget 2021/22 £000's	Outturn £000's	Variance £000's	Slippage £000's	(Under)/ Over Spend £000's
IT Replacement Schemes	500	423	(77)	(77)	-
Corporate Document Management System Rollout	54	54	0	0	0
Flexiprint	134	134	0	0	-
Printer Equipment Leasing	199	-	(199)	-	(199)
People and Business Change	888	612	(276)	(77)	(199)
Telecare Service Equipment	30	28	(2)	(2)	-
Equipment for Disabled Grant (GWICES)	165	165	-	-	-
Substance Misuse Action Fund	558	558	-	-	-
Adults and Community Services	753	751	(2)	(2)	-
3 New Homes	-	-2	(2)	-	(2)
Windmill Feasibility Study	1,355	1,204	(150)	(150)	-
Rose Cottage Sewerage Tank	23	20	(3)	(3)	-
Rosedale Annexes	500	29	(471)	(471)	-
Disbursed accommodation and Covid-19 equipment	346	345	(0)	-	(0)
Children's and Families Services	2,224	1,596	(627)	(625)	(2)

	Adjusted Budget 2021/22 £000's	Outturn £000's	Variance £000's	Slippage £000's	(Under)/ Over Spend £000's
City Services Annual Sums	703	954	252	-	252
Fleet Replacement Programme	2,225	2,046	(179)	(179)	-
Cemetery Infrastructure Improvements	46	46	0	0	-
Newport Station Footbridge	8,878	8,445	(433)	-	(433)
Street Lighting LEDs	-	(15)	(15)	-	(15)
Safe Routes - St Davids RC Primary	-	1	1	-	1
Gwastad Mawr Flood Attenuation Works	92	41	(52)	(52)	-
Inner City Links	-	7	7	-	7
Tredegar Park Cycle improvements	53	44	(10)	(10)	-
Road Refurbishment Grant Scheme 2020/21	-	(4)	(4)	-	(4)
Road Refurbishment Grant Scheme 2021/22	716	715	(1)	-	(1)
Safe Routes - St Davids RC Primary Year 2	22	20	(2)	-	(2)
Sustainable Transport Improvements Year 2	86	77	(9)	-	(9)
Green Infrastructure	169	198	29	-	29
Carnegie Court Emergency River Works	-	12	12	12	-
Local sustainable transport measures in response to Covid	14	13	(1)	-	(1)
Western Corridor-Inner City Links	1,144	1,144	0	0	-
Monkey Island Bridge Yr 2	225	225	(0)	(0)	-
Core Allocation Yr 2	21	21	(0)	(0)	-
Ultra Low Emission Grants	615	615	-	-	-
Creation of a Reuse+Repair Hub	57	57	-	-	-
Increased Recycling - Bag Sorting at Household Waste Recycling Centre	25	25	-	-	-
Velodrome Lights	36	36	-	-	-
Newport Fflesci Demand Responsive Bus Pilot Scheme	968	968	(0)	(0)	-
Leisure centre New build	1,468	1,386	(82)	(82)	-
Core Allocation Yr 3	786	1,134	348	-	348
Bettws and Maplas Canal Link	1,207	1,008	(199)	-	(199)
Eastern Links	61	19	(42)	-	(42)
Bus Stop Enhancements - Yr 2	810	808	(2)	-	(2)
A467 Improvements Resilent roads	600	11	(589)	-	(589)
Electric Vehicle Development and Infrastructure	690	651	(39)	-	(39)
Road Safety Traffic Enforcement Cameras	140	136	(4)	-	(4)
Safe Routes in Communities & Road Safety Grant	203	192	(11)	-	(11)
Local Places for Nature Grant	109	109	(0)	-	(0)
Depot Infrastructure Charging	300	293	(7)	-	(7)
Allotment Support Grant	35	36	1	-	1

	Adjusted Budget 2021/22 £'000	Outturn £'000	Variance £'000	Slippage £'000	(Under)/ Over Spend £'000
Nature Networks - Monkey Island	6	4	(3)	(3)	-
Nature Networks - Shaftsbury Allotments	4	2	(2)	(2)	-
Nature Networks - Old Tredegar Golf Course	62	58	(5)	(5)	-
City Centre Active Travel Infrastructure	211	31	(180)	-	(180)
Community Cycle Hub	52	52	-	-	-
Electric Vehicle grant aided replacement	320	-	(320)	(320)	-
Lighthouse Inn gateway to the levels	176	94	(82)	(82)	-
Private sector bus electrification	6,323	-	(6,323)	(6,323)	0
Pentonville Development (Sorrell Hill, Barack Hill and Allt-yr-yn)	24	-	(24)	-	(24)
Improvements to Marshfield Village Sports Pitches	13	13	(0)	(0)	-
Upgrade of Facilities NISV	238	238	0	-	-
Somerton Park	8	-	(8)	-	(8)
Underwood Play Area	12	-	(12)	-	(12)
Jubilee Gardens	8	-	(8)	-	(8)
Beechwood Park Tennis Court Refurb	45	45	-	0	-
Peterstone Sewage Scheme	444	322	(122)	(122)	-
Kingsway car park operation - expansion of car park services to take on the operation of Kingsway Car Park	-	73	73	-	73
City Services	30,447	22,404	(8,044)	(7,165)	(878)
Total	67,688	52,668	(15,018)	(13,897)	(1,121)

Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 13 July 2022

Subject: Shared Prosperity Fund – Regional Investment Plan

Purpose To update Cabinet on the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the UK Government's Levelling Up programme.

Author Head of Regeneration and Economic Development

Ward All

Summary In April 2022 the UK Government published details on the new £2.6bn Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). The funding is allocated to places across the UK on a needs basis and seeks to support the UK government's Levelling Up objectives which are to:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

To do this the SPF has three investment priorities:

- Communities and Place
- Supporting Local Business; and
- People and Skills

There is also a dedicated element of the fund that sits under the People and Skills priority, Multiply, which seeks to improve adult numeracy skills. For each of these priorities there are a number of objectives and interventions which detail the types of activity that can be supported by the Shared Prosperity Fund.

The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. The SPF aligns and complements the Levelling Up Fund, for which Newport's round 2 proposals to develop a National Technology Institute were approved for submission by Cabinet in June.

All places in the UK will receive a conditional allocation from the SPF. Newport's conditional allocation is £27,177,563, and an allocation of £5,672,986 for Multiply.

The 10 Local Authorities in the CCR have a combined conditional allocation of £230,432,573 and £48,100,003 for Multiply.

Local authorities within the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) have been invited to collaborate and feed into one regional investment plan for the whole region. As part of this process there is a need to appoint one local authority to assume the role of the 'Lead Local Authority' for the SPF. It is proposed that Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC performs this role.

The development of the Regional Investment Plan is the beginning of the Shared Prosperity Fund process. The Plan will identify overarching interventions that relate to the three investment priorities of the SPF across the region. Not all regional interventions will be relevant to Newport, but this overarching strategy enables us to start developing local priorities and a local delivery plan, in partnership with our communities and stakeholders.

The regional investment plan will need to be submitted to UK Government by 1 August 2022. The anticipated date for the first investment plans to be approved and payment awarded to Lead Local Authorities by UK Government thereafter is October 2022 onward.

- Proposal**
- 1) To endorse Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCT) as the Lead Local Authority for the UK SPF for the Cardiff Capital Region and submit the Regional Investment Plan by 1st August 2022.**
 - 2) To delegate powers to the Head of Law and Standards to agree the legal agreements associated with the UKSPF with the Lead Local Authority on behalf of Newport City Council.**

Action by Head of Regeneration and Economic Development

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Executive
- Head of Law and Standards
- Head of Finance
- Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Signed

Background

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) is a central pillar of the UK Government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.

The SPF will support the UK Government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives to:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

The primary goal of the SPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. There are three SPF investment priorities:

- communities and place;
 - enabling places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.
- supporting local business;
 - enabling places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.
- people and skills;
 - funding to help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. This theme can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.

Within the context of the Fund's aims, each place has the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. It is clear that priorities should reflect local need and opportunity.

All places in the UK will receive a conditional allocation from the SPF to cover the period up to March 2025. The table below details the allocation per Authority for the Cardiff Capital Region.

Individual authorities	Core UKSPF £	Multiply £	Total £	% of CCR allocation
Blaenau Gwent	23,301,572	4,863,920	28,165,492	10.11
Bridgend	19,116,296	3,990,295	23,106,591	8.3
Caerphilly	28,272,298	5,901,499	34,173,797	12.27
Cardiff	34,587,594	7,219,740	41,807,334	15.01
Merthyr Tydfil	22,698,977	4,738,136	27,437,113	9.85
Monmouthshire	5,919,533	1,235,631	7,155,164	2.57
Newport	27,177,563	5,672,986	32,850,549	11.79
Rhondda Cynon Taf	37,320,994	7,790,305	45,111,299	16.2
Torfaen	20,431,241	4,264,774	24,696,015	8.87
Vale of Glamorgan	11,606,505	2,422,717	14,029,222	5.04
Total	230,432,573	48,100,003	278,532,576	

Newport's allocation is 11.8% of the total allocation for the region. The total funding is broken down to a yearly allocation; 12% in Year 1 (22/23), 24% in Year 2 (23/24) and 64% in Year 3 (24/25). It is important to note that any funding not utilised in year cannot be carried forward and will be lost. Mechanisms are being explored to ensure that all funding is maintained within the CCR each year through the development of a legal agreement between the Lead Authority and UK Government and via back-to-back legal agreements with RCT and the 10 Local Authorities in the CCR. The Head of Law and Standards will required delegated authority to complete these agreements on behalf of Newport.

In order to access SPF funding, lead local authorities are being asked to complete an investment plan, setting out how they intend to prioritise and use the funding. Local authorities within the Cardiff Capital Region have been invited to collaborate and feed into one regional investment plan for the whole region. As part of this process there is a need to appoint one local authority to assume the role of the 'Lead Local Authority' for the SPF and it is proposed that Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC performs this role.

The 'Lead Local Authority' will be responsible for submitting the regional investment plan to UK Government by 1st August 2022. The lead authority will have overall accountability for the funding and how the fund operates. Up to 4% of the funding can be used for financing the administration of the fund. Responsibility for particular interventions can be delegated to a specific local authority however it is intended that a significant element of funding will be delivered at the local level in order to target support to communities, places and businesses in most need.

Newport City Council is not required to develop its own local investment plan for submission to UK Government. The regional investment plan will identify overarching interventions that relate to the three investment priorities of the SPF across the region. Not all regional interventions will be relevant to Newport, but this overarching strategy enables us to start developing local priorities and a local delivery plan, in partnership with our communities and stakeholders.

The regional investment plan will need to be submitted by RCT to UK Government by 1st August 2022. The anticipated date for the first investment plans to be approved and payment awarded to Lead Local Authorities is October 2022.

Financial Summary

All places in the UK will receive a conditional allocation from the SPF. Newport's conditional allocation of £27,177,563, and an allocation of £5,672,986 for Multiply.

The 10 LAs in the CCR have a combined conditional allocation of £230,432,573 and £48,100,003 for Multiply.

The total funding is broken down to a yearly allocation; 12% in Year 1 (22/23), 24% in Year 2 (23/24) and 64% in Year 3 (24/25). It is important to note that any funding not utilised in year cannot be carried forward and will be lost.

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?
Regional Investment Plan does not reflect Newport priorities.	M	L	Working in partnership with CCR Authorities to ensure that the list of regional interventions reflects strategic priorities for Newport.	Head of R&ED

UK Government does not agree Regional Investment Plan	M	L	Working in partnership with the Lead Local Authority to ensure that the submission meets the required criteria and standard.	Head of R&ED
Newport fails to deliver local projects and loses funding.	L	L	Local delivery projects will be developed in partnership with communities and stakeholders to ensure commitment and deliverability. Reserve schemes will be required to ensure full spend.	Head of R&ED

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

This funding would reflect the priorities of the Corporate Plan and Local Well-being Plan.

Council Commitments / Priorities

This proposal meets the primary objective of the Corporate Plan which is 'improving people's lives' through creating Resilient Communities, a Thriving City, a Modernised Council; and Aspirational People.

Well-being Objectives

1. Everyone feels good about living, working, visiting and investing in our unique city.
2. Everyone has the skills and opportunities they need to develop, prosper and contribute to a thriving, sustainable city.
3. Everyone belongs to resilient, friendly, connected communities and feels confident and empowered to improve their well-being.
4. Newport has healthy, safe and resilient environments with an integrated sustainable travel network.

Options Available and considered

- 1) To endorse Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council as the Lead Local Authority for the UK SPF for the Cardiff Capital Region and submit the Regional Investment Plan by 1st August 2022 and to delegate powers to the Head of Law and Standards to agree the legal agreements associated with the UK SPF with the Lead Local Authority on behalf of Newport City Council.
- 2) Decline to participate in the development of a regional investment plan and do not endorse Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC as the Lead Local Authority.

Preferred Option and Why

- 3) Agree to endorse Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council as the Lead Local Authority for the UK SPF for the Cardiff Capital Region and submit the Regional Investment Plan by 1st August 2022 and to delegate powers to the Head of Law and Standards to agree the legal agreements associated with the UK SPF with the Lead Local Authority on behalf of Newport City Council. This will enable Newport to access up to £32,850,549 of SPF and help deliver on Corporate Plan and Well-being Plan commitments.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

The Shared Prosperity Fund offers an opportunity to deliver some key benefits based on local and regional priorities. The funding is primarily revenue monies and expenditure will need to be monitored closely with liaison between service area and finance colleagues and will be included as part of the Council's established budget and grant monitoring processes. This report deals primarily with the appointment of a lead authority for the CCR Region in relation to this programme.

It is important to note that any unspent monies at year end will be lost and that funding will cease after the third year (24/25) which means that it will be essential to meet any ongoing costs through existing budgets at that point, where this happens. The report details the on-going work to mitigate the risk of losing funds by taking a regional view and this will need to feature in the legal agreement between Local Councils in the CCR region and lead authority.

In developing the regional framework and local delivery plan; it will be important to

- Put in place an appropriate legal agreement which deals with the key financial issues coming out of this arrangement. These are wide ranging, such as the key issues above on mitigating underspending and losing funds, for example.
- Deal with currently EU funded schemes, as necessary
- Deal with the challenge on managing the fact that this is fixed term funding and not on-going core funding.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The proposed action is in accordance with the Council's legal powers under the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, to apply for and provide financial assistance for the purposes of economic regeneration and well-being, and also to enter into collaborative arrangements with other local authorities to facilitate this. Cabinet is being asked to authorise RCT to act as the Lead Authority for the preparation and submission of the Regional Investment Plan on behalf of all local authorities within the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. This is in accordance with the UK Government's advice on the Shared Prosperity Fund, which requires a co-ordinated regional approach to bidding for funding, based on an overarching investment plan and a lead authority. The Lead Authority will be required to enter into any grant funding agreement with UK SPF on behalf of all the local authorities and will be responsible for the "banker" role in terms of receiving and managing the funding. Therefore, it will be necessary for the other authorities to enter into a joint agreement to authorise RCT to carry out this role on their behalf and also to indemnify RCT against any liabilities arising from any failure or default by individual authorities in relation to the grant funding conditions and the delivery of local projects, in accordance with local investment plans. This is a standard agreement for this type of lead authority arrangement. It does not involve the delegation of any strategic function or decision-making at this stage and, therefore, Cabinet are able to take the decision. The governance arrangements in relation to the approval of the Regional Investment Plan and the oversight of its delivery still need to be clarified, although it is assumed that this role would be part of the regional strategic regeneration powers of CCR and the CJC, when that statutory body becomes fully operational. There will also be a requirement to formalise how any grant funding will be allocated among the local authorities and how much will be delivered at a regional and local level. However, for the time being, it is simply a question of agreeing to enter into a joint agreement to empower RCT to submit the Regional Investment Plan and discharge the lead authority role in relation to the grant funding

Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation

There are no HR implications at this stage of the project.

This project has the potential to support delivery of Newport City Council's Corporate Plan and Well-being plan commitments and have a positive impact on the City.

Scrutiny Committees

None.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality.

- Stakeholder engagement will take place as part of the development of the Local Delivery Plan. The overarching regional investment plan will provide a framework of interventions for the Council to develop the Local Delivery Plan. Stakeholder engagement is a critical next step as we recognise the need to understand what projects and priorities are important to our residents and communities.
- There will be a positive impact in respect of both age and disability in particular as the SPF enables us to improve facilities and environments.
- If the application for funding is successful, it will lead to further investment and delivery of projects and funding which supports our communities and place, our businesses and provides people with access to the right skills and qualifications to enable them to prosper.

The proposal supports the sustainable development principle and 5 ways of working set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015) through engagement with residents and stakeholders on their priorities for the funding. The final delivery plan will seek to work together with all groups to deliver projects and investment which encourage longer term resilience within communities and businesses,

Consultation

None.

Background Papers



This document is included in the Agenda pack.

Dated: 6 July 2022

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Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment (FEIA)

This is an integrated Impact Assessment which aims to ensure Newport City Council makes decisions which are fair, take account of relevant evidence, and seek to secure the best outcomes for our communities. **An FEIA should be used to inform the first steps of decision-making, at concept stage, not when a decision is already made, or at the point when it cannot be influenced.** This impact assessment considers our legislative responsibilities under:

- The Equality Act (2010), including the Socio-economic Duty
- The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)
- The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure (2011)

The FEIA process is not intended to prevent decisions being made, but to ensure we have considered their potential impact. An FEIA also helps us to focus on how we can reduce any negative impacts, and provides us with evidence that we have met our legal duties.

For support to complete your FEIA, please contact the [Connected Communities Team](#)

What do we mean by Fairness?

The Newport Fairness Commission is an independent body which advises the council on the best use of resources and powers to achieve the fairest outcomes for local people. The Fairness Commission has established four **Principles of Fairness** which should be considered as part of any decisions that the council make – the questions below are useful to reflect on before you start your FEIA.

Equity	Are people being treated in a consistent way, whilst acknowledging their differences (for example, need, barriers to accessing services)?
	Will the gap between those with more, and those with less be reduced?
	Have the interests of different groups affected (including minority or disadvantaged communities) been taken into account?
Priority	Have the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable across the city been given priority?
	Have you considered possible indirect consequences for minority/disadvantaged communities when other priorities are directing decisions?
Inclusion	Will the voices of all those affected by your decision be heard?
	Are people able to participate in and shape a service, as well as receiving it?
	Have you considered the impact of your decision on the relationship between communities, and the spaces they share?
Communication	Are decisions being made transparently and consistently?
	How will decisions be communicated to people who are affected in a clear way, with the opportunity for feedback?

Part 1: Identification

Name of person completing the FEIA	Sarah Armstrong
Role of person completing the FEIA	Project Manager
Date of completion	04/07/22
Head of Service who has approved this FEIA	Tracey Brooks

1. What is being assessed? *(Please double click on the relevant box(es) (X) and select 'checked' as appropriate)*

- New or revised policies, practices or procedures (which modify service delivery or employment practices)
- Service review or re-organisation proposals which affect the community and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- Decisions affecting service users, employees or the wider community including (de)commissioning or revising services
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or access to the built environment
- Public events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Service Boards
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services
- Other *please explain in the box below:*

2. Please describe the overall aims, objectives and intended outcomes of your decision

The Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Local Action plan sets out a wide programme of proposals that meet the three key investment priorities of the SPF fund:

- 1. Communities and Place**
- 2. Supporting Local Business**
- 3. People and Skills**

Each investment propriety has a series of proposals that support local communities, local business, and people. The Outcome of the plan once put in to place will set in motion a programme of activities that will contribute to the local economy of Newport, it will invest and support local business growth, build the capacity of local community and community groups, and provide relevant skills and support to provide people with relevant life skills, qualifications, employment opportunities and higher skilled employment opportunities.

3. Who are the main stakeholders who may be impacted by your decision and what data do you hold on them? Consider communities of place (people who live in the same geographic area) and communities of interest (people who share particular characteristics but may live in different geographic areas). Stakeholders may include residents, local businesses, community groups, staff or partners.

Residents through skills and employment: proposals will be city wide and not specific to targeted wards, however there is an element of capacity building and skills and employment support, which by its nature will likely draw itself to wards with higher levels of deprivation. At present, specific target groups currently identified are:

- People with low and no skills requiring additional support to movie into employment
- People in employment require higher level skills to maintain or progress in the workplace
- People working in high carbon industries requiring skills to retrain
- Young people at risk of dropping out of education, employment or training

Residents – through providing better access to facilities, including new sporting facilities across the borough

Once developed, the delivery plan will be continually under development and review, and part of this process will highlight further target groups within communities.

Local businesses – we will seek to implement business support in a way that will (i) increase the current business support offer, (ii) provide additional support to support business growth and encourage innovation, and (iii) improve the long-term resilience and sustainability of businesses across Newport.

Community groups – one of the Investment priorities within the plan aims to support Communities and place in order to build capacity within communities, making them more resilient, potentially through a number of means including:

- Tackling food poverty
- Tackling fuel poverty
- Upskilling local community champions
- Providing better access to facilities across the authority
- Helping groups to engage better with the local democracy processes

Part 2: Engagement

When completing this section, you need to consider whether you have sufficient information about the views and experiences of people who your decision will impact upon. If you don't, you may need to undertake a period of engagement/consultation before continuing. An FEIA is a live document, so can be updated with consultation findings, and amended as needed during the decision-making process.

The council has a duty to consult and engage with people who may experience inequalities as a result of your decision. This includes people **who share Protected Characteristics** (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and people who **have lived experience of socio-economic disadvantage**. The council's Youth Promise also requires us to ensure **all young people in Newport are listened to and included in decisions affecting them**.

The council also has a duty to ensure that any consultation is available bilingually (in Welsh as well as English), and you may like to consider any other community languages that are spoken by people who may be impacted by your decision. Below are some questions that should be included in any public consultation relating to a decision which may impact on the use of Welsh language in Newport:

1. Do you believe that the proposed decision/policy will have a positive or negative effect on opportunities to use the Welsh language?
2. If you think it will have a negative effect, what steps could we take to lessen or remove this and improve positive effects?
3. Do you believe that the proposed decision/policy will treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language?

1. How have you engaged with people who may be affected by your decision (the stakeholders you have identified)?

The SPF Local Investment Plan is a working document that covers the CCR region. At this stage it is an informative proposal with overarching interventions, that has not gone to wider consultation. Once the general principles and priority areas of work are approved, we will begin to develop a local delivery plan which will involve wider consultation, and will be done in conjunction with the Connected Communities Team to ensure the correct demographics of residents are captured in the consultation process. Feedback from this process will inform what is fed into the plan.

2. What do you know about the views or experiences of people who may be affected by your decision?

Through our continued engagement and work with these groups, we are able to identify common themes and areas of focus for the community consultation.



Part 3: Assessment

This section requires you to assess the potential impact of your decision on a range of groups who may experience specific disadvantages. Your assessment should be supported by evidence – either from your own engagement/consultation, similar or previous engagement, what you already know about the people who access your service, or from local and national sources of information.

Useful documents which set out information about how communities are impacted by inequalities include [EHRC – Is Wales Fairer?](#) and the council’s [COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment](#). Your decision may have both positive and negative impacts – if this is the case, please place a cross in both boxes.

1. Impact on people that share Protected Characteristics

[Protected Characteristics](#) are defined under the Equality Act 2010, and describe groups of people who are protected from discrimination, either in the workplace, or through the provision of goods and services. The council must consider how decisions may impact on people differently because of a protected characteristic, and how any negative impact could be reduced. National guidance on assessing equality impacts and the Public Sector Equality Duty can be found [here](#). You can also access further advice and examples of positive and negative impacts [here](#).

Protected characteristic	Impact:			<p>Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the sections below, considering the Public Sector Equality Duty that the council has to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote equal opportunity across different groups Promote community cohesion Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The plan includes proposals that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support local cultural groups to engage with the elderly. Address fuel poverty and food poverty across all age groups Improve existing and create new sporting and leisure facilities for all age groups, taking into account accessibility
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Protected characteristic	Impact:			<p>Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the sections below, considering the Public Sector Equality Duty that the council has to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote equal opportunity across different groups 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
				<p>The local delivery plan has the opportunity to deliver some physical projects. In doing so the Council is able to ensure that such facilities are fully accessible. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New green spaces will need to ensure that any area is created with accessibility in mind for all residents, not just those with physical disability. - Proposals for any new sporting facilities will require an amount of consultation to ensure that those with specific needs i.e., physical, sensory are accounted for.
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The SPF funding will not positively or negatively impact people who share this protected characteristic.
Marriage or civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The SPF funding will not positively or negatively impact people who share this protected characteristic.
Pregnancy or maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The SPF funding will not positively or negatively impact people who share this protected characteristic.
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The local delivery plan will need to incorporate a wide number of proposals, some of which may be impacted due to their race or religion. Wider consultation on the Local Plan will ensure we capture the views of communities that may be affected due to race or religion. We will ensure that the methods/ location of consultation does not discriminate against these groups.

Protected characteristic	Impact:			<p>Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the sections below, considering the Public Sector Equality Duty that the council has to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote equal opportunity across different groups 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"/>	The local delivery plan will need to incorporate a wide number of proposals, some of which may be impacted due to their race or religion. Wider consultation on the Local Plan will ensure we capture the views of communities that may be affected due to race or religion. We will ensure that the methods/ location of consultation does not discriminate against these groups.
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The SPF funding will not have an impact on this specific protected characteristic.
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The SPF funding will not have an impact on this specific protected characteristic.

2. Impact on Welsh Language

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure specifies that for all policy decisions, the council must consider the effects (both positive and negative) on the Welsh language. For further guidance on Welsh language considerations see [here](#).

	Impact:			
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a Local Authority we would ensure that any consultation is also offered in Welsh to residents. - Where projects provide a physical service, we would request that any signage would be bilingual, and therefore increase the visibility of Welsh language in the city

1. Please describe how you have ensured your engagement has considered the view of Welsh speakers in Newport and the impact of your decision on the Welsh language.

As a Local Authority we would ensure that any consultation is also offered in Welsh to residents.

3. The Sustainable Development Principle

The Well-being of Future Generations Act puts in place a sustainable development principle which helps organisations consider the impact they could have on people living in Wales in the future, and ensure they are focused on tackling long-term challenges. Below, consider how your decision promotes, advances, or contradicts the [5 ways of working](#) which underpin the sustainable development principle. You can access further guidance on considering the sustainable development principle [here](#).

<p>Long term</p> 	<p><i>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</i></p>	<p>The SPF funding will allow us to develop a local delivery plan which could address areas such as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addressing and reducing fuel and poverty in the long term - Provide upskilling to those in high carbon industries to be able to alter their ways of working to be able to address zero carbon principles in their work - Facilities to assist people into employment thereby increasing long term employability opportunities - Supporting delivery of higher skills needs for the city - Consider future sporting needs
<p>Prevention</p> 	<p><i>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</i></p>	<p>The SPF funding will allow us to develop a local delivery plan which could address areas such as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing employment training and support, with the aim of preventing long term unemployment - Upskilling those in high carbon industries to ensure that they do not lose their employment due to outdated skills and qualifications. - Supporting the provision of cost of living advisors/ food poverty and fuel poverty support in order to prevent long term poverty for Newport residents - Increasing the business support offer which will improve the resilience of local businesses in the long term

<p>Integration</p> 	<p><i>Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</i></p>	<p><u>Wales' Well-being Goals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prosperous Wales The overarching principle of the SPF is to improve the economy of Newport and thereby the region • A resilient Wales The funding and regional investment plan aims to increase the resilience of business to be more sustainable. It also includes measures to building the capacity of local communities. • A healthier Wales The funding gives us the opportunity to consider our future sporting needs . • A more equal Wales Providing intervention and support for people to have equal access to support, opportunities and facilities. • A Wales of more cohesive communities The funding is aimed at supporting communities and places and the views of our communities will be key to how we identify and deliver local projects. • A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language There is an opportunity to increase our cultural offer with local projects and looking to embed the Welsh Language in our projects and facilities. • A globally responsible Wales A local delivery plan has the ability to address current issues such as fuel and food poverty, for example by providing initiatives to grow your own food. We are also able to consider future environmental issues through interventions such as training and upskilling for those working in high carbon industries to meet future net zero targets and technologies.
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		<p><u>Newport City Council's Well-being Objectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities <p>The SPF supports the implementation of measures to provide additional skills and employment support to residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment <p>The SPF supports the implementation of measures to support more business to start up, to grow and to become more resilient in the long term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient <p>The SPF supports the implementation of measures which will enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build cohesive and sustainable communities <p>The SPF encourages us to consider ways in which we can support our communities and make them more resilient. This could be through direct community support as well as providing spaces for the community to support themselves.</p>
<p>Collaboration </p>	<p><i>Working together to deliver objectives.</i></p>	<p>Have you considered how acting in collaboration with any other person, organisation or any other part of our organisation could help meet this proposal and meet our well-being objectives?</p>

		<p>There is a requirement to work collaboratively with CCR partners and stakeholders on the overarching Investment plan. There will be open engagement on the local delivery plan for Newport which will include opportunities for us to deliver support and initiatives together.</p>
<p>Involvement</p>	 <p><i>Involving those with an interest and seeking their view - ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area.</i></p>	<p>The SPF Local Investment Plan is a regional plan that covers the CCR region. At this stage it is a strategic proposal, that has not gone to wider consultation. Once the overarching strategy is agreed by UK Government, we will start developing the Local Delivery Plan. This plan will be subject to wider consultation and will be undertaken in conjunction with the Connected Communities Team to ensure the correct demographics of residents are captured in the consultation process. Feedback from this process will inform the priorities and projects for the local delivery plan.</p> <p>.</p>

4. Socio-economic Duty

The [Socio-economic Duty](#) is set out in the Equality Act 2010, and requires the council, when making strategic decisions, to pay due regard to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome that result from socio-economic disadvantage. Inequalities of outcome are felt most acutely in areas such as health, education, work, living standards, justice and personal security, and participation.

A 'strategic decision' is defined by Welsh Government as a decision **which affects how the council fulfils its statutory purpose over a significant period of time and does not include routine 'day to day' decisions**. Strategic decisions include:

- Corporate plans
- Setting wellbeing, equality and other strategic objectives
- Changes to, or development of public services
- Strategic financial planning
- Strategic policy development

If you do not think your decision meets this definition, and you do not plan on carrying out a Socio-economic Duty Assessment in this section, please provide your rationale below. Any decision which is presented to a Cabinet Member, at Cabinet or Council will be viewed as a strategic decision.

If your decision does meet the definition, please consider the impact of your decision on the socio-economically disadvantaged groups, and areas of inequality that may arise from socio-economic disadvantage contained in the matrix below. The groups listed are not exhaustive and you should consider any additional groups relevant to your decision who may experience socio-economic disadvantage in the following ways:

- **Low Income/Income Poverty** - cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.
- **Low and/or no Wealth** - enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future
- **Material Deprivation** - unable to access basic goods and services i.e., financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.)
- **Area Deprivation** - where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport)

- Socio-economic Background – for example, parents’ education, employment and income

Indicate a positive or negative impact, or both where they apply, and the severity of this impact by coding the sections of the grid based on the below. *If there is no/neutral impact, please leave blank.*

Negative Impact		Positive Impact	
N1	Negative impact – mild	P1	Positive impact – mild
N2	Negative impact – moderate	P2	Positive impact – moderate
N3	Negative impact – significant	P3	Positive impact – significant
N4	Potential for negative impact (but unsure)	P4	Potential for positive impact (but unsure)

Areas of inequality that may arise from socio-economic disadvantage – definitions
Education :The capability to be knowledgeable, to understand and reason, and to have the skills and opportunity to participate in the labour market and in society
Work : The capability to work in just and favourable conditions, to have the value of your work recognised, even if unpaid, to not be prevented from working and to be free from slavery, forced labour and other forms of exploitation
Living Standards : The capability to enjoy a comfortable standard of living, in appropriate housing, with independence and security, and to be cared for and supported when necessary.
Justice, Personal Security and Community Safety : The capability to avoid premature mortality, live in security, and knowing you will be protected and treated fairly by the law
Health : The capability to be healthy, physically and mentally, being free in matters of sexual relationships and reproduction, and having autonomy over care and treatment and being cared for in the final stages of your life
Participation : The capability to participate in decision making and in communities, access services, know your privacy will be respected, and express yourself

Groups	Areas of inequality						
	Living Standards	Work	Health	Education	Justice and community safety	Participation	Physical Environment
Children living in poverty			P4	P4		P4	P4
Low income households without dependent children	P4		P4	P4		P4	P4
Unemployed young people	P4		P4	P4		P4	P4
Long term unemployed							
Homeless households			P4	P4		P4	P4
Refugees, migrants and asylum seekers			P4	P4		P4	P4

Deprived neighbourhoods - WIMD rank in 10% most deprived LSOA	P4		P4	P3		P3	P3
People on Universal Credit / income related benefits			P4	P4		P2	P2
Adults with no qualifications or low qualifications			P4	P3		P2	P2
People living in low quality housing or in Houses of Multiple Occupation			P4	P3		P2	P2

• **What evidence do you have about socioeconomic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome in relation to this decision?**

The plan is anticipated to reduce inequalities of outcome for several groups likely to experience socio-economic disadvantage in several areas.

As an SPF Local delivery plan, has the potential to reduce potential inequalities of outcome in:

- Living Standards by investment in initiatives to address fuel poverty, and food poverty.
- Health – through sporting facilities it is expected that various groups will have the capability to be physically, and mentally healthy.
- Education – skills and educational programmes for both unemployed people, and those looking to upskill
- Participation –Community & Place is one of the key priorities of the SPF and we will work with our communities to support community capacity building measures
- Physical Environment – Community & Place is one of the key priorities of the SPF and we will work with our communities to understand how our environment can be improved, how we can support a better living environment and community.
- The impact is currently set at P4. We recognise the potential for positive impact in these areas, but the level will be dependent upon the development of the facilities/ activities on offer.

This will positively impact on the five well-being goals and Newport Councils well-being objectives.

- **Please describe how you have ensured your engagement has considered the views of people living in Newport who are affected by socio-economic disadvantage.**

The SPF Local Investment Plan is a regional plan that covers the CCR region. At this stage it is a strategic proposal, that has not gone to wider consultation. Once the overarching strategy is agreed by UK Government, we will start developing the Local Delivery Plan. This plan will be subject to wider consultation and will be undertaken in conjunction with the Connected Communities Team to ensure the correct demographics of residents are captured in the consultation process. Feedback from this process will inform the priorities and projects for the local delivery plan.

- **Does this decision contribute to a cumulative impact?**

This funding does not contribute to a negative cumulative impact as all outcomes will be positive

Part 3: Actions and Outcomes

Considering any negative impacts that you have identified, indicate below how you will reduce these, increase the potential for positive impacts, and how you will monitor those impacts. Further guidance on how to complete your action plan can be found [here](#).

IMPACT ON PEOPLE THAT SHARE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS			
Summary of impact	Action to reduce negative impact / opportunities to increase positive impacts	How this impact will be monitored	Owner
IMPACT ON WELSH LANGUAGE			
Summary of impact	Action to reduce negative impact / opportunities to increase positive impacts	How this impact will be monitored	Owner

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS			
Summary of impact	Action to reduce negative impact / opportunities to increase positive impacts	How this impact will be monitored	Owner
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLE			
Summary of impact	Action to reduce negative impact / opportunities to increase positive impacts	How this impact will be monitored	Owner

Once your FEIA is complete, please forward to nccequality@newport.gov.uk

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Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 13 July 2022

Subject **Replacement Local Development Plan - Vision, Issues and Objectives**

Purpose To provide an update on the progression of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) and report on the consultation responses received on the draft Vision, Issues and Objectives.

Author Planning Policy Manager

Ward All

Summary As part of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) process, public engagement has been undertaken in respect of the draft Vision, Issues and Objectives. The eight-week engagement process sought to increase awareness of the RLDP process, seek consensus on the key issues identified for the Plan, and request feedback on the draft Vision and Objectives which will set the direction for the RLDP.

Proposal **Cabinet is asked to note the consultation comments received on the Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives and endorse the proposed responses.**

Action by Head of Regeneration and Economic Development

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Executive
- Head of Finance
- Head of Law and Standards
- Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Signed

Background

There are many formal stages to the preparation of a RLDP and these key stages are set out below:



**Dates are approximate*

We are currently at the stage highlighted in green – ‘Vision, Objectives and Options’.

Consultation Document

The [draft Vision, Issues and Objectives](#) of the Newport Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) were made available for public consultation from 31 January - 25 March 2022.

A Vision needs to articulate the overall aim of the RLDP and set out our aspirations of how Newport will change over the plan period (2021- 2036). The Objectives sit below the Vision and are developed from the key economic, social, environmental and cultural issues identified in Newport. The Objectives need to be deliverable and add detail to the vision. When read collectively, the Vision and Objectives should set a clear context for the RLDP’s strategy.

Stakeholder Engagement and Events

Stakeholder engagement is a critical element of the preparation of any Development Plan. Therefore, in addition to the standard formal consultation (direct communication with those on the RLDP database and updates to the Council website) a series of engagement events were undertaken by Planning Aid Wales on behalf of the Council.

There were 10 events in total (online and in person) and their broad purpose was to raise awareness and to encourage understanding of the RLDP process and the Vision, Issues and Objective consultation. Targeted stakeholder groups (e.g., Community Councils, Gypsy and Traveller Groups, Heritage and Cultural groups, Developers and Consultants, Environmental and Rural Groups) were invited to participate in online events as well as three in person public events at hubs across the city. The events were generally well received and found to be useful.

Consultation Feedback and Response

The Council received 33 formal written responses, each of the responses received are set out in full, alongside the recommended Council response to the comments, in Appendix B of this report.

There were no fundamental concerns raised by the consultation therefore no significant changes are proposed.

In summary, the formal written responses raised the following key matters. The text in bold is the recommended Council response:

- Overall the responses were supportive of the Vision and Objectives, **The positive feedback received is welcomed and there is a general consensus for the draft Vision, Issues and Objectives.**
- A few responses noted the need for more ambition to the wording to reflect Newport's role as a national growth area and as a gateway to Wales. **It is believed that the vision as currently drafted appropriately captures the ambition and Newport's strategic role as a National Growth Area.**
- One response noted the need for a more overt and simple format to the work, requiring more specificity and ability to measure their success. In addition, there were conflicting views on the wording being too generic and opposing views that the wording was adequate. **The format and wording was carefully considered to allow the reader to understand not only the Vision and Objectives but those topics and questions the RLDP would need to consider in future stages in more detail, including the need to measure the success of the plan as a whole.**
- A statutory consultee welcomed the general approach and provided some minor amendments to wording to ensure the role of the natural environment is better reflected. **Some of the suggested text amendments are supported to ensure the wording reflects the role of the natural environment in delivering sustainable developments.**
- A few respondents stated the need for the objectives to provide flexible and innovative ways of meeting economic ambitions, and to note the link between delivery of new homes and creation of jobs. **The Economy and Employment Objective is considered to appropriately recognise the flexibility required to adapt to change and meet the needs of Newport.**
- A few respondents stated the need for the objectives to meet peoples housing needs and ensuring provision of affordable and sustainable new homes across a range of tenures should be explicitly stated as part of the vision. **The vision and objectives as currently drafted are considered to recognise the importance of meeting housing delivery need within the overall aim of ensuring sustainable development. The specified level of growth will be explored in further detail as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage.**
- Specific environmental issues were noted for consideration in the RLDP including air quality, flood risk, landscape (Gwent Levels), minerals and natural resource supply, more active travel routes, city centre improvements, tourist opportunities and protection of heritage. **These topics have been considered in the Vision and Objectives work. It is recognised that the Vision and Objectives are set at a strategic level and that the plan will need to consider the local impact of such factors as the RLDP progresses.**
- A response noted the need for the Vision Issues and Objectives to reflect the placemaking objectives of national planning policy. **It is considered that the placemaking agenda has been clearly reflected in the proposals.**

We fully appreciate the time taken by those providing feedback and attending events at this early stage of the process. Many stakeholders have taken the opportunity to provide a variety of information, proposed policy topics and site designation information, offered partnership working and raised queries over the scope of the Plan. It is recognised that this goes beyond the current consultation stage and we shall consider the points raised at the appropriate stage of the RLDP preparation process.

The engagement events undertaken by Planning Aid Wales (PAW) gave the opportunity for attendees to learn about the RLDP process, specifically the draft Vision, Issues and Objectives. Many useful issues and comments were made e.g. need to upskill workforce, impact of in-migration and meeting housing needs, the future role of villages, access to facilities and infrastructure needs, protection of green spaces, the role of rural economy and the importance of climate change impact. Detailed notes were taken at each event to collate the key issues raised, and these will be considered where relevant in the preparation of the RLDP. PAW have provided a report outlining the events and feedback received, a summary is also provided. These can be viewed in Appendix B of this report.

Recommendations

This engagement process has enabled the Council to gain consensus on the draft Vision, Issues and Objectives which will set a strategic direction for the Plan. The feedback has resulted in four proposed amendments to the wording of the Vision and various objectives, details of the proposed changes are set out in full in Appendix C. Taking into account the feedback the proposed Vision for the Newport Replacement Local Development Plan is:

Proposed RLDP Vision

Newport will be a destination where people will want to live, work and visit:

- A strategically significant City which will contribute towards the national growth of Wales.
- A City that tackles inequality through sustainable patterns of development, creating places and communities that are safe, connected, inclusive, healthy, and well designed with access to housing, jobs and services and the natural environment.
- A City that promotes and protects its historic assets, diverse cultures and languages.
- An economically thriving City which supports and attracts business and industry at all scales, particularly where they focus on sustainable, innovative and technologically leading practices, which contribute towards cultivating a skilled and adaptable workforce.
- A resilient City which sustainably manages its natural resources, protecting and enhancing the biological and ecological values of the natural environment, including the benefits of ecosystem services, in a carbon neutral and climate responsible manner.

Next Steps

This engagement process has started the conversation and provided useful feedback not only on the current consultation but identified other matters which will need to be considered during the preparation of the plan as a whole. We particularly recognise and welcome the offer for continued conversations and joint working.

The next step in plan preparation is to engage with stakeholders on the potential growth and spatial options for the RLDP. In summary, this will seek to set out the level of housing and employment land provision the RLDP will need to deliver and the broad location for this development. A report will identify the Council's preferred growth and spatial options that are considered best to address Newport's key issues/challenges and meet the RLDP objectives. All this work will be achieved through engagement and consultation with the residents, communities and key stakeholders.

The Growth and Spatial Options stages will be assessed against the endorsed Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) framework to ensure alternatives have been considered and the best sustainable strategy has been selected.

Financial Summary (Capital and Revenue)

The RLDP process has a project specific budget to cover costs of all resources associated, including additional staff, consultations, commissions, examination processes etc. The resources required for the RLDP process are set out in the Delivery Agreement. The table below sets out an estimated cost for the RLDP which has been based on the previous LDP and neighbouring authority costs. The table identifies a potential residual sum remaining at the end of RLDP process, however it should be noted that the estimates used are on the cautious side. We will continue to monitor and mitigate as the plan review progresses.

	Year 1 (Start RLDP 2021/22) Actual £	Year 2 2022/23 £	Year 3 2023/24 £	Year 4 2024/25 £	Notes including budgets heads affected
Costs	189,562	280,000	250,000	250,000	Costs include estimated additional staff resource on fixed term contracts which will need to be subject to a business case.
Funded by:					
Revenue Budget	71,604	71,604	71,604	71,604	
LDP Reserve	117,958	208,400	178,396	133,800	
Net Costs	0	0	0	0	
(Savings)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	
Net Impact on Budget	0	0	0	0	
LDP Reserve (£569,558 2022/23)	569,558	361,000	182,000	48,200	

Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Not approving the recommended responses	M	L	The Council has signed up to the RLDP process, which includes the Vision, Issues and Objectives. This is the second LDP for Newport and the process is established and understood. Not approving this stage will result in a delay in delivering the RLDP, contrary to the delivery agreement approved by Welsh Government.	Planning Policy Manager

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The Local Development Plan is one of the statutory plans the Council has to prepare. The current LDP determines Newport's land use policies to 2026. The LDP covers many topics that impact on other sections of the Council e.g. drainage, tourism, education etc. A RLDP will consider any new Council policy, strategy or priority and its impact on the policy framework for the Council and this is explained in the draft Review Report. Since the LDP's adoption in 2015 there have been a number of significant changes to Council policy which will be of relevance to the RLDP, particularly the Corporate Plan and the Well-Being Plan for Newport. The primary objective of the Corporate Plan is 'improving people's lives' and whilst this is not at odds with the aims of the current LDP, a new LDP will help us to better align the

four commitments; Resilient Communities, Thriving Cities, Modernised Council; and Aspirational People within the strategy. As a key document outlining the issues and aspirations of the Council this needs to be reflected in a revised LDP. In addition, there are numerous Council strategies and policies that will influence the LDP e.g. Flood Risk Strategy, Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Destination Management Strategy, Economic Growth Plan etc. The Vision, Issues and Objectives work has been informed by current Council policies and priorities and has identified those key issues/themes that the replacement plan will need to consider, including the well-being duty. This approach seeks to ensure the plan maximises its contribution to sustainable development.

Options Available and considered

- 1) Note the consultation comments received and endorse the recommended Council response and proposed changes to the Vision, Issues and Objectives.
- 2) Note the consultation comments received and amend the recommended Council response and proposed changes to the Vision, Issues and Objectives.
- 3) Note the consultation comments received and not endorse the recommended response and proposed changes to the Vision, Issues and Objectives.

Preferred Option and Why

1) To note the consultation comments received and endorse the recommended Council response and proposed changes to the Vision, Issues and Objectives. The recommended changes to the Vision and Objectives, as a result of public consultation, will be reflected in the future stages of the plan. This option will ensure that the RLDP builds from a basis of consensus of the key areas to focus plan preparation upon and will confirm the Vision and Objectives for which the RLDP will aim to achieve.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

The work associated with reviewing the Local Development Plan is funded via a base budget allocation, which is supplemented by an earmarked reserve in years where costs exceed the budget available. In years where there is less activity, any underspends against the base budget are transferred to the reserve, which enables the financial impact to be smoothed over a period of time. This also enables the base budget allocation to remain stable over time.

The financial summary contained within this report outlines the potential for a surplus balance to remain at the end of the 2024/25 financial year. However, it is also noted that the cost estimates are potentially conservative. Should costs ultimately exceed available resources, it will be necessary for this to be managed within the overall Regeneration & Economic Development revenue budget in the year in question. Because of the risk that the reserve balance may ultimately prove to be insufficient, any opportunities in the intervening years to bolster the reserve from available underspends with Regeneration & Economic Development should be considered.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The proposed action is in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015). In May 2021 full Council, sitting as the local planning authority, approved and adopted the revised Review Report and Delivery Agreement following public consultation and agreed to their submission to Welsh Government, in order to trigger the commencement of the LDP review process. Cabinet are now being asked to agree to the next stages of the review process. There is a statutory requirement under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 and Section 39 (2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) to be subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA). The purpose of the ISA is to assess the extent to which the emerging policies will help achieve the wider environmental, economic, social and cultural objectives of the RLDP. The ISA scoping report, which sets out the sustainability appraisal issues and objectives/criteria against which the RLDP strategy, policies and proposals will be assessed, was approved by Cabinet in November 2021, together with the ISA

assessment framework. Cabinet also authorised officers to engage with key stakeholders to develop the Vision, Objectives and growth options. This consultation process with key stakeholders was facilitated by Planning Aid Wales and the outcome of the consultation is set out in the report. There were no fundamental objections to the proposed Visions, Objectives and Growth options but the consultation feedback has resulted in four proposed amendments to the wording as set out in Appendix C to the report. Cabinet are now requested to note the consultation comments, endorse the recommended responses and proposed changes and agree to the Vision, Issues and Objectives as the basis for moving to the next stage of the RLDP process. The final RLDP will be a policy framework document that will need to be approved and adopted by full Council, but Cabinet are able to approve the Vision, Issues and Objectives.

Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation

From an HR perspective, there are no staffing implications to this report.

Stakeholder engagement is a critical element of the preparation of any Development Plan. The report writer has detailed how the ISA process encompasses and therefore meets the sustainable development principle and as part of the Replacement LDP work an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal is undertaken. The Objectives sit below the Vision and are developed from the key economic, social, environmental and cultural issues identified in Newport.

Scrutiny Committees

None

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

As part of the Replacement LDP work an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal is undertaken. This fulfils the requirements and duties for:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA),
- Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA),
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA),
- Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA), and
- Well-being of Future Generations (WBFG).

The aim of the ISA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts and maximising positive impacts. By undertaking this process, the Council can be confident that the replacement LDP will be prepared in a manner which clearly considers its impact on these aspects of fairness and equality. The engagement of the Vision, Issue and Objectives is undertaken in line with the agreed Community Involvement Scheme (set out the in approved Delivery Agreement) as approved by Full Council and Welsh Government.

An FEIA has not been undertaken for this specific piece of work as the RLDP process effectively incorporates an FEIA within its ISA process. In terms of the Well-being and Future Generations Act, there is a specific 'health and wellbeing' objective. Every policy/site introduced by the RLDP will need to consider how it will improve the health and wellbeing of residents within Newport and there are five more detailed questions that will need to be addressed.

Similarly with the Equality Act, socio-economic duty and Welsh language measures, the Vision, Issues and Objectives as informed by the ISA framework includes an objective entitled 'Equality, diversity and inclusion'. The objectives are explicit about the role of the plan is achieving this.

In summary, the RLDP has a system of Integrated Sustainability Appraisal work that will go beyond that of an FEIA. Consequently, it is not considered necessary to undertake an FEIA in relation to this specific report.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is considered that there would be no significant or unacceptable increase in crime and disorder as a result of the scoping report or ISA framework. One of the objectives of sustainable development guided by the ISA process will be to ensure that places are secure and safe.

Consultation

The draft Vision, Issues and Objectives report was subject to an 8 week consultation from 31 January - 25 March 2022. The responses are set out in full in Appendix A of this report.

Background Papers

Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives

<https://www.newport.gov.uk/documents/Planning-Documents/Replacement-Local-Development-Plan-2021/Draft-Vision-Issues-Objectives-Documents-English.pdf>

RLDP Delivery Agreement, including Community Involvement Scheme:

<https://www.newport.gov.uk/documents/Planning-Documents/Replacement-Local-Development-Plan-2021/LDP-Delivery-Agreement-Final-25MARC21ENG.pdf>

Appendix A – Consultation comments and recommended Council responses.

**Local Development Framework
Vision Issues & Objectives Consultation**

Newbridge Construction Ltd - 00638

Date Acknowledged: 24.03.2022

Date Received: 23.03.2022

00638/VIO/4/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>In general terms we agree with the RLDP vision. In new housing development such as the recently submitted candidate site (Ref: CS-0026 - Land at Glochwen, Rhiwderin), we place significant emphasis on creating new, sustainable neighbourhoods that deliver a mix of new homes to suit a range of needs, new high quality green spaces for people to enjoy and new pedestrian and cycle links which integrate with the surrounding active travel network. It is important for the RLDP to work alongside national policy documents such as Future Wales and Planning Policy Wales to ensure good design and placemaking principles are adhered to, to create accessible, sustainable, high-quality places where people want to live. Any new development should seek to benefit the wider local community through the provision of new and improvement of existing active travel to promote health and wellbeing and job creation, where possible. Outside of the commitment to deliver better places within Newport, we recognise the importance of the local economy, maximising historical and cultural assets and the protection of the existing natural environment. These are well signposted in the 'vision' and expanded on in the subsequent issues and objectives. The vision successfully captures the key challenges and opportunities that currently exist and look likely to evolve into the next plan period.</p>	<p>- Support noted. - Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process. The results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>

00638/VIO/4/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>The projected significant increase in housing need in Wales and, particularly Newport is a critical issue that has been sufficiently identified. Latest household estimate figures for Wales highlight the ongoing trend over the last 30 years for an increase in households, mainly due to increases in one-person and two-person households, which remained the most common household types in Wales, based on these estimates. A greater emphasis should be placed on housing type and tenure when addressing housing growth. Recognising that this ongoing trend for the increase in the formation of one and two person households is likely to continue through the plan period, points to a clear need for the provision of additional smaller homes in the City to accommodate for this growth and cater for smaller households. New sites need to consider the provision of a range and mix of homes to assist in addressing the demographic and affordability challenges facing Newport, as demonstrated at Site CS-0026 - Land at Glochwen, Rhiwderin. The issue of climate change is at the forefront of all new development in Wales and its regions. It is important that we continue to make positive contribution toward addressing the causes of, and adapting to the impacts of, climate change. This can be achieved through reducing energy demand and promoting energy efficiency; developing a sustainable water strategy; aiming to use sustainable materials and minimise resource use, where possible; and the incorporation of green infrastructure, reduction of solar gain, passive ventilation, flood risk management, and sustainable drainage systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support noted. - The mix of housing types and tenure will be considered in further detail as the plan progresses. - Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process. The results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.

Summary of Comment 00638/VIO/4/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>The objectives should perfectly align with the key issues facing Newport during the plan period. The starting point is growth. This agenda will be achieved by making existing places better for now and the future. Compromise is inevitable. The opportunity to improve existing places exists but will require greenfield land. Accepting this necessity enables the most otherwise sustainable outcome to be achieved. In doing so, the overall growth objective is not compromised. Development at greenfield sites located at West Newport can utilise the sustainable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need to facilitate sustainable growth is noted and recognised within the current drafting of the Vision, Issues and Objectives. This will be explored in further detail as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage to follow.

transport modes available including the rail services to Cardiff and Newport from Rogerstone and Pye Corner.	
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Summary of Comment 00638/VIO/4/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
Whilst listed in the anticipated evidence base, viability and deliverability is key to the implementation of any new development. Sufficient assessment and appraisal work should be undertaken to identify significant constraints early in the process, that would have a negative effect on potential viability.	Noted.

Mineral Products Association - 00060

Date Acknowledged: 24.03.2022

Date Received: 23.03.2022

00060/VIO/4/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
Yes	Support noted.

Summary of Comment 00060/VIO/4/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
The Objectives are also fairly generic, but again we support their principle. Again, we have identified in the attached letter that the objectives need to be supported by a sound evidence base to ensure the plan's aspirations are deliverable.	Support in principle noted. The consultation paper details the evidence base which will be compiled to support detailed policies and the RLDP as a whole.

Summary of Comment 00060/VIO/4/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
Please see the attached letter. ---- The Mineral Products Association (MPA) is the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime,	- Note and welcome the comments on the value of the engagement events run.

mortar and silica sand industries. With the affiliation of British Precast, the British Association of Reinforcement (BAR), Eurobitume, MPA Northern Ireland, MPA Scotland and the British Calcium Carbonate Federation, it has a growing membership of over 530 companies and is the sectoral voice for mineral products. MPA membership is made up of the vast majority of independent SME quarrying companies throughout the UK, as well as the 9 major international and global companies. It covers 100% of UK cement production, 90% of GB aggregates production, 95% of asphalt and over 70% of ready-mixed concrete and precast concrete production. In 2016, the industry supplied £18 billion worth of materials and services to the Economy. It is the largest supplier to the construction industry, which had annual output valued at £169 billion in 2018. Industry production represents the largest materials flow in the UK economy and is also one of the largest manufacturing sectors. For more information visit: www.mineralproducts.org. With reference to the above consultation and further to our previous representations, we found attendance at the recent forum event very helpful. To follow up the comments made at the event, we are supportive of the vision and the objectives, recognising that these are fairly generic, but would welcome more detail on how the aspirations of the plan will be delivered. This should be assessed as part of the evidence base to deliver policy aspirations.

From a mineral's perspective, it is imperative that mineral reserves and planning consents are delivered through the plan policies. Delivering a steady and adequate supply of raw materials will be essential to ensure growth and deliver high quality homes whilst maintaining local vernacular. The supply of minerals can not be assumed by the Council. Maintaining a steady and adequate supply of minerals will be reliant on delivering appropriate production capacity and it is important that to deliver the development aspirations of the plan, sustainable supply patterns are considered.

The Regional Technical Statement (RTS) and MTANs are important foundation documents for inclusion in the RLDP review. The RTS 2nd

- Support of vision and objectives noted. Agree that the plan and its policies need to be supported by a robust evidence base, which has been detailed within the consultation paper.
- The detailed mineral considerations raised, including the need to comply with the Regional Technical Statement and Minerals Technical Advice Note 1, will be considered in further detail when we progress to the policy development stage.
- The information provided is noted and will be discussed further if required.

Review published in September 2020 and endorsed by the Council identifies the minimum allocation needed to meet the required provision of crushed rock tonnage for Newport over the plan period. The minimum allocation should be delivered in the plan through appropriate site allocations and criteria-based policies.

The RTS requires the production of a Statement of Sub-Regional Collaboration (SSRC) to be agreed with all other constituent LPAS within the local sub-region, prior to Examination as part of the evidence base. This is essential to ensure Newport can meet its consumption of minerals and mineral products

Newport is largely reliant for its sand and gravel on marine-dredged aggregates from the Bristol Channel, imported marine wharves. The RLDP should identify all existing and potential new wharves and railheads for safeguarding, in order to provide a full range of sustainable transport options (whether or not they are currently utilised).

Although potential land-based aggregate resources are indicated within its area on BGS resource maps, many of these may be sterilised by existing built development. However, PPW requires the safeguarding of primary aggregate resources and resources of both crushed rock aggregates and land-based sand & gravel should be safeguarded within the RLDP in accordance with the British Geological Survey's safeguarding maps, or such other geological information as may be available and suitable for this purpose. This will be more apparent as there is greater pressure to release greenfield sites for other competing developments and the council must therefore consider prior extraction where known mineral resources may be sterilised. It is also important to ensure the mineral safeguarding policies are robust and properly understood as the current AMR suggests there is a need for more training when dealing with applications affecting MSAs.

Finally, the evidence base should give due consideration to the preparation of a resource assessment and consider supply chain options to ensure the plan is deliverable and the management of natural resources is sustainable.

We trust the above information is helpful, however, please do not hesitate to come back to me if you have any questions.	
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00060/VIO/4/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
Although fairly generic, we are supportive of the vision. However, we have identified in the attached letter that the vision needs to be supported by a sound evidence base	Support noted. The consultation paper details the evidence base which will be compiled to support detailed policies and the RLDP as a whole.

Farmers Union Wales - 00057

Date Acknowledged: 28.03.2022

Date Received: 28.03.2022

Summary of Comment 00057/VIO/1/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
The Farmers' Union of Wales supports the vision for a city that attracts business that focuses on sustainable, innovative and technologically leading practices. We also agree that the RDLP should promote and protect cultures and languages across the City and sustainably manage natural resources in a climate responsible manner. We believe that supporting and protecting family farms across Newport is key to achieving such goals and that agricultural sustainability should be associated with economic sustainability. Given that livestock grazing often improves the biodiversity of landscapes, and those who speak Welsh within the agriculture category make an essential contribution to the preservation of the language, preserving Newport's family farms are imperative to creating a vibrant, diverse and sustainable city.	Support noted.

00057/VIO/1/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
How can the plan improve access to the countryside for recreation?	How can the plan improve access to the countryside for recreation?

The FUW recognises the importance of access to the countryside for recreation and we want the public to enjoy the countryside. This does however have to be in tandem with public awareness of issues such as livestock worrying and trespassing. Therefore, in order for the public to enjoy the countryside whilst protecting farm businesses from severe financial and emotional stress, we would encourage the RLDP to also consider how to improve public awareness of mitigations to these incidents e.g. keeping dogs on leads, following public footpaths.

How can we ensure rural development does not contribute towards further increases in unsustainable travel patterns?

The lack, or reduced availability, of public transport provision across rural areas often leaves individuals with no alternative to travelling long distances in their own vehicles. In order to ensure unsustainable travel patterns are not increased by development, the Plan must supply a sustainable and practical alternative.

How can the plan support and create circular communities that is the focus on local resilience in terms of social (food production and distribution) economic (sustaining local jobs) environmental (waste reduction and increased recycling and cultural (shift to active travel, repairing goods, zero waste shopping etc.)?

Agricultural land should be protected in order to maintain levels of food production and employment in the industry. By improving levels of local food procurement, the plan can also create circular communities by supporting local farm business and the rural economy, reducing food miles, whilst ensuring the food procured is healthy and sustainably produced. It also provides an opportunity, particularly in the procurement of school food to educate the public on where and how their food is produced.

How can the plan ensure good quality agricultural land is well utilised and protected?

Good quality, agricultural land is best utilised in agriculture. In a number of cases livestock grazing has shown to improve biodiversity, carbon is sequestered in soils and hedges. Woodland management and where appropriate tree planting can also aid this. Agriculture is part of the

- The challenges described are noted, however the detailed measures recommended would likely fall outside the scope of what the RLDP can reasonably prescribe. Further consideration will be given to what level of influence the plan can have in managing this issue through policy development.

How can we ensure rural development does not contribute towards further increases in unsustainable travel patterns?

- Our Travel and Movement Objective acknowledges this need and will be considered further accordingly.

How can the plan support and create circular communities that is the focus on local resilience in terms of social (food production and distribution) economic (sustaining local jobs) environmental (waste reduction and increased recycling and cultural (shift to active travel, repairing goods, zero waste shopping etc.)?

- The creation of circular communities will be facilitated by sustainable development. This equally applies to communities in the countryside and will be considered as the plan development progresses.

How can the plan ensure good quality agricultural land is well utilised and protected?

- Information noted. Further advice will be sought once we commence policy development.

<p>solution to achieving net zero, and increasing biodiversity. By protecting agricultural land from development, we are also protecting the contribution of family farmers to the rural community.</p>	
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00057/VIO/1/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>The FUW agrees with the objectives of valuing and promoting Newport's culture and the Welsh language, sustainably managing the natural resources in Newport to meet the needs of present and future communities, by ensuring resource efficiency, improved health outcomes, and the creation of a successful circular economy and green growth. Furthermore, we also agree that development and land uses should be resilient and tackle the causes of climate change. Welsh agriculture, firstly must be supported and protected in order to ensure our food security remains at least at the current level. By encouraging the public procurement of such produce, you are supporting local farm business, ensuring the procurement of sustainable, healthy food, supporting rural communities and therefore creating a successful circular economy. As such, we believe protecting Newport's agricultural land and supporting family farms in the area will contribute to meeting these objectives.</p> <p>The plan acknowledges that the protection of agricultural land and soil will directly impact on the level of food production, drainage, water quality and quantity, ecological resilience as well as the source of sustainable building materials. Although it notes that Newport's agricultural land is "mostly lower quality" and that "there are important choices to be made as to how to use this land sustainably." Farming, as referred to above, offers many solutions to achieving net zero and sustainably managing our landscapes, whilst also producing healthy, sustainable food and contributing to the local economy and communities. Furthermore, as acknowledged in the RLDP, resources are finite and therefore the loss of agricultural land and in turn communities, should be avoided.</p>	<p>Support noted. Welcome the information provided. Further advice will be sought as the plan development progresses.</p>

00057/VIO/1/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
Given that the proposals are generic and do not refer to specific areas or locations of land, it is difficult to make more thorough suggestions on how best to protect and utilise such land. However, when the Plan has more specific details available, the FUW is very keen to engage on how best to utilise agricultural land and support the rural economy, in turn contributing to achieving the objectives of the RLDP.	Noted. We welcome further involvement as the plan progresses and look forward to future advice.

Caerleon Civic Society - 00034

Date Acknowledged: 28.03.2022

Date Received: 25.03.2022

00034/VIO/3/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
The Vision for the RLDP is broadly agreed.	Support noted.

00034/VIO/3/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
The key issues are generally agreed, particularly in relation to the role of greenfield sites, air quality, public transport and active travel and the historic environment and landscape.	Support noted.

00034/VIO/3/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
The objectives for the RDLP are generally agreed.	Support noted.

00034/VIO/3/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
Whilst generally agreeing with the key issues and Objectives, we are particularly concerned about the consequences of a continued rapid	Concerns are noted. These matters will be further explored as the plan progresses and further comments at that stage are welcomed.

rate of growth for communities like Caerleon which will depend on a high level of sustainability being achieved in relation to any future large scale development. Air Quality, flood prevention, and protection of the historic and natural environment will be of greatest concern at the Preferred Option stage.

Associated British Port - 00435

Date Acknowledged: 28.03.2022

Date Received: 25.03.2022

00435/VIO/1/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>ABP agrees with the overall vision and can confirm that its Newport Docks are a long-established operation and a very significant economic and commercial asset to the City providing a wide variety of port related facilities and jobs. Support is therefore given to the vision and that fact that the Council recognises the economic importance of the Docks as a key issue for the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) and it is hoped that as the detail of the RLDP emerges it will support ABP to improve and expand its facilities in order that it can further contribute to the economic wellbeing of the City. It should be noted that in addition to the role the Docks play in bulk handling and warehousing and storage facilities, ABP are also actively looking to develop energy and infrastructure projects within its landholdings in support of the RLDP objectives for climate change. ABP can therefore confirm its general support for the overall vision and objectives in this regard and would be glad to discuss with officers its aspirations in order to ensure that they are fully integrated in the RLDP going forward.</p>	<p>Support noted. We welcome further involvement as the plan progresses and look forward to future discussion.</p>

00435/VIO/1/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>As above, ABP supports the fact that the Council recognises the economic importance of Newport Docks as a key issue for the RLDP and it</p>	<p>Support noted. We welcome further involvement as the plan progresses and look forward to future discussion.</p>

<p>is hoped that, as the detail of the RLDP emerges, it will support ABP to improve and expand its facilities in order that it can further contribute to the economic wellbeing of the City. It should be noted that in addition to the role the Docks play in bulk handling and warehousing and storage facilities, ABP are also actively looking to develop energy and infrastructure projects within its landholdings in support of the RLDP objectives for climate change. ABP can therefore confirm its general support for the overall vision and objectives and issues in this regard and would be glad to discuss with officers its aspirations in order to ensure that they are fully integrated in the RLDP going forward.</p>	
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00435/VIO/1/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
As above.	Support noted. We welcome further involvement as the plan progresses and look forward to future discussion.

00435/VIO/1/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
N/A.	N/A.

The Theatres Trust - 00112

Date Acknowledged: 28.03.2022

Date Received: 25.03.2022

00112/VIO/1/001 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
We are supportive of the Objectives outlined, in particular that the needs of Newport are supported by necessary social and cultural infrastructure.	Support noted.

00112/VIO/1/002 - - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response

<p>We recommend the Local Development Plan contains policy which supports Newport's valued cultural facilities and guards against unnecessary loss.</p>	<p>Noted. This will be further explored as part of the Population and Communities; and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Objectives as the plan progresses.</p>
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Mr R Herbert - 00174

Date Acknowledged: 25.03.2022

Date Received: 25.03.2022

00174/VIO/4/001 - Intro

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We set out herein our Client's response to the Newport Local Development Plan Draft Visions, Issues and Objectives consultation paper. Our client, Mr Herbert, owns two sites that are being promoted for development through the LDP and these have been submitted as candidate sites to help deliver the Council's future Plan. Mr Herbert is pleased to be able to have the opportunity to feed into the early stages of the plan preparation process and hopes that our input is helpful in informing the key components of the Plan.</p> <p>We have previously submitted candidate sites for consideration on Mr Herbert's behalf at South and West of Bettws and Risca Road, Rogerstone.</p> <p>Summarily, the site at Bettws is capable of delivering c.450 high quality homes (c.12.5Ha), including specialist housing for the elderly, selfbuild and affordable housing. In addition it can provide c.1.5Ha (6,000 to 8,000 sq.m) of employment and community uses (mixed uses) in order to help enhance self-containment and boost the local economy whilst providing onsite space for community groups, classes and clubs etc. The site provides a significant opportunity for long term sustainable development, investment and enhancement of Bettws which would be both deliverable and viable.</p> <p>The second site submitted at Risca Road, Rogerstone, can accommodate up to 20 dwellings. It is considered that this can provide self-build</p>	<p>Noted. However, Candidate Site assessments are being carried out separately to this process, and the results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>

<p>units but consideration could also be given to other types of dwellings such as for the elderly or a small scale developer.</p> <p>Our Client is in discussions with prospective house builders and housing associations in respect of both sites and would welcome discussions with the Council on each of the sites on how they can contribute towards the Plan. Indeed, our client is keen to demonstrate that both sites would be deliverable, viable and sustainable such that they can provide a timetable for delivery to feed into the Council's trajectory both in terms of private and affordable homes. Whilst initial work on ecology, landscape, transport and capacity has been undertaken, an early meeting with the Council would assist with planning further work that is required on each of the proposals.</p> <p>Our Client's response to the Issues paper is set out below and is to be considered against their overarching role which is to assist the Authority in meeting its housing needs.</p>	
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00174/VIO/4/002 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Please refer to the attached additional information Attached Letter:</p> <p>We are broadly supportive of the vision for Newport, it is a significant City that will need to play its part in the future success of Wales. Indeed, its role will be vital as the gateway City in ensuring a robust economic and social recovery as restructuring continues post Covid, Post Brexit and with the energy crisis faced. Indeed, as stated in the Vision document Newport has some of the poorest and wealthiest communities in Wales and it is therefore appropriate that reducing inequalities is a core element of the vision.</p> <p>We believe that meeting peoples' housing needs and ensuring provision of affordable and sustainable new homes should be explicitly stated as part of the vision. Indeed, building new homes has always been a core element of economic recovery strategies and it can play a</p>	<p>Support noted. We believe the vision as currently drafted appropriately captures the points raised, recognising that sustainable development encompasses more than just housing. Housing specifically is addressed at the Objective stage where more targeted measures can be implemented to meet the various needs of Newport. Further consideration will be given to these points at the policy development stage.</p>

<p>significant role in the future of the economy not just in terms of matching jobs to homes but also in the direct and indirect spin offs for the construction sector. Indeed, the delivery of new homes in appropriate locations through the LDP has been a core tenet of the success of the existing Plan and the Council should be commended for helping to facilitate this. These levels of growth have demonstrated that the right sites in the right locations can ensure Local Development Plans are successful. However it is recognised that completions have fallen slightly behind the level required in the LDP which emphasises the value of finding and allocating appropriate sites in the right location. Indeed, we believe that the success of the LDP can be replicated if this is achieved. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is clear that the planning system must "identify a supply of land to support the delivery of the housing requirement to meet the differing needs of communities across all tenures". Our client believes that this must form a key component of how the authority will look in 15 years. In addition, we believe that the Council should make a commitment to protecting residents from the potential wider impacts of macro economic problems upon society and the economy- whilst the extent of changes is unknown it is likely that the plan will need to ensure a flexible approach to ensure the delivery of development proposals.</p>	
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00174/VIO/4/003 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Please refer to the attached additional information Attached Letter: We would note that Wales as a whole is facing its most significant challenges for some considerable time and it is without question the case that the Replacement LDP is being prepared under some of the most challenging societal and economic conditions since World War Two. The following issues overlap a number of the main objectives and we believe that the Plan must address these in a cohesive and coherent</p>	<p>- The challenges described are noted and will inherently influence the development of the plan. The plan will be based on this context and that forecasted for the next 15 years to cover the lifespan of the plan. - Many of the other points raised will be explored in further detail as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage to come.</p>

strategy. Indeed, positive planning interventions are required in order to help address these issues.

Post Covid 19 recovery, energy crisis and Brexit

Under a number of the objectives reference is made to post Covid and Brexit Recovery, in addition the impacts that the energy crisis will have upon this and our communities ought to be recognised. Indeed, over recent years we have experienced exceptional circumstances that have the potential to severely and drastically impact upon the economy and society as a whole. The planning process can make a significant contribution towards helping to facilitate the economic recovery that is needed. Plainly economic recovery must form an over-riding requirement of the Plan and without question must underlie the approach to be taken.

Constraints in adjoining Authorities

We are surprised that there has been no mention of the significant housing supply constraints in adjoining Authorities. Newport has not just been dealing with its own needs in recent years and accordingly needs to consider the offsets from new homes not being provided in its neighbouring authorities. Whilst housing land supply requirements were formally abandoned by the Welsh Government it does not change the record of poor delivery elsewhere and it follows logically that where needs aren't met within an Authority they will need to be accommodated elsewhere. Whilst this is an unsatisfactory and unsustainable position there is unlikely to be any change in this in the short term. Indeed:

- * Torfaen & Caerphilly - as of April 2021 there was a cumulative shortfall across the two Authorities of over 4,000 dwellings from the levels envisaged within their respective Local Development Plans. This represents the number of households that could not be provided for in those respective Authorities. This is a shortfall of national significance and the lack of supply has had a profound effect on house prices across the region.
- * Monmouthshire - representations made in 2021 by the Welsh Government on the Monmouthshire LDP mean that further new housing

- Candidate Site assessments are occurring separately from this process. The outcome of those assessments will be published at a later stage in the process.

allocations would not be needed in Monmouthshire. Given the additional constraints in Monmouthshire, including Phosphates, it is likely that demand will be displaced from Monmouthshire to adjoining Authorities.

Plainly, policy and supply constraints in adjoining Authorities will have a significant impact upon Newport City Council in respect of the housing market and affordability issues. This is a challenge that the LDP will need to consider how it responds to.

Meeting needs

It will be of utmost importance to ensure Newport establishes a level of growth that meets needs and does not exacerbate the existing supply constraints in South Wales, taking into consideration the shortfalls in adjoining Authorities alongside Newport's own needs. We believe that a high level of growth will need to be set in order to meet the Vision and fulfil the strategic aspirations for Newport as a Gateway City to Wales.

In this regard we consider:

- o Given the potential impacts of Covid 19 on the economy and society, there will be a need to adopt a highly ambitious strategy which provides far greater flexibility to respond to the crisis through added stimulation of the construction sector;
- o Account should be taken in the baseline figures of the levels of sustainability and self-containment that can be achieved through embracing working from home trends for those sectors where it is feasible. These are often the high level added value jobs that are no longer tied to cities such as Bristol or Cardiff but can retain expenditure in the local area and encourage vibrant local areas;
- o Any requirement should ensure an appropriate level of flexibility for delivery indeed, it may be that a 20% flexibility allowance or greater provides an appropriate starting point; and
- o It is likely that in addition to the flexibility allowance, a "non-implementation" allowance of the land bank will also need to be applied. We will comment on this further when detailed information becomes available.

Addressing affordability

The Council's result in nearly achieving its affordable housing target for 2015-2020 is to be welcomed. However, the Council recognise that this is only a small proportion of the actual level of need. The latest Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) indicates that "as of the 31st March 2017 there were 6,838 households with active applications on the housing waiting list. In order to clear this backlog during the 5 year life of this LHMA we would need to allocate 1,368 units of accommodation each year". The final stated annual shortfall is 559 per annum which equates to 2,795 over the 5 year period. This is plainly a significant issue within the Authority which has no doubt been exacerbated by price increases that have been fuelled by shortages of housing supply outside of the County.

Our Client is of the view that the replacement LDP provides an opportunity to seek to address affordability in a meaningful and substantive way.

Sustainable urban extensions

Our Client is of the view that it will be important to consider all scales of potential development from minor rounding off of settlements and infill to sustainable urban extensions. Indeed, the Welsh Government's guidance, "Building Better Places" actively seeks to achieve rounded communities based on the underlying principles of place making.

The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) indicates that the full range of planning solutions should be available to communities in order to achieve "the most sustainable pattern of development locally". Guidance set out by the TCPA indicates that holistically planned urban extensions can enhance the natural environment and offer high-quality affordable housing and locally accessible work in beautiful, healthy and sociable communities. Such interventions could be exemplars in sustainability and energy efficiency.

The TCPA also note that "Major planned developments such asurban extensions provide an opportunity to design-in the greenest of technologies and infrastructure from scratch, in ways that are not possible in smaller infill schemes". Such schemes can set a benchmark in

quality and approach that can lead the way for smaller schemes elsewhere in the Country.

Appropriately sized and scaled urban extensions provide the opportunity for new development to positively address existing issues by creating a planned environment to suit and cater for a critical mass of population, services and facilities. These can:

- o include a variety of housing types, tenures and densities along with neighbourhood centres with mixed uses and a range of facilities;
- o provide a landscape structure that builds on existing assets, including green infrastructure within the development, linking urban areas to the countryside beyond and creating a distinctive edge to the urban area;
- o provide opportunities for people to work locally and for small businesses to set up, grow and thrive;
- o present an opportunity to design energy efficient communities;
- o allow pedestrian, cycle and public transport networks to be fully integrated, often improving services available to the adjacent communities, increasing health and well-being by reducing the reliance on cars; and
- o support the surrounding communities by offering facilities not available locally and by providing affordable housing for people in the care and support sectors they can ensure that the elderly can continue to live independently amongst friends and family reducing the costs of providing social and nursing care.

These concepts are best delivered through consideration of longer term time horizons and wider geographical areas so that the benefits of strategic solutions are explored. The alternative of short term, small scale, incremental and dispersed change will not yield the same overall benefits.

Importantly, by applying a coherent and distinctive urban design concept and master planned approach that combines innovative solutions and reflection of local characteristics, such extensions can provide the opportunity to create a new development that has a strong local identity. This will facilitate effective integration with the existing community for whom there should be major benefits particularly in relation to

supporting the existing economy and creating jobs but also in the provision of a range of housing sizes, styles and tenures to accommodate those currently priced out of the local housing market. This accords with a wide range of national planning policy requirements.

Sustainable growth locations

Largely as a result of the success of the previous Local Development Plan it is inevitably the case that the supply of brownfield sites in Newport for redevelopment for residential purposes is limited. As such, the Council will need to consider sustainable and appropriate greenfield locations based around existing communities. In reality this is likely to focus on the western and north western parts of the County extents associated with existing built form, local transport hubs (railway stations) and established sustainable communities. Indeed, we are of the view that the LDP must not neglect the requirements of these existing communities in favour of more remote areas on the Eastern side of the City that would be more aligned to commuting patterns along the M4.

It is anticipated that such focal points for proportionate growth include a number of existing communities where there are a number of local facilities that can provide an opportunity to maximise levels of self-containment and sustainability. Indeed, proportionate growth can help to reinforce existing levels of sustainability but also seek to provide additional facilities and uses that can move to a greater level of neighbourhood and community well-being. In this regard, our clients consider that Bettws and Rogerstone are suitable locations to accommodate further sustainable growth.

Bettws

Our Client controls a large area of unconstrained land immediately adjoining the southern and western settlement boundary of Bettws. It offers a number of potential ways in which it could contribute to meeting needs and placemaking. It provides the potential to help deliver a significant number of homes and job opportunities for local people as noted earlier. Indeed, this is an opportunity to help to create a more

sustainable self-contained community that could offer a range of land uses including residential, employment, community, recreation and commercial. This could help to create a 21st century neighbourhood in which all of the residents' everyday needs could be met within walking/cycling distance.

The sustainable site

Our Client's site extends from the Llwynhaid Farmyard Courtyard in the west and wraps around the settlement towards the former comprehensive school redevelopment site from which is separated by two fields which would also be suitable for development. It is crossed by Henllys Lane and Bettws Brook in east/west direction and by Parc-y-Brain Road in a north/south direction.

To the north the site is bound by the existing settlement, and the southern boundary is defined by the adjoining woodland and fields which also form part of the western boundary. The eastern edge is formed by trees and the fields separating the site from the new housing on the former School site. Given its extent it is very well contained by both physical and natural boundaries and has limited visibility in the wider context. Bettws is a well established, stand-alone local community that is popular with extended family groups and this proposal would offer opportunities to increase the variety of housing, freeing up larger properties and providing for ageing residents as well as new affordable housing for the younger generations in close proximity to excellent education facilities.

The offer

The site is capable of delivering c.450 high quality homes (c.12.5Ha), including specialist housing for the elderly, self-build and affordable housing. In addition it can provide c.1.5Ha / 6000 to 8000 sq.m of employment and community uses (mixed uses) in order to help boost the local economy and provide onsite space for community groups, classes and clubs etc. being served by existing bus routes. It forms a significant opportunity to provide investment in these facilities and to increase the level of selfcontainment of Bettws through providing new homes and other land uses that could add to the level of local facilities. The site is within easy

walking distance of several bus stops served by regular bus routes, typically 20 minute frequency, to and from Newport running along Monnow Way. These services would be within 400 metres of the proposed development areas but a bus route could be diverted to run through the site. In addition, the canal towpath to the east of the site offers an easy and pleasant foot/cycle path route into the City Centre, which is approximately 4km in distance as well as to Cwmbran and more distant locations.

In the centre of Bettws there are a number of local facilities, including shops, a Spar shop, post office, newsagent and hairdresser as well as several denominations of church, a library, a health centre, chemist, dental surgery and local police station, all within close proximity. The demand for retail units within the local centre rose significantly during lockdown with residents making more use of local facilities.

Furthermore, Monnow Primary School is approximately 400m away and Newport High School within 750m of the site. There is also a local Welsh speaking primary at Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael. Additionally Bettws has a number of sports grounds, playing fields and a leisure centre (active living centre associated with the High School).

Sustainable neighbourhood planning

The location and size of the site, means that it provides a unique opportunity to enhance the local neighbourhood. It would add to the mix of housing, the range of facilities and services and indeed the overall sustainability of the community.

Whilst development on the edge of settlements can be a sensitive issue, by taking a landscape led approach the design suggested has sought to ensure that the proposed development will balance the need for growth with the creation of accessible open space and interconnected Green Infrastructure that maximises biodiversity and which promotes access to recreation space for the settlement as a whole.

The early concept proposals that have been submitted to the Council demonstrate that proposed development has been guided to lower

lying land, areas that possess natural vegetative screening, and which benefit from intervisibility with the existing urban area. In these areas development will work with the site's topography and existing landscape features, such as hedgerows and Public Rights of Way, to create a new neighbourhood that respects the grain of the landscape and which can sensitively integrate development into its context.

Development on higher, more exposed areas which are visually separated from the existing urban area will not take place, and instead these areas will be utilised for parkland and open space. Moreover, development will ensure that all new houses will have easy access to open space, opportunities for play and a network of new footpath and cycle routes linking east to west and north to south. These routes will ensure connectivity to the existing urban area as well as promoting access to the wider countryside.

Community uses, specialist housing for the elderly and local employment uses will all be explored to ensure that this development supports the local economy and promotes social cohesion. The development will create an interconnected network of both green and blue infrastructure. This will include new woodland and meadow creation, wetland establishment and a comprehensive Sustainable Drainage System. The development will target a significant Biodiversity Net Gain.

It is considered that the community will benefit from the significant investment and opportunities that an extension located at Bettws would bring. Indeed, Bettws is itself a sustainability community with a range of shops, schools and facilities and is very well served by public transport. However, it is in need of investment and opportunities in order to help reduce localised inequalities, there is a significant opportunity to increase the level of self-containment of Bettws through providing new homes and other land uses that could add to the level of local facilities.

Summary

It provides the opportunity to contribute towards the vision and objectives, as well as addressing many of the issues raised. Indeed, the

location of growth can help with the creation of a new 21st century neighbourhood for Bettws that ensures 'good growth' by balancing development with Green Infrastructure, and which positively plans for social infrastructure from the initial masterplanning stage. Proposals can work with the landscape in order to effectively integrate a new neighbourhood into both Bettws and its local context. A comprehensive approach to the site's planning; including consideration of access, open space, public transport and biodiversity will continue to evolve the proposals and the landowner is committed to working with the local authority and wider community as proposals develop.

Rogerstone

Our Client also controls land at Risca Road, Rogerstone. The site is approximately 1ha in size and broadly rectangular in shape. It is located immediately adjoining the north western extent of the settlement boundary for Rogerstone. It is a former allotment garden that was neglected and became uneconomic with the occupier serving notice to quit and vacating, leaving the site degraded in its quality. To the south the site adjoins Risca Road. To the east is housing fronting Risca Road, beyond which is further residential development.

The site occupies a highly sustainable location and residents would be well placed to benefit from easy access to existing local services as well as wider facilities through walking, cycling and public transport. The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal to the north of the site links into wider recreational and functional walking and cycling routes.

Importantly the site lies within 700m walking distance of Rogerstone Railway Station which is one of the few South Wales Metro rail connections within Newport - a focal point around which new development should be encouraged. It means that future residents of the site would be within five minutes walking/cycling distance of a transport service that links to, Cardiff, Ebbw Vale, and beyond (to Swansea, Bristol, London and the Midlands) with recent additional connections to Newport too. Furthermore, regular bus services run along Risca

Road providing links between Newport and Risca/Pontymister as well as between Newport and Blackwood.

The site is within easy walking and cycling distance of a good range of facilities. These include supermarkets at Afon Village and Pontymister/Risca, a post office, various shops, restaurants, places of worship, recreation (the Rogerstone Welfare and Afon Village community centre / Muga, Rivermead) and employment areas such as the Wern, Tregwilym and Pontymister industrial / trading estates as well as Cleppa Business Park.

Rogerstone Primary School (2200m), Jubilee Park (2000m) and Mount Pleasant Primary Schools (1500m), and Bassaleg Secondary School (2.8km) are also conveniently located to the site along with the Risca Community Comprehensive School (Pontymason Lane) (500m) which has a leisure centre alongside.

The wide array of local facilities affords an opportunity for future residents to maximise the proportion of their everyday lives within their local neighbourhood without relying upon the need for private car trips. Indeed, everyday needs can be catered for in the local neighbourhood and more strategic trips (for instance to the centre of Newport or Cardiff) can be made via the South Wales Metro system, reaching such destinations within ten to 20 minutes and reducing the need to travel by car.

It is considered an appropriate location for the provision of proportionate growth that would complement existing facilities provide more opportunities for local people to remain in the area.

Importantly it would contribute to addressing a number of the issues set out within each of the draft Objectives in particular by virtue of the fact that it would be providing homes in a sustainable location that is well linked to existing facilities and both active and public transport networks. The site presents an opportunity:

1. To provide plots for high quality self-build homes for local people helping to support the rich mix of uses and house types required. This will meet a significant need that is not currently well catered for. It will help provide homes for families for life;

<p>2. To support and enhance existing facilities and services through providing homes in an appropriate location;</p> <p>3. To provide an opportunity to focus development around the existing train station which acts as a hub where such intensification is entirely appropriate and sustainable, helping to create a move away from reliance upon the private car;</p> <p>4. To capitalise on its location in close proximity to the canal to the north and the associated recreational benefits;</p> <p>5. To increase access to other formal recreation utilising the wide range of existing facilities located nearby including the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at the Rivermead Centre, Risca Leisure Centre, Newport Golf Club and Rogerstone Welfare as well as the cricket clubs at High Cross, Whiteheads and Pontymister cricket and bowls facilities;</p> <p>6. To enhance the entrance into both Rogerstone and Newport from Caerphilly in the north. Indeed, the site can become an attractive gateway into the Authority;</p> <p>7. To adopt an approach to design that reflects the traditional local character, density and appearance; and</p> <p>8. To make appropriate use of a former allotment site to provide a betterment in terms of green infrastructure and biodiversity through enhancements on site and off site if required.</p>	
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00174/VIO/4/004 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Please refer to the attached additional information Attached Letter: In general terms we are supportive of the overall approach towards the objectives, however, we believe that particular attention is needed with regards to economic and population / community objectives. As we have stated earlier, there are significant challenges ahead and f the planning process can fulfill an important role in helping address these issues rather than constrain recovery and realignment.</p>	<p>Support noted. Economy and Employment: - We believe that the Objective as currently drafted appropriately accommodates the points raised. Further consideration will be given to more specific matters as policy development progresses. Population and Communities:</p>

We are strongly of the view that well planned urban extensions can contribute towards a range of the key objectives not just in respect of population and communities, inclusive of:

- o facilitating a variety of housing types, tenures and densities along with neighbourhood centres with mixed uses and a range of facilities.
- o providing a landscape structure that builds on existing assets, including green infrastructure within the development, linking urban areas to the countryside beyond and creating a distinctive edge to the urban area.
- o providing opportunities for people to work locally and for small businesses to set up, grow and thrive.
- o presenting an opportunity to design energy efficient communities.
- o allowing pedestrian, cycle and public transport networks to be fully integrated, often improving services available to the adjacent communities, increasing health and well-being by reducing the reliance on cars
- o supporting the surrounding communities by offering additional or improved facilities not currently available locally and by providing affordable housing for people in the care and support sectors they can ensure that the elderly can continue to live independently amongst friends and family reducing the costs of providing social and nursing care.

With regards to specific objectives:

Economy & Employment -

We are supportive of the approach towards employment land in general and the principles of the objective. However, as stated previously it is clear that economic restructuring and re-alignment will be a significant aspect of the Replacement Plan period. Flexible and innovative ways of approaching this will be required. Indeed, there has already been a shift in recent years in employment patterns and requirements, as such we would expect numerous trends to be reflected in the strategy. For example:

- o working from home is a key change with the Welsh Government seeking to achieve 30% of the workforce working from home, this has opportunities for local sustainability but also for larger centres such as Newport City Centre that will need to be considered. This will require additional local support and infrastructure to enable people to work remotely.

- The Vision and Objective as currently drafted already reflect Newport's role as a National Growth Area. The Growth and Spatial Options stage will explore in further detail the matters raised.

o there should be some recognition of non office based home working needs such as in respect of tradespersons (eg plumbers, carpenters etc) workshop and storage arrangements.

o Non B-uses ought to be considered as an important means of achieving employment requirements; and

o a significant amount of economic restructuring has already taken place over the past two years, particularly in respect of the need for more warehousing and distribution facilities associated with home deliveries, online retail and Brexit arrangements. South Wales has traditionally lost out on investment opportunities associated with such uses (given the facilities available at Severnside) however, it is considered likely that Newport will need to accommodate such uses to capitalise upon opportunities and to complement its approach to sustainability.

Population & Communities

As stated previously our Client is strongly of the view that it will be important to ensure a suitable supply of housing land is identified in order to meet needs. Indeed, it will be of utmost importance to ensure Newport establishes a level of growth that meets needs and does not exacerbate the existing supply constraints in South Wales. Rather we are of the view that a high level of growth will need to be set in order to meet the Vision and fulfil the strategic aspirations for Newport as a Gateway City to Wales. In this regard it is noted:

o given the potential impacts of Covid 19 on the economy and society, there will be a need for a highly ambitious strategy to be adopted which provides far greater flexibility to respond to the crisis through added stimulation of the construction sector; and

o account should be taken in the baseline figures of the levels of sustainability and self-containment that can be achieved through embracing working from home trends for those sectors where it is feasible. These are often the high added value jobs that are no longer tied to cities such as Bristol or Cardiff but can retain expenditure in the local area and encourage vibrant local areas including supporting Newport as a City in its own right.

o Careful identification of suitable locations for new development will have a vital role in supporting the continued regeneration of Newport as an important City Centre rather than supplementing the success of other cities.	
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Summary of Comment 00174/VIO/4/005 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Please refer to the attached additional information Attached Letter: We can confirm that our Client has secured interest from house builders and housing associations who have offered to refine development proposals for both sites should they be found suitable. However, our Client would welcome early engagement with the Council on whether they consider the sites proposed could play an important role in the delivery of sustainable communities through the replacement LDP.</p>	<p>Candidate Site assessments are occurring separately and any discussions necessary will be undertaken as part of that process.</p>

The John Family - 00169

Date Acknowledged: 25.03.2022

Date Received: 25.03.2022

00169/VIO/3/001 - Intro

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We set out herein our client's response to the Newport Local Development Plan Draft Visions, Issues and Objectives consultation paper. Our client, the John Family, owns land at Cwrt Camlas, High Cross, that has been promoted for development through the LDP. Our clients are pleased to be able to have the opportunity to feed into the early stages of the plan preparation process and hopes that our input is helpful in forming the key components of the Plan. Summarily, our client's site is 2.91 ha in size and is situated to the northwest of Junction 27 of the M4 and comprises grazing land. A master planning exercise has been undertaken with input from a perspective developer and housing association that demonstrates it can potentially</p>	<p>Noted. However, Candidate Site assessments are being carried out separately to this process, and the results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>

<p>accommodate c. 70 dwellings. Development of the site will also provide potential improvements to facilities associated with the adjoining Children's Centre given its increasing importance as a resource for the local area. To the south the site immediately adjoins the recently constructed Serennu Children's Centre and housing estate of Cwrt Camlas and is bound to the west by existing housing on Cwm Lane. The northern boundary of the site is defined by Pensarn Farm Lane, whilst the eastern boundary is defined by hedgerows separating the site from further grazing land which is also in the ownership of our clients.</p> <p>Prospective housebuilders and housing associations have fed into the submitted proposals and our clients would welcome discussions with the Council on the contribution that the site can make towards the Plan. Indeed, our client is keen to demonstrate that the site would be deliverable, viable and sustainable such that they can provide a timetable for delivery to feed into the Council's trajectory both on terms of private and affordable homes.</p> <p>Our client's response to the Issues paper is set out below and is to be considered against their overarching role which is to assist the Authority in meeting its housing needs.</p>	
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00169/VIO/3/002 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Please refer to the attached additional information Attached Letter:</p> <p>We are broadly supportive of the vision for Newport, it is a significant City that will need to play its part in the future success of Wales. Indeed, its role will be vital as the gateway City in ensuring a robust economic and social recovery as restructuring continues post Covid, Post Brexit and with the energy crisis faced. Indeed, as stated in the document Newport has some of the poorest and wealthiest communities in Wales and it is therefore appropriate that reducing inequalities is a core element of the vision.</p>	<p>Support noted. We believe the vision as currently drafted appropriately captures the points raised, recognising that sustainable development encompasses more than just housing. Housing specifically is addressed at the Objective stage where more targeted measures can be implemented to meet the various needs of Newport. Further consideration will be given to these points at the policy development stage.</p>

<p>We believe that meeting peoples housing needs and ensuring provision of affordable and sustainable new homes should be explicitly stated as part of the vision. Indeed, building new homes has always been a core element of economic recovery strategies and it can play a significant role in the future of the economy not just in terms of matching jobs to homes but also in the direct and indirect spin offs for the construction sector. Indeed, the delivery of new homes in appropriate locations through the LDP, has been a core tenet of the success of the Plan and the Council should be applauded for helping to facilitate this. These levels of growth have demonstrated that the right sites in the right locations can ensure Local Development Plans are successful. Importantly, it is recognised that completions have fallen slightly behind the level required in the LDP which emphasises the value of finding and allocating appropriate sites in the right location indeed, we believe that the success of the LDP can be replicated if this is achieved. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is clear that the planning system must "identify a supply of land to support the delivery of the housing requirement to meet the differing needs of communities across all tenures". Our clients are strongly of the view that this must form a key tenet of how the authority will look in 15 years. In addition, we believe that the Council should make a commitment to protecting residents from the potential wider impacts of macro economic problems upon society and the economy. Whilst the extent of changes is unknown it is likely that the plan will need to ensure a flexible approach to ensure the delivery of development proposals</p>	
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00169/VIO/3/003 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Please refer to the attached additional information Attached Letter: We would note that Wales as a whole is facing its most significant challenges for some considerable time and it is without question the case</p>	<p>- The challenges described are noted and will inherently influence the development of the plan. The plan will be based on this context and that forecasted for the next 15 years to cover the lifespan of the plan.</p>

that the Replacement LDP is being prepared under some of the most challenging societal and economic conditions since World War Two.

The following issues overlap a number of the main objectives and we believe that the plan must address these in a joined up and coherent strategy. Indeed, positive planning interventions are required in order to help address these issues.

Post Covid 19 recovery, energy crisis and Brexit

Under a number of the objectives reference is made to post Covid and Brexit Recovery, in addition the impacts that the energy crisis will have upon this and our communities ought to be recognised. Indeed, over recent years we have experienced exceptional circumstances that have the potential to severely and drastically impact upon the economy and society as a whole. We are strongly of the view that the planning process must play its part in helping to facilitate the economic recovery that is needed.

Plainly economic recovery must form an over-riding requirement of the plan and without question must underlie the approach to be taken.

Constraints in adjoining Authorities

We are surprised that there has been no mention of the significant housing supply constraints in adjoining Authorities. Newport has not just been dealing with its own needs in recent years and accordingly needs to consider the offsets from new homes not being provided in its neighbouring authorities. Whilst housing land supply requirements were formally abandoned by the Welsh Government it does not change the record of poor delivery elsewhere and it follows logically that where needs aren't met within an Authority they will need to be accommodated somewhere. Whilst this is an unsatisfactory and unsustainable position there is unlikely to be any change in this in the short term. Indeed:

- Torfaen & Caerphilly - as of April 2021 there was a cumulative shortfall across the two Authorities of over 4,000 dwellings from the levels envisaged within their respective Local Development Plans. This represents that number of households that could not be provided in those

- Many of the other points raised will be explored in further detail as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage to come.

- Candidate Site assessments are occurring separately from this process. The outcome of those assessments will be published at a later stage in the process.

respective Authorities. This is a shortfall of national significance that has a profound effect on house prices across the region.

- Monmouthshire - representations made by the Welsh Government on the Monmouthshire LDP would have meant that further new housing allocations would not be needed in Monmouthshire. Given the additional constraints in Monmouthshire, including Phosphates, it is likely that demand will be displaced from Monmouthshire to adjoining Authorities. Plainly, policy and supply constraints in adjoining Authorities will have a significant impact upon Newport Council in respect of the housing market and affordability issues. This is a challenge that the LDP will need to consider how it responds to.

Meeting needs

It will be of utmost importance to ensure Newport establishes a level of growth that meets needs and does not exacerbate the existing supply constraints in South Wales, taking into consideration the shortfalls in adjoining Authorities alongside Newport's own needs. Rather we are of the view that a high level of growth will need to be set in order to meet the Vision and fulfil the strategic aspirations for Newport as a Gateway City to Wales. In this regard it is noted:

- o Given the potential impacts of Covid 19 on the economy and society, there will be a need to adopt for a highly ambitious strategy which provides far greater flexibility to respond to the crisis through added stimulation of the construction sector;
- o Account should be taken in the baseline figures of the levels of sustainability and self containment that can be achieved through embracing working from home trends for those sectors where it is feasible. These are often the high added value jobs that are no longer tied to cities such as Bristol or Cardiff but can retain expenditure in the local area and encourage vibrant local areas;
- o Any requirement should ensure an appropriate level of flexibility for delivery indeed, it may be that a 20% flexibility allowance or greater provides an appropriate starting point; and

o It is likely that in addition to the flexibility allowance, a "non implementation" allowance of the land bank will also need to be applied. We will comment on this further when detailed information becomes available.

Addressing affordability

The Council's result in nearly achieving its affordable housing target for 2015-2020 is to be welcomed. However, the Council recognise that this is only a small proportion of the actual level of need. The latest Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) indicates that "as of the 31st March 2017 there were 6,838 households with active applications on the housing waiting list. In order to clear this backlog during the 5 year life of this LHMA we would need to allocate 1,368 units of accommodation each year". The final stated annual shortfall is 559 per annum which equates to 2,795 over the 5 year period. This is plainly a significant issue within the Authority which has no doubt been exacerbated by price increases that have been caused due to shortages of housing supply outside of the County.

Our clients are of the view that the replacement LDP provides an opportunity to seek to address affordability in a meaningful and substantive way.

Sustainable growth locations

It is inevitably the case that the supply of brownfield sites in Newport for redevelopment for residential purposes is limited. As such, the Council will need to consider sustainable and appropriate greenfield locations based around existing communities. In reality this is likely to focus on the western and north western parts of the County extents associated with existing built form and communities. Indeed, we are of the view that the LDP must not neglect the requirements of these existing communities in favour of more remote areas on the Eastern side of the City that would be more aligned to commuting patterns along the M4.

It is anticipated that such focal points for proportionate growth include a number of existing communities where there are a number of local facilities that can provide an opportunity to maximise levels of self-containment and sustainability. Indeed, proportionate growth can help to

reinforce existing levels of sustainability but also seek to provide additional facilities and uses that can move to a greater level of neighbourhood and community well-being. In this regard, our clients consider that High Cross is a suitable location for proportionate sustainable growth.

High Cross

It is considered that High Cross is a sustainable location for proportionate growth but there are very limited opportunities for such development with the exception of our client's site.

Indeed, their site is immediately adjacent to the recently constructed Serennu Children's Centre and housing estate of Cwrt Camlas which laid access points into their land when it was constructed in anticipation that it forms a logical follow on.

The site occupies a sustainable location which is considered appropriate for residential development. The following services are available within the settlement, within walking distance of the site:

- o Mini Market providing groceries, newsagent, a post-box and an off-licence - 160m;
- o High Cross Primary School - 400m;
- o Co-Operative Food Store - 500m;
- o Texaco Garage - 500m;
- o Athletics club - 500m;
- o The Rising Sun Hotel and Restaurant- 550m;
- o Hair salon - 600m; and
- o Veterinary clinic - 600m.

A greater number of services are available at nearby Local Centres. Greenfield Road is 1.1km from the site and offers a convenience store, takeaway food outlets and beauty services. Thornbury Park is 1.5km from the site and offers a post office and takeaway food outlets.

In terms of education, High Cross Primary School is located within 400m walking distance of the site and Bassaleg Comprehensive School is situated 2.4km south of the subject site. In terms of Welsh-medium education, Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael and Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed offer primary education 5.1km away and secondary education 5.7km away, respectively.

The Serennau Children's Centre is located less than 100m from the site and provides activities and leisure uses for its users. Associated infrastructure includes a Multi-Use Games Area and two play parks. The site is provided by the National Health Service, a public body, thus it is assumed that this area is available for public use.

Saint Anne's Church Hall is 850m from the site and provides a communal space frequently used for leisure, health and fitness purposes (pre Covid-19). The Hall acts somewhat like a hub for community purposes, hosting a variety of fitness classes, group meetings and events.

An Athletic Club is 550m from the site and provides a sports and social club with cricket and rugby pitches. West of this, lies a large parcel of managed grassland with formal access points located at High Cross Road (270m from the site), Tudor Crescent, Ty-Du View and High Cross Drive. With informal paths passing through the site in many directions, this open space appears to be used both socially and leisurely for active uses by local residents. West of this lies a number of allotments (600m from the site) which are available to let from between £2.55 and £10.20 per annum.

The Fourteen Locks Canal Centre is located just 220m north-west of the site, and a Public Right of Way runs parallel to the Canal. This includes a shared cycle/foot path and bridleway, demonstrating that this space may be used both leisurely and socially by local residents.

Four bus stops are located within 550m of the site along High Cross Road, offering access to routes 56 and R1. Bus route 56 operates between Newport and Tredegar, providing 14 weekday services in each direction. Bus route R1 operates between Newport and Risca, providing 11 weekday services in each direction. It takes approximately 15 minutes to reach Newport Bus Station via either of these routes, whereby a greater number of bus services offer access to a wider vicinity, including Cardiff, Chepstow and Monmouth.

The nearest rail station is located at Pye Corner, 1.3km walking distance south of the subject site. The station is located along the South

Wales Valleys Line, which serves a number of routes surrounding Cardiff and the Valleys. More specifically, Pye Corner is situated on the Ebbw Vale Town - Treherbert line which travels via Cardiff Central. Westbound, this service operates between 07:13 and 23:17 providing 17 weekday services and eastbound this service operates between 06:16 and 21:33 providing 16 weekday services. The South Wales Valleys Line serves a greater number of local destinations, albeit these routes may require some changes.

In close proximity to the site, an established shared foot/cycle path runs parallel to the canal north of the site, serving National Cycle Route 47. This is a national route which extends from Fishguard to Newport. Considering the more local context, the Route passes between Risca and Brynglas, and offers opportunities to connect with a number of other Existing Route which serve the wider active travel network.

The wide array of local facilities afford an opportunity for future residents to maximise the proportion of their everyday lives within their local neighbourhood without relying upon the need for private car trips. It is considered an appropriate location for the provision of proportionate growth that would complement existing facilities will provide more opportunities for local people to remain in the area. Importantly it would contribute to addressing a number of the issues set out within each of the draft Objectives in particular by virtue of the fact that it would be providing homes in a sustainable location that it is well linked to existing facilities and both active and public transport networks. It will:

1. Provide a modest scale of development for local people along with much needed affordable housing;
2. Support and enhance existing facilities and services through providing homes in an appropriate location;
3. Provide an opportunity to focus development in a sustainable location that is well served by public transport and within easy reach of a wide range of facilities, helping to create a move away from reliance upon the private car;

<p>4. Capitalise on its location in close proximity to the canal to the north and the recreational benefits associated. The site's location, in proximity to a number of walkable local services, alongside proximity to Fourteen Locks, presents an opportunity to develop a residential scheme with an array of leisure and recreational offerings available within walking distance.</p> <p>6. Provide enhanced facilities for the Children's centre in particular providing additional storage area and overspill car parking. It is noted that many of the users (parents and children along with specialist Doctors and Care Givers) cannot use public transport for various reasons and are reliant upon travelling to the Centre by car;</p> <p>7. Adopt an approach to design that reflects the traditional local character, density and appearance; and</p> <p>8. Make an appropriate use of a site that can be accommodated without harm to landscape or biodiversity but rather can formulate a strategy to help improve both. The illustrative masterplan includes landscape enhancements through a countryside green edge to the east and a vegetated buffer to the north. This will prevent impact on the existing uses and landscape features identified to the north of the site. Further, the parcel of land to the east of the site is demonstrated as benefitting from strategic woodland planting of native woodland and flowering fruit trees. Collectively, these enhancements seek to enhance the existing features of the natural landscape.</p>	
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00169/VIO/3/004 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Please refer to the attached additional information Attached Letter: In general terms we are supportive of the overall approach towards the objectives, however, we believe that particular attention is needed with regards to economic and population / community objectives. As we have stated earlier, there are significant challenges ahead and it</p>	<p>Support noted. Economy and Employment: - We believe that the Objective as currently drafted appropriately accommodates the points raised. Further consideration will be given to more specific matters as policy development progresses. Population and Communities:</p>

must be the role of the planning process to help address these issues rather than constrain recovery and realignment.

With regards to specific objectives:

Economy & Employment -

We are supportive of the approach towards employment land in general and the principles of the objective. However, as stated previously it is clear that economic restructuring and re-alignment will be a significant aspect of the replacement plan period. Flexible and innovative ways of approaching this will be required. Indeed, there has already been a shift in recent years in employment patterns and requirements, as such we would expect numerous trends to be reflected in the strategy. For example:

- o working from home is a key change with the Welsh Government seeking to achieve 30% of the workforce working from home, this has opportunities for local sustainability but also for larger centres such as Newport City Centre that will need to be considered;
- o there should be some recognition of non office based home working needs such as in respect of tradespersons (eg plumbers, carpenters etc) storage arrangements;
- o Non B-uses ought to be considered as an important means of achieving employment requirements; and
- o a significant amount of economic restructuring has already taken place over the past two years, particularly in respect of the need for more warehousing and distribution facilities associated with home deliveries, online retail and Brexit arrangements. South Wales has traditionally lost out on investment opportunities associated with such uses (given the facilities available at Severnside) however, it is considered likely that Newport will need to accommodate such uses to capitalise upon opportunities and to complement its approach to sustainability.

Population & Communities

As stated previously our clients are strongly of the view that it will be important to ensure a suitable supply of housing land is identified in order to meet needs. Indeed, It will be of utmost importance to ensure Newport establishes a level of growth that meets needs and does not

- The Vision and Objective as currently drafted already reflect Newport's role as a National Growth Area. The Growth and Spatial Options stage will explore in further detail the matters raised.

<p>exacerbate the existing supply constraints in South Wales. Rather we are of the view that a high level of growth will need to be set in order to meet the Vision and fulfil the strategic aspirations for Newport as a Gateway City to Wales. In this regard it is noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o given the potential impacts of Covid 19 on the economy and society, there will be a need for a highly ambitious strategy to be adopted which provides far greater flexibility to respond to the crisis through added stimulation of the construction sector; and o account should be taken in the baseline figures of the levels of sustainability and self-containment that can be achieved through embracing working from home trends for those sectors where it is feasible. These are often the high added value jobs that are no longer tied to cities such as Bristol or Cardiff but can retain expenditure in the local area and encourage vibrant local areas. 	
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00169/VIO/3/005 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Please refer to the attached additional information Attached Letter: It is noted that our client is currently in the process of liaising with house builders and housing associations in respect of refining development proposals. However, they would welcome early engagement with the Council on the role that the site could play in the delivery of sustainable communities through the replacement LDP.</p>	<p>Candidate Site assessments are occurring separately and any discussions necessary will be undertaken as part of that process.</p>

Barratt David Wilson Homes - 00655

Date Acknowledged: 25.03.2022

Date Received: 25.03.2022

00655/VIO/2/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
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<p>The LDP Vision should clearly set out what it is trying to achieve over the Plan period and should set a positive aspirational tone, whilst also addressing the specific local needs and challenges for the area.</p> <p>BDW generally agree with the Draft Vision for Newport. It is encouraging that it sets objectives for becoming a strategically significant and economically thriving city which will contribute towards the national growth of Wales. However, BDW considers that the Vision could go further in terms of being more ambitious given Newport's important status within Future Wales' South East Growth Area. Policy 33 of Future Wales sets out that Newport (together with Cardiff and the Valleys) will be the main focus for growth and investment in the South East region, and Strategic and Local Development Plans should recognise the National Growth Area as the focus for strategic economic and housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure.</p> <p>BDW consider that the Vision should properly recognise the important role new housing has to play in supporting employment growth and in particular the South East Wales Growth Area identified in Future Wales. Greater emphasis should be placed on the role that new housing development will have in terms of achieving this growth.</p>	<p>Support noted. We believe the vision as currently drafted appropriately captures the points raised, recognising that sustainable development encompasses more than just housing. Housing specifically is addressed at the Objective level where more targeted measures can be implemented to meet the needs of Newport. Further consideration will be given to these points at the policy development stage.</p>
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00655/VIO/2/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>BDW generally agree with the range and nature of issues that have been identified as important for the RLDP to address, to ensure that Newport realises its potential for sustainable growth, in line with the aspirations of Future Wales.</p> <p>It is considered that a number of related issues could be addressed through the sustainable release of suitable, accessible greenfield land for development, where it is free from technical constraints and where it adjoins existing settlement boundaries, which would represent the most suitable location for urban expansion. Such sites could make a meaningful contribution to meeting the identified housing need and provide</p>	<p>Support noted. These matters will be explored further as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage, and subsequently considered as part of the policy development stage.</p>

<p>open space and other benefits for the development and the wider community. The RLDP process will also provide an appropriate opportunity to review development viability, particularly in respect of new policies introduced by Welsh Government, such as Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs), Green Infrastructure, Climate Change and Placemaking requirements. Appropriate mechanisms should be put in place so that such policy requirements will not render development unviable and undeliverable, given the need for growth.</p>	
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00655/VIO/2/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>BDW consider that the draft objectives are generally compatible with the cross-cutting themes of the National Well Being Goals and the Key Planning Principles and National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes from Planning Policy Wales. However, it is considered that there is scope to develop and enhance some of the objectives further in the RLDP, as outlined below.</p> <p>Economy and Employment Objective: Provide for Newport's economic growth by offering a diverse range and choice of new and improved employment opportunities, which are adaptive to change and meet the needs of Newport and beyond, supporting a strong skilled and resilient workforce.</p> <p>BDW support this objective together with the acknowledgement in the supporting text that Future Wales identifies Newport as a National Growth Area, and notes that Welsh Government supports Newport as the focus for regional growth and investment and wants to see the City play an increased strategic role in the South East Wales Region.</p> <p>BDW agree that Newport's economy is of national importance, playing a significant role within South East Wales, as an accessible and affordable location supported by national infrastructure. It also plays a key role as part the Cardiff Capital Region and the Western Gateway.</p> <p>It is very positive that the latest AMR shows job growth has increased throughout the monitoring period and is above the LDP target set for</p>	<p>- Support noted.</p> <p>- It is recognised that there is an inherent link between housing and employment growth. Growth levels for the RLDP will be considered in detail as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage.</p> <p>- The Economy and Employment Objective in its current form is considered to appropriately recognise the flexibility required to adapt to change and meet the needs of Newport, including work patterns.</p>

this period (2015-2021) and following recent economic investments, Newport will continue to enhance its identified roles and contributions to both local and larger economies.

Alongside planning for increased economic growth, it will be of vital importance to plan for major new housing development to support employment development, and to retain and attract a skilled workforce. BDW consider that Newport should accommodate very ambitious growth levels, given its allocation within a National Growth Area, in order to effectively contribute to the economy and support Wales's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

BDW also consider that the RLDP should promote the continuation of working remotely or from home, in line with the Welsh Government's objective. This has an important role to play in terms of supporting a strong, skilled and resilient workforce alongside numerous sustainability benefits.

Population and Communities

Objective: To provide high-quality homes that meet the needs of Newport, as a national growth area, and to ensure that these homes are supported by the necessary social, environmental, cultural and physical infrastructure to provide safe and healthy places for people that maintain and enhance community and settlement identities.

BDW fully support this objective and the acknowledgement that Future Wales identifies Newport as a National Growth Area. BDW consider it is essential that high-quality homes are provided in sustainable locations to meet the growing needs of Newport.

It is significant that since 2014, Newport's population growth rate has been the highest in Wales, more than double the national rate, and that population growth in Newport is predicted to continue to increase; and with it requirements for homes, jobs, facilities and infrastructure.

BDW is also aware that Newport was recently identified as having the biggest rise in the value of homes of any local authority area in the UK.

Over the past five years, house prices in the city have increased by an average of 49.9 per cent, which is 26.4 per cent above the UK's

average increase.

Noting the above points, together with Newport's location with an identified National Growth Area, BDW consider that Newport should be seeking to achieve a higher rate of housing delivery, as it has reached in recent years, in order to achieve the necessary growth and ease the pressures within the local housing market.

BDW note the acknowledgment in the supporting text to this objective that the current LDP, which sets out a brownfield-led growth strategy, has been successful and has delivered 94% of its total housing development on brownfield land. It is significant to note that there is now a limited supply of brownfield sites that are available, suitable and viable for residential development. The Council can no longer rely on brownfield sites alone to meet the housing needs and growth aspirations of Newport over the RLDP period. It is vital, therefore, that the RLDP allocates a sufficient supply of greenfield sites to meet housing needs and that these sites are planned properly through the RLDP process to ensure they deliver a mix of housing types, tenures and sizes, supported by necessary social, physical and environmental infrastructure, to fully realise this objective.

Health and Well-being

Objective: To improve health and well-being through the creation of well-connected, accessible, healthy and active places, tackling health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth.

BDW support this objective and agree with the statement in the supporting text that the Covid-19 pandemic has illustrated the huge importance of the quality and accessibility of open and green spaces for people's physical and mental health and well-being. It is noted that some areas of Newport are in excess of the required formal and informal spaces in those areas, but some areas are deficient and the authority has an overall shortfall of 21 ha.

BDW consider that new housing development has a key role to play in providing accessible open space and integrated green infrastructure

for the benefit of the wider community, which will provide necessary opportunities for residents to interact and appreciate nature to improve well-being.

It should also be recognised that new development can improve the sustainability of an existing settlement through financial contributions and incentives associated with the development, along with effective Travel Planning that promote more sustainable modes of travelling, reducing overall carbon emissions.

BDW also consider it important that the RLDP should promote remote working/ working from home in line with the Welsh Government's objective. It should be recognised in the RLDP that the pandemic changed the way we live, work, travel and socialise. Many people have worked away from the office during lockdown and organisations should now be supported to facilitate a long-term shift to more people working remotely. The numerous health and well-being benefits of remote working are notable, and for local economies, businesses, individuals and the environment, these include:

- o a reduction in travel time and expense
- o more flexibility and better work life balance
- o increased productivity
- o less traffic, especially at peak times
- o less air and noise pollution
- o the opportunity to redesign our towns and city centres

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

Objective: To create quality positive places where development realises the multiple benefits from the creation of inclusive, connected, adaptable and accessible communities that are cohesive and where Newport's culture, including the Welsh language, is valued and promoted.

BDW support this objective and the promotion of placemaking in planning and design as noted in the supporting text. It is important to create places where people want to live and spend time and BDW agree that the availability and accessibility of day-to-day facilities and

employment opportunities contributes to the quality of a place. This is important in terms of addressing inequality, health and well-being. The allocation of appropriate sites for development, which enable these objectives to be met, should be considered accordingly through the RLDP process.

It is noted in the supporting text that there is an outstanding need for affordable housing to be met in Newport. BDW consider that the release of appropriate greenfield sites for residential development will have a key role to play in the delivery of much-needed affordable housing subject to viability considerations.

Transport and Movement

Objective: Reduce the need to travel and increase the use and provision of sustainable travel options

BDW support this objective along with the acknowledgment in the supporting text that limits to the brownfield supply of land will mean that development of greenfield sites will need to be considered as part of the RLDP, and the most sustainable travel options will need to be delivered.

BDW consider that sites should be allocated for development where they are accessible in terms of walking, cycling and public transport, and that developments should create a permeable network of streets to facilitate this.

As noted previously, a key part of reducing the need to travel is the promotion and facilitation of remote working, in line with the Welsh

Government's objective for increasing the percentage of people working from home.

Specific reference should be made to this, given the numerous benefits of working from home that were realised during the pandemic in terms of traffic reduction, air quality, health and wellbeing.

Natural Resources

Objective: Sustainably manage the natural resources in Newport to meet the needs of present and future communities, by ensuring resource efficiency, improved health outcomes, and the creation of a successful circular economy and green growth.

BDW note the importance of sustainably managing natural resources and setting planning objectives to achieve this. In relation to agricultural land, it is noted in the supporting text to this objective that there are important choices to be made in the RLDP process as to how to use this land sustainably.

The choice to use previously developed sites for new development is the basis of the current LDP strategy for Newport and this has been very successfully implemented. As such, the supply of brownfield sites is now very limited and there is a need for greenfield land to be released to meet the pressing need for new homes, which should outweigh concerns relating to the loss of some agricultural land.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Objective: To maintain, enhance and improve the biodiversity and geodiversity of Newport and its surrounds, including improved resilience, diversity, connectivity and adaptability, whilst ensuring net benefits are facilitated from development

BDW supports this objective and considers that new housing development sites will have a key role to play in terms of creating opportunities to enhance existing and establish new green infrastructure corridors to improve connectivity, particularly within urban areas.

Landscape

Objective: To protect and enhance the quality and character of Newport's landscape, townscape and seascape, and maximise the opportunities these features offer.

BDW supports this objective and agrees with the supporting text where it states that the location, scale and design of any proposed development should be required to take account of its landscape setting as appropriate. It should also be reiterated in this section that the supply of brownfield sites in Newport is now very limited and there is general acceptance of the need for greenfield land to be released to meet the pressing need for new homes. BDW consider that current urban and village boundaries should therefore be extended, where

appropriate, particularly where this would avoid the need to develop other land within designated areas (e.g. green wedges, green belt, SLAs) and would avoid coalescence with other urban areas. Through the use of good design principles, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping, sensitive development could be planned for such locations.

Climate Change

Objective: To ensure that development and land uses in Newport are resilient to the effects of climate change, and actively tackle the causes

and impacts of climate change through minimisation, adaptation and mitigation

BDW is supportive of this objective and is committed to tackling the causes and impacts of climate change, being the first national

housebuilder to announce major new targets to reduce carbon emissions.

BDW note that the Council has declared a Climate and Ecology Emergency, following the Welsh Government's declaration of a climate

emergency, and the setting of net zero emissions targets for 2050. The priority in dealing with climate change is to reduce the consumption

of energy and resources.

In this regard, it is important to note that new housing development promoted through the RLDP will be built to Part L 2025 which means the

new homes will produce at least 75% less CO₂ emissions compared to 2014 standards.

New homes have a crucial role in decarbonising

housing and paving the way for the adoption of new technologies that can then be introduced into existing buildings.

BDW consider it will be important for new housing sites to be located outside Air Quality Management zones.

SuDS also supports development resilience to climate change, reducing the risk of localised surface water flooding, and will be required for

major development proposals going forwards.

TATA Steel Ltd - 00170

Date Acknowledged: 25.03.2022

Date Received: 25.03.2022

00170/VIO/4/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Tata agrees that Newport is a strategically significant City and welcomes recognition within the draft vision that it can contribute towards the national growth of Wales. This represents an important and positive benchmark from which to set an overarching vision for what the LDP will seek to achieve over the plan period.</p> <p>To fulfil this aspiration, and the contribution Newport can make to the national growth of Wales, Tata agrees that Newport should be an economically thriving City, which supports/attracts business and industry at all scales. An aspiration to attract businesses/industries that focuses on sustainable, innovative and technologically leading practices is positive. The LDP must, however, support a broad range and choice of employment opportunities across the plan period.</p> <p>Tata supports the aspiration to sustainably manage Newport's natural resources. An important part of this will be maximising opportunities to re-use brownfield land, alongside appropriate greenfield development.</p>	<p>Support noted. We are satisfied that the vision in its current drafting appropriately caters for the broad range and choice of employment opportunities required across the plan period.</p>

00170/VIO/4/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Please see response relating to the draft objectives below.</p>	<p>See Objectives response.</p>

00170/VIO/4/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>It is noted that the draft objectives are based around ten key themes, which will be the focus for the evidence base and policy development.</p> <p>The objectives will clearly be refined as the plan progresses and further comments will be submitted on behalf of Tata (as required) at later stages of the plan.</p> <p>Economy and Employment</p> <p>Tata strongly supports the identification of a specific objective relating to the 'economy and employment'. It welcomes recognition that in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support noted. - National Planning Policy is clear on the need to prioritise brownfield sites first. - Further consideration will be given as to whether site specific policies may be appropriate for inclusion in the RLDP. - The Council are supportive of working closely with relevant stakeholders to discuss specific topics/issues that the RLDP needs to address.

order to provide for Newport's economic growth, the plan must enable a 'diverse range and choice of new and improved employment opportunities'. Tata also supports the acknowledgment that employment opportunities should be 'adaptive to change' and flexible to meet the needs of Newport and wider areas.

The consultation document rightly recognises that the Newport economy is of national importance, but also plays a key role in the regional economy (as part of the Cardiff Capital Region and the Western Gateway). Providing for the right amount and type of employment opportunities, and in appropriate locations, will be fundamental to fulfilling this important local, regional and national role. The preparation of a robust evidence base will be an important part of informing decisions around this objective.

Whilst there is likely to be a need for greenfield sites to come forward for employment development, the important role that existing brownfield sites can play must also be recognised in the plan. Such sites have potential to deliver significant new economic development over the plan period. Where appropriate specific sites (i.e. opportunities of significant scale/potential), should be recognised and supported via specific policies within the LDP. This will provide greater certainty and help realise the strategic economic growth and investment potential of such sites.

Supporting infrastructure is important to delivering new and improved employment opportunities. Accessibility (in all forms) will be critical, particularly for Newport to fulfil its potential as an integral part of the economic growth of the City Region and wider Western Gateway. This point is returned to below.

It is important that all stakeholders work together to ensure that existing infrastructure is maximised and where necessary, new/improved infrastructure is in place to deliver the aspirations for economic growth. This includes the delivery of new rail infrastructure (including a new station to serve the east of the City at Llanwern) and ensuring sufficient links are in place for the road network to continue to operate safely

- Policy 16 of Future Wales notes that the implementation of district heat networks is necessary unless demonstrated to be unfeasible.

and efficiently.

Transport and Movement

Tata welcomes the inclusion of a specific objective relating to 'transport and movement'. This will be integral to delivering other objectives within the plan, including those relating to the economy/employment. Whilst we welcome the aspiration to reduce the overall need to travel and increase the use/provision of sustainable travel options, there also needs to be sufficient investment in new/improved infrastructure to ensure that the whole network can support economic growth aspirations. The consultation document recognises that there are known capacity issues within/surrounding Newport. Given the decision to not progress the M4 relief road, it is important that all stakeholders work together to ensure the accessibility issues are addressed. To do so will require a collaborative approach, with Welsh Government and key stakeholders working together to deliver improvements to existing infrastructure, pedestrian, cycle and public transport, but also ensuring that the road network (including connections to the M4 and across the City) is sufficient to support Newport's existing and future businesses (and the role they play in the local, regional and national economy). Continued improvements to the rail infrastructure are supported, including proposals for a new station to serve the east of Newport at Llanwern. Opportunities to maximise the role of moving freight via rail should also be recognised and considered as part of future land use choices having regard to opportunities around the Tata land holdings.

Natural Resources

As part of an objective to 'sustainably manage the natural resources in Newport', it is important to recognise the need to maximise opportunities for brownfield development/redevelopment. This should include realising opportunities for economic development within/around existing employment sites.

Climate Change

The supporting text notes that Future Wales identifies the potential to establish a district heat network within Newport. The consultation

<p>document states that large developments will continue to be required to investigate opportunities to deliver district heat networks. It is important that the emerging LDP reflects that Future Wales acknowledges that feasibility should be considered when determining whether a heat network is an appropriate solution. This is important to ensure sufficient flexibility is allowed and future opportunities for viable economic development are not unnecessarily impeded.</p>	
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Bronafon Housing Association - 00706

Date Acknowledged: 25.03.2022

Date Received: 25.03.2022

00706/VIO/1/005 - Intro

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We set out herein our client's response to the Newport Local Development Plan Draft Visions, Issues and Objectives consultation paper. Our client, Bron Afon, have an interest (or are in the process of establishing an interest) in a number of sites of various scales across Newport that they believe have the ability to provide sustainable and viable opportunities for meeting needs within the Authority.</p> <p>It is noted that Bron Afon are a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) that have historically operated within Torfaen but in line with recent changes to the scope of RSLs in Wales, are looking to help meet local housing needs in adjoining Authorities. They control over 8,000 properties within Torfaen County Borough and have aspirations to deliver approximately 100 to 150 new dwellings per annum over the next five years, across a range of Authorities, inclusive of both social and private sales. In this regard, they are well placed to help Newport deliver a sustainable and affordable supply of homes over the course of the period of the Replacement Plan.</p> <p>Our clients are pleased to have the opportunity to feed into the early stages of the plan preparation process and hope that their input is</p>	<p>Noted. However, Candidate Site assessments are being carried out separately to this process, and the results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>

<p>helpful in forming the key components of the Plan. Currently, our clients have an interest in a site at Castleton (Bakery Lane) that was submitted as a candidate site, but are also at the early stages of liaising with other landowners that have submitted sites previously at Bettws, Rogerstone and Bassaleg. They are also in discussions regarding another site at Castleton with a view that they would contribute towards the delivery of the social housing element along with potential provision of private sales housing through their private sales arm which is in the process of being finalised.</p> <p>The sites above are at varying stages in preparation of evidence but our clients would welcome discussions with the Council on each of the sites and the work that has been undertaken and would be required. Indeed, our clients would be keen to demonstrate the sites that they are working on would be deliverable, viable and sustainable such that they can provide a timetable for delivery to feed into the Council's trajectory both on terms of private and affordable homes.</p> <p>Accordingly, our client's response to the Preferred Strategy is set out below and is to be considered against their overarching role which is to assist the Authority in meeting its housing needs.</p>	
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00706/VIO/1/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Please refer to the attached additional information</p> <p>Attached Information:</p> <p>We are broadly supportive of the vision for Newport, it is a significant City that will need to play its part in the future success of Wales.</p> <p>Indeed, its role will be vital as the gateway City in ensuring a robust economic and social recovery as restructuring continues post Covid, Brexit and as with the energy crisis faced. Indeed, as stated in the document, Newport has some of the poorest and wealthiest communities in Wales and it is therefore appropriate that reducing inequalities is a core element of the vision.</p>	<p>Support noted. We believe the vision as currently drafted appropriately captures the points raised, recognising that sustainable development encompasses more than just housing. Housing specifically is addressed at the Objective stage where more targeted measures can be implemented to meet the various needs of Newport. Further consideration will be given to these points at the policy development stage.</p>

<p>We believe that meeting peoples housing needs and ensuring provision of affordable and sustainable new homes should be explicitly stated as part of the vision. Indeed, building new homes has always been a core element of economic recovery strategies and it can play a significant role in the future of the economy not just in terms of matching jobs to homes but also in the direct and indirect spin offs for the construction sector. Indeed, the delivery of new homes through the LDP, in appropriate locations, has been a core tenet of the success of the Plan and the Council should be applauded for helping to facilitate this. These levels of growth have demonstrated that the right sites in the right locations can ensure LDPs have success. Importantly, it is recognised that completions have fallen slightly behind the level required in the LDP which emphasises the importance of finding and allocating appropriate sites in the right location. Indeed, we believe that the success of the LDP can be replicated if this is achieved.</p> <p>Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is clear that the planning system must "identify a supply of land to support the delivery of the housing requirement to meet the differing needs of communities across all tenures". Our clients are strongly of the view that this must form a key tenet of how the authority will look in 15 years. In addition, we believe that the Council should make a commitment to protecting residents from the potential wider impacts of macro economic problems upon society and the economy. Whilst the extent of changes is unknown it is likely that the plan will need to ensure a flexible approach to ensure the delivery of development proposals.</p>	
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00706/VIO/1/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Please refer to the attached additional information Attached Information: We would note that Wales as a whole is facing its most significant challenges for some considerable time. It is without question the case that</p>	<p>- The challenges and opportunities described are noted and will inherently influence the development of the plan. The plan will be based on this context and that forecasted for the next 15 years to cover the lifespan of the plan.</p>

the Replacement LDP is being prepared under some of the most challenging societal and economic conditions since World War Two.

The following issues overlap a number of the main objectives that the plan must address in a joined up and coherent strategy. Indeed, positive planning interventions are required in order to help address these issues.

Post Covid 19 recovery, energy crisis and Brexit

It is noted that under a number of the objectives reference is made to post Covid and Brexit Recovery, in addition the impacts that the energy crisis will have upon this and our communities ought to be recognised. Indeed, over recent years we have experienced exceptional circumstances that have the potential to severely and drastically impact upon the economy and society as a whole. We are strongly of the view that the planning process must play its part in helping to facilitate the economic recovery that is needed. Plainly economic recovery must form an over-riding requirement of the plan and without question must underlie the approach to be taken.

Constraints in adjoining Authorities

We are surprised that there has been no mention of the significant housing supply constraints in adjoining Authorities. Newport has not just been dealing with its own needs in recent years and accordingly needs to consider the offsets from new homes not being provided in its neighbouring authorities. Whilst housing land supply requirements were formally abandoned by the Welsh Government it does not change the record of poor delivery elsewhere and it follows logically that where needs aren't met within an Authority they will need to be accommodated somewhere. Whilst this is an unsatisfactory and unsustainable position there is unlikely to be any change in this in the short term. Indeed:

- Torfaen & Caerphilly - as of April 2021 there was a cumulative shortfall across the two Authorities of over 4,000 dwellings from the levels envisaged within their respective Local Development Plans. This represents a significant number of households that could not be provided in

- Many of the other points raised will be explored in further detail as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage to come.

- Candidate Site assessments are occurring separately from this process. The outcome of those assessments will be published at a later stage in the process.

those respective Authorities. This is a shortfall of national significance that has a profound effect on house prices and patterns of sustainability across the region.

- Monmouthshire - representations made by the Welsh Government on the Monmouthshire LDP would mean that further new housing allocations would not be needed in Monmouthshire. Given the additional constraints in Monmouthshire, including Phosphates, it is inevitable that homes will be required as a result of the overarching Welsh Government approach. New homes will be required to serve the residents of Monmouthshire including farm workers and key workers as they will be further priced out of their local areas.

Plainly, policy and supply constraints in adjoining Authorities will have a significant impact upon Newport Council in respect of the housing market and affordability issues. This is a challenge that the LDP will need to consider how it responds to.

Meeting needs

It will be of utmost importance to ensure Newport establishes a level of growth that meets needs and does not exacerbate the existing supply constraints in South Wales, taking into consideration the shortfalls in adjoining Authorities alongside Newport's own needs. Rather we are of the view that a high level of growth will need to be set in order to meet the Vision and fulfil the strategic aspirations for Newport as a Gateway City to Wales. In this regard it is noted:

- o Given the potential impacts of Covid 19 on the economy and society, there will be a need to adopt a highly ambitious strategy which provides far greater flexibility to respond to the crisis through added stimulation of the construction sector which in turn will have numerous associated benefits;
- o Account should be taken in the baseline figures of the levels of sustainability and self-containment that can be achieved through embracing working from home trends for those sectors where it is feasible. These are often the high added value jobs that are no longer tied

to cities such as Bristol or Cardiff but can retain expenditure in the local area and encourage vibrant local areas;

- o Any requirement should ensure an appropriate level of flexibility for delivery indeed, it may be that a 20% flexibility allowance or greater provides an appropriate starting point; and
- o It is likely that in addition to the flexibility allowance, a "non implementation" allowance of the land bank will also need to be applied. We will comment on this further when detailed information becomes available.

Addressing affordability

The Council's result in nearly achieving its affordable housing target for 2015-2020 is to be welcomed. However, the Council recognise that this is only a small proportion of the actual level of need. The latest Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) indicates that "as of the 31st March 2017 there were 6,838 households with active applications on the housing waiting list. In order to clear this backlog during the 5 year life of this LHMA we would need to allocate 1,368 units of accommodation each year". The final stated annual shortfall is 559 per annum which equates to 2,795 over the 5 year period. This is plainly a significant issue within the Authority which has no doubt been exacerbated by price increases that have been caused due to shortages of housing supply outside of the County.

Our clients, an RSL that is only just starting to work in Newport, recognise the contribution that they can make and would welcome working with the Authority in order to explore new and innovative ways of delivering affordable homes during the course of the plan period. Indeed, the replacement LDP provides an opportunity to seek to address affordability in a meaningful and substantive way.

Sustainable urban extensions

Our clients are of the view that it will be important to consider all scales of potential development from minor rounding off of settlements and infill to sustainable urban extensions. Indeed, the Welsh Government's guidance, "Building Better Places" actively seeks to achieve rounded communities based on the underlying principles of place making.

The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) indicates that the full range of planning solutions should be available to communities in order to achieve "the most sustainable pattern of development locally". Guidance set out by the TCPA indicates that holistically planned urban extensions can enhance the natural environment and offer high-quality affordable housing and locally accessible work in beautiful, healthy and sociable communities. Such interventions could be exemplars in sustainability and energy efficiency.

The TCPA also note that "Major planned developments such asurban extensions provide an opportunity to design-in the greenest of technologies and infrastructure from scratch, in ways that are not possible in smaller infill schemes". Such schemes can set a benchmark in quality and approach that can lead the way for smaller schemes elsewhere in the Country.

Appropriately sized and scaled urban extensions provide the opportunity for new development to positively address existing issues by creating a planned environment to suit and cater for a critical mass of population, services and facilities. These can:

- o include a variety of housing types, tenures and densities along with neighbourhood centres with mixed uses and a range of facilities;
- o provide a landscape structure that builds on existing assets, including green infrastructure within the development, linking urban areas to the countryside beyond and creating a distinctive edge to the urban area;
- o provide opportunities for people to work locally and for small businesses to set up, grow and thrive;
- o present an opportunity to design energy efficient communities;
- o allow pedestrian, cycle and public transport networks to be fully integrated, often improving services available to the adjacent communities, increasing health and well-being by reducing the reliance on cars; and
- o support the surrounding communities by offering facilities not available locally. By providing affordable housing for people in the care and support sectors they can ensure that the elderly can continue to live independently amongst friends and family reducing the costs of

providing social and nursing care.

These concepts are best delivered through consideration of longer term time horizons and wider geographical areas so that the benefits of strategic solutions are explored. The alternative of short term, small scale, incremental and dispersed change will not yield the same overall benefits.

Importantly, by applying a coherent and distinctive urban design concept and master planned approach that combines innovative solutions and reflection of local characteristics, such extensions can provide the opportunity to create a new development that has a strong local identity. This will facilitate effective integration with the existing community for whom there should be major benefits particularly in relation to supporting the existing rural economy and creating jobs, but also in the provision of a range of housing sizes, styles and tenures to accommodate those currently priced out of the local housing market. This accords with a wide range of national planning policy requirements.

Sustainable growth locations

It is inevitably the case that the supply of brownfield sites in Newport for redevelopment for residential purposes is limited. As such, the Council will need to consider sustainable and appropriate greenfield locations based around existing communities. In reality this is likely to focus on the western and north western parts of the County extents associated with existing built form and communities. Indeed, we are of the view that the LDP must not neglect the requirements of these existing communities in favour of more remote areas on the Eastern side of the City that would be more aligned to commuting patterns along the M4.

It is anticipated that such focal points for proportionate growth include a number of existing communities where there are a number of local facilities that can provide an opportunity to maximise levels of self-containment and sustainability. Indeed, proportionate growth can help to reinforce existing levels of sustainability but also seek to provide additional facilities and uses that can move to a greater level of

neighbourhood and community well-being. Bron Afon are considering an involvement in sites across a number of existing communities to the North and West of the City, importantly this recognises the existing settlement pattern outside of the main City of Newport, such locations include:

Bettws

Bron Afon consider that the community will benefit from the significant investment and opportunities that an extension located at Bettws would bring. Indeed, Bettws is itself a sustainable community with a range of shops, schools and facilities and is very well served by public transport. However, it is in need of investment and opportunities in order to help reduce localised inequalities. There is a significant opportunity to increase the level of self-containment of Bettws through providing new homes and other land uses that could add to the level of local facilities.

Bettws is very well served by regular bus routes, with typically a 20 minute frequency, to and from Newport running along Monnow Way. In addition, the canal towpath offers an easy and pleasant foot/cycle path route into the City centre, which is approximately 4km in distance. In the centre of Bettws there are a number of local facilities, including shops a Spar shop, post office, newsagent and hairdresser as well as several denominations of church, a library, a health centre, chemist, and dental surgery. Monnow Primary School and Newport High School are in close proximity. Bettws also has a number of sports grounds, playing fields and a leisure centre (active living centre associated with the High School).

Bettws is visually very well contained both physically and visually. It is not widely visible and in the limited local views in which it features it is seen in the context of the built up area of Bettws. It is therefore considered that it should form an area of search for a suitable urban extension.

Castleton / Marshfield

The communities of Castleton and Marshfield are a very sustainable local settlements partway between the Cities of Newport and Cardiff. They share a range of existing facilities and are considered to be highly appropriate for proportionate small scale extensions and infill development which will help provide affordable homes. Indeed, there is considered to be a significant need for more affordable properties to help ensure more balanced communities.

It is notable there is a wide range of local services and facilities that would ensure it is a suitable location for additional provision of homes:

- o Castleton and District Village Hall
- o Marshfield Primary School
- o Castleton Baptist Church Fellowship
- o Petrol Station
- o Convenience Store
- o Motor Vehicle Garage
- o Premier Inn Hotel
- o Coach and Horses Restaurant and Pub

Furthermore, they are located along sustainable public transport routes with bus stops present along Marshfield Road and the A48. These stops serve bus route 30, which operates between Cardiff and Newport via Old St Mellons, Castleton and Tredegar Park. This provides 28 services per day between Monday and Friday, 26 services on Saturdays and ten services on Sundays.

Summarily, it is clear that at the local scale a general level of self containment and walking can be achieved and strategically the communities are well placed in respect of public transport routes. Small scale expansion with proportionate affordable homes that do not impact upon landscape constraints (in particular coalescence with Cardiff) should be explored and encouraged.

Bassaleg

Bassaleg is a very well established and popular area of Newport with a wide range of local facilities and services. It is considered an

appropriate focal point to consider proportionate growth to reinforce and strengthen levels of sustainability. Indeed in terms of existing facilities, alongside the education provision there is a convenience store, post office, allotments, public open space, children's play area and the village hall.

There are numerous bus services that operate along the A468 (Caerphilly Road) providing links to both local areas as well as an inter urban bus service providing access to Newport, Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach, Cardiff and Bargoed. The train service from Pye Corner to Cardiff Ebbw Vale is 1.8km away. The station is located on the proposed integrated route network that runs along Park View and can connect to the existing active travel route. There is car parking at the station.

It is considered an appropriate location for the provision of proportionate growth that would complement existing facilities provide more opportunities for local people to remain in the area.

Rhiwderin

Rhiwderin is a sustainable local community offering a range of facilities including a community centre, a newsagent, post office, place of worship and a public house. In addition, it is within a reasonable walking and cycling distance to Pentrepoeth Primary School and Bassaleg Secondary School.

In addition there are regular bus services close providing links to Newport City Centre as well as other inter urban bus services to surrounding towns including Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach, Bargoed and Cardiff.

Rogerstone

Bron Afon consider that sites within easy walking distance of Rogerstone Railway Station, one of the few South Wales Metro rail connections within Newport's administrative area, should act as a focal point around which new development should be encouraged. Indeed, this links to Cardiff, Ebbw Vale, and beyond (to Swansea, Bristol, London and the Midlands). Furthermore, regular bus services run along Risca Road providing links between Newport and Risca/Pontymister as well as between Newport and Blackwood.

<p>There exists a wide range of facilities locally including supermarkets at Afon Village and Pontymister/Risca, a post office, various shops, restaurants, places of worship and employment areas such as the Wern, Tregwilym and Pontymister industrial / trading estates as well as Cleppa Business Park. Rogerstone Primary School, Jubilee Park and Mount Pleasant Primary Schools and Bassaleg Secondary School are also all within close proximity.</p> <p>Rogerstone is considered an appropriate location for the provision of proportionate growth that would compliment existing facilities provide more opportunities for local people to remain in the area.</p>	
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00706/VIO/1/003- Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Please refer to the attached additional information</p> <p>Attached Infomation:</p> <p>In general terms we are supportive of the overall approach towards the objectives, however, we believe that particular attention is needed with regards to economic and population / community objectives. As we have stated earlier, there are significant challenges ahead and it must be the role of the planning process to help address these issues rather than constrain recovery and realignment.</p> <p>We are strongly of the view that well planned urban extensions can contribute towards a range of the key objectives not just in respect of population and communities, inclusive of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o a variety of housing types, tenures and densities along with neighbourhood centres with mixed uses and a range of facilities. o providing a landscape structure that builds on existing assets, including green infrastructure within the development, linking urban areas to the countryside beyond and creating a distinctive edge to the urban area. o providing opportunities for people to work locally and for small businesses to set up, grow and thrive. o presenting an opportunity to design energy efficient communities. 	<p>- Support and comments provided on urban extensions noted.</p> <p>Economy and Employment:</p> <p>- We believe that the Objective as currently drafted appropriately accommodates the points raised. Further consideration will be given to more specific matters as policy development progresses.</p> <p>Population and Communities:</p> <p>- The Vision and Objective as currently drafted already reflect Newport's role as a National Growth Area. The Growth and Spatial Options stage will explore in further detail the matters raised.</p>

o allowing pedestrian, cycle and public transport networks to be fully integrated, often improving services available to the adjacent communities, increasing health and well-being by reducing the reliance on cars

o supporting the surrounding communities by offering facilities not available locally and by providing affordable housing for people in the care and support sectors they can ensure that the elderly can continue to live independently amongst friends and family reducing the costs of providing social and nursing care.

With regards to specific objectives:

Economy & Employment -

We are supportive of the approach towards employment land in general and the principles of the objective. However, as stated previously it is clear that economic restructuring and re-alignment will be a significant aspect of the replacement plan period. Flexible and innovative ways of approaching this will be required. Indeed, there has already been a shift in recent years in employment patterns and requirements, as such we would expect numerous trends to be reflected in the strategy. For example:

o working from home is a key change with the Welsh Government seeking to achieve 30% of the workforce working from home, this has opportunities for local sustainability but also for larger centres such as Newport City Centre that will need to be considered;

o there should be some recognition of non office based home working needs such as in respect of tradespersons (eg plumbers, carpenters etc) storage arrangements;

o Non B-uses ought to be considered as an important means of achieving employment requirements; and

o a significant amount of economic restructuring has already taken place over the past two years, particularly in respect of the need for more warehousing and distribution facilities associated with home deliveries, online retail and Brexit arrangements. South Wales has traditionally lost out on investment opportunities associated with such uses (given the facilities available at Severnside) however, it is considered likely

that Newport will need to accommodate such uses to capitalise upon opportunities and to complement its approach to sustainability.

Population & Communities

As stated previously our clients are strongly of the view that it will be important to ensure a suitable supply of housing land is identified in order to meet needs. Indeed, It will be of utmost importance to ensure Newport establishes a level of growth that meets needs and does not exacerbate the existing supply constraints in South Wales. Rather we are of the view that a high level of growth will need to be set in order to meet the Vision and fulfil the strategic aspirations for Newport as a Gateway City to Wales. In this regard it is noted:

- o given the potential impacts of Covid 19 on the economy and society, there will be a need for a highly ambitious strategy to be adopted which provides far greater flexibility to respond to the crisis through added stimulation of the construction sector; and
- o account should be taken in the baseline figures of the levels of sustainability and self containment that can be achieved through embracing working from home trends for those sectors where it is feasible. These are often the high added value jobs that are no longer tied to cities such as Bristol or Cardiff but can retain expenditure in the local area and encourage vibrant local areas.

00706/VIO/1/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Please refer to the attached additional information Attached Information: It is noted that our clients are happy to liaise with the Council on sites that they are either involved with currently or are looking to establish an interest in. Indeed, early engagement can help to ensure that resources are</p>	<p>Candidate Site assessments are occurring separately and any discussions necessary will be undertaken as part of that process.</p>

[NB Sentence not competed in original document]

Date Acknowledged: 25.03.2022

Date Received: 25.03.2022

00659/VIO/3/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We support the Vision of the RLDP. In particular we comment on the following aspects of the Vision below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A strategically significant City which will contribute towards the national growth of Wales. <p>We support this aspect of the Vision. Future Wales identifies Newport as a National Growth Area. The Welsh Government is determined to see development and growth in Newport, allowing the city to fulfil its potential as a second focal point for the region. Growth at Newport will help manage the development pressures in the region by providing a strategic growth focus for the eastern part of the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A City that tackles inequality through sustainable patterns of development, creating places that are safe, connected, inclusive, healthy, and well designed with access to housing, jobs and services. <p>We support this aspect of the Vision. The Local Development Plan should consider how prosperity can be spread across the region, how the local economy can be strengthened and how growth in Newport can benefit the whole region.</p> <p>Strategic growth including housing delivery should be focused on land in and immediately adjoining Newport itself, such as at land at Ridgeway, Allt yr yn, promoted by W&M McDonald (Pencarn Farms) Ltd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- An economically thriving City which supports and attracts business and industry at all scales, particularly where they focus on sustainable, innovative and technologically leading practices, which contribute towards cultivating a skilled and adaptable workforce. <p>We support this aspect of the Vision. The Local Development Plan should consider how it can help deliver development which supports the regional economy and local communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A resilient City which sustainably manages its natural resources, protecting and enhancing the biological and ecological values of the	<p>- Support noted.</p>

<p>natural environment, including the benefits of ecosystem services, in a carbon neutral and climate responsible manner.</p> <p>We support this aspect of the Vision. In urban areas, the enhancement (net benefit) of biodiversity and the provision of green infrastructure should shape growth and be fully integrated as part of location and design solutions for proposed development. This has been demonstrated in detail as deliverable in the candidate sites submission promoted by W&M McDonald (Pencarn Farms) Ltd at land at Ridgeway, Allt yr yn.</p>	
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00659/VIO/3/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>With specific regard to many of the key issues raised in the RLDP we comment as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How will the Plan support the nationally important role of Newport's economy as identified in Future Wales? <p>Future Wales (FW) highlights the delivery of housing as a critically important economic issue in all parts of Wales. Cardiff, Newport and Valleys is a FW National Growth Area. It must be the main focus for growth and investment in the South-East region.</p> <p>The plan must seek to deliver housing at requisite numbers, in the right areas. It should seek the delivery of a variety of housing. This is to ensure places are socially mixed and cater for varied lifestyles, with space that allows for homeworking. Urban growth and regeneration should cater for families, couples and single people of different ages, as well as providing a mix of affordable and private housing.</p> <p>The Plan must deliver policies to locate major generators of travel demand, such as housing, employment, retailing, leisure and recreation, and community facilities (including libraries, schools, doctor's surgeries and hospitals), within existing urban areas or areas which are, or can be, easily reached by walking or cycling, and are well served by public transport. (PPW, para 3.50)</p> <p>Development in the countryside (beyond settlement boundaries) should be located within and adjoining those settlements where it can best</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Points regarding how the plan can support growth within Newport are noted. - Points regarding the need to utilise green infrastructure and nature-based solutions is noted. - Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process. The results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.

be accommodated in terms of infrastructure, access, habitat and landscape conservation.

Infilling or minor extensions to existing settlements

may be acceptable, in particular where they meet a local need for affordable housing or it can be demonstrated that the

proposal will increase local economic activity. All new development should be of a scale and design that respects the character of the surrounding area.

Candidate sites for housing which are sustainable, deliverable and financially viable should be included in the RLDP and delivered without delay.

The above issues are considered in detail in the candidate sites submission promoted by W&M McDonald (Pencarn Farms) Ltd at land at

Ridgeway, Allt yr yn. The delivery of which for housing will support the nationally important role of Newport's economy identified in Future Wales.

- How should the plan support the provision and enhancement of green infrastructure networks

- How can the plan ensure impacts on designated and important biodiversity sites, habitats and species are positive and result in net gains?

- How can the plan protect and enhance ecological networks, including those that cross administrative boundaries?

- How can the plan promote the resilience of ecosystems?

W&M McDonald (Pencarn Farms) Ltd supports the need to maximise the use of Green Infrastructure and nature-based solutions as part of shaping urban growth and housing delivery.

Development should be delivered with biodiversity as an integral consideration of any development. This is achievable at land at Ridgeway, Allt yr yn.

Ecological strategies should focus on retention and enhancement of habitats of ecological value including the provision of a detailed green infrastructure. Public space should be delivered and where appropriate be left unmanaged to deliver enhanced on-site biodiversity benefit.

<p>Opportunities for planting and providing ecological corridors should be seized and the loss of habitats compensated. At land at Ridgeway, which lies adjacent to Allt yr yn Local Nature Reserve, GI enhancement is proposed through the transfer of land to Newport CC.</p>	
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00659/VIO/3/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We support the identified objectives for the RLDP, in particular the following: Population and Communities - Provide high-quality homes that meet the needs of Newport, as a national growth area, and to ensure that these homes are supported by the necessary infrastructure to provide safe and healthy places that maintain and enhance community and settlement identities. W&M McDonald (Pencarn Farms) Ltd has submitted to Newport CC candidate sites promoting land at Ridgeway, Allt yr yn to provide high quality homes which meets the needs of Newport. The submissions demonstrate the land lies at a sustainable location on the edge of the existing settlement and can readily deliver housing growth. Land is in sole ownership of the Site Proposer who has unconstrained access In accordance with the Welsh Government's Placemaking Objectives the land would provide homes in the right place and create sustainable, well-designed, and high-quality homes, where people want to live. Health and Well-being - To improve health and well-being through the creation of well-connected, accessible, healthy and active places, tackling health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth. Land at Ridgeway is demonstrated to be well connected and highly accessible by walking and cycling without the need for use of a private car. Delivery of the land will create genuine opportunities for future residents of the site to improve health and well-being by travelling sustainably. Biodiversity and Geodiversity - To maintain, enhance and improve the biodiversity and geodiversity of Newport and its surrounds, including</p>	<p>- Support noted, in particular the Population and Communities; Health and Well-being; Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Landscape; and Climate Change Objectives. - Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process. The results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>

<p>improved resilience, diversity, connectivity and adaptability, whilst ensuring net benefits are facilitated from development.</p> <p>There are no fundamental biodiversity constraints which may preclude delivery of land at Ridgeway for housing. The site is unused; it is not at risk of flooding. There are no ecological constraints and or near the land which cannot be appropriately mitigated. Biodiversity benefit is demonstrably achievable.</p> <p>Landscape - To protect and enhance the quality and character of Newport's landscape, townscape and seascape, and maximise the opportunities these features offer.</p> <p>At land at Ridgeway, existing site features including trees/hedgerows can be retained and incorporated positively into any site layout. The landscape of the site and surrounding area has been reviewed. Adjoining land uses are highly compatible. The addition of built form in this area would not notably alter the character of its immediate setting, and with careful positioning, scale and density of built form and the use of screen planting in this area, the character of the surrounding area would not be compromised through housing delivery.</p> <p>Climate Change - To ensure that development and land uses in Newport are resilient to the effects of climate change, and actively tackle the causes and impacts of climate change through minimisation, adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>At land at Ridgeway, we would anticipate any development will incorporate low-energy modelling and the use of sustainable materials, with future-proofed with facilities such as electric car charging. The aim would be to exceed the energy efficiency and build-quality requirements of current Welsh Building Regulations.</p>	
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Natural Resources Wales - 00004

Date Acknowledged: 25.03.2022

Date Received: 24.03.2022

Summary of Comment 00004/VIO/4/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
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Draft Objective 3.1: Economy and Employment

We recommend that sustainable economic growth and circular economy are emphasised and that this wording is used consistently throughout. We would recommend that green skills/jobs are also referenced within the document.

Suggested wording to Objective 3.1: Economy and Employment (page 7):

Provide for Newport's sustainable economic growth and circular economy by offering a diverse range and choice of new and improved employment opportunities, which are adaptive to change and meet the needs of Newport and beyond, supporting a strong skilled and resilient workforce.

Draft Objective 3.2: Population and Communities

We welcome reference to environment infrastructure in the draft objective. The requirement for new development to deliver green infrastructure will deliver multiple benefits linking to other LDP objectives. It is identified that currently there is a limited supply of brownfield sites and there is likely to be a role for greenfield sites in meeting the housing needs and growth aspirations of the next plan. It should be noted that Future Wales Policy 33 states "Growth at Newport will help manage the development pressures in the region by providing strategic growth focus for the Eastern part of the area. Strategic growth should be focused in and immediately adjoining Newport itself, to support brownfield regeneration." We advise further consideration is given to how this objective can meet the Future Wales policy and recommend that if greenfield sites are chosen, that these are the least biodiverse and have fewer natural features. If it's proposed to use greenfield sites to meet the housing needs and growth aspirations, the RLDP should assess these sites in the context of natural resources. We would be happy to discuss this further, providing advice on the relevant criteria to use in any analysis.

Key Issues

We welcome the acknowledgement of the issue to identify the most sustainable locations for urban expansion. Planning Policy Wales states

- Collectively, the Vision and Objectives as drafted serve to outline how the RLDP will achieve sustainable development, as underpinned by overarching national planning policy. Therefore, regular inclusion of the word "sustainability" or "sustainable" across the Vision, Issues and Objectives is not considered necessary.

- Comments regarding additional references to the "circular economy" and "green skills/jobs" are noted. It is considered that whilst this could be referenced across multiple Objectives, it is most appropriate under the Natural Resources Objective as currently drafted recognising the specific matters likely to be addressed through the framework of the RLDP. Further consideration will be given to this matter as the plan progresses to the policy development stage.

- Support noted for Population and Communities objective, particularly the reference to environment infrastructure. The levels and locations of growth required will be explored in further detail at the Growth and Spatial Options stage to come.

- Support for the Health and Well-being Objective is noted, particularly reference to access to green space and air quality. The significance of green infrastructure and its link to health and well-being is noted. In our view, this has appropriately been reflected within the Natural Resources Objective and Biodiversity and Geodiversity Objective. The additional information and resources referenced will be considered as the plan progresses.

that development should be located so that it can be well serviced by existing or planned infrastructure. In general, this will involve maximising the use of existing infrastructure or considering how the provision of infrastructure can be effectively co-ordinated to support development plans. Infrastructure choices should support decarbonisation, socially and economically connected places and the sustainable use of natural resources.

This is also supported by NRW's State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) for Wales 2020 which identifies that development within the existing urban boundary should be favoured over those allowing development in the hinterland beyond that boundary because of the effect upon the energy subsystem. For example, suburban sprawl characterised by low population densities is substantially less energy efficient than one which seeks to pursue a higher density path.

We welcome the identification of environmental infrastructure as a key issue. The potential for Green Infrastructure (GI) to deal with multiple issues identified in the document and the multiple benefits that can be derived from GI are an important consideration for the plan. GI also provides the opportunity to weave the natural environment into an urban setting.

Draft Objective 3.3: Health and Well-being

We welcome the identification of access to open and green spaces in this objective. The development plan process is an important mechanism in delivering multi-functional GI which encompasses open and green spaces. The importance of existing spaces and the creation of new space links to the 'Healthy Active Connected' theme in the South East AS. Good quality surroundings enable people to be more physically active, feel safe and secure, use facilities and services and socialise and play. These factors support good physical and mental health and well-being.

We welcome the identification of the role of the planning process in dealing with air quality issues. Air quality alongside other forms of pollution is identified as a key risk to the health of our ecosystems and human health (as set out in the 'Linking our Landscapes' theme of the

- In our view, the current drafting of the Natural Resources Objective, along with all the other Objectives read as a whole, satisfy the four aims of sustainable management of natural resources. No further changes considered necessary in this regard. Support noted of reference to soil and water quality. The additional information, including the status of Newport's waterbodies, and resources referenced are noted and will be considered as the plan progresses.

- The recommended change to the Biodiversity and Geodiversity Objective are noted and agreed in part. It is not considered necessary for reference of the "nature emergency" to be included in the Objective itself, as it can more appropriately be discussed in any supporting text without limiting the scope of the Objective. The additional information, including points on language used in supporting text, and resources referenced are noted and will be considered as the plan progresses.

- Noted. Our view is that matters of natural heritage are more appropriately captured under the Biodiversity and Geodiversity Objective and the Landscape Objective.

-We note the importance of considering landscape scale and will do so as the plan progresses. We also note the varied benefits and approaches to considering landscape areas. In our view the Landscape Objective as drafted is appropriate, and the Biodiversity and

AS).

We recommend that reference is made to the importance of natural resources in the context of this theme. Natural resources are our lifesupport systems, so it is vitally important that they are in good condition. Alongside providing for our essential needs including food, clean water, fuel, aggregate and timber, there are less obvious ways natural resources contribute to well-being, including by helping to regulate carbon by locking it away, providing flood protection by managing water in the landscape and supporting our capacity to adapt to climate change. This highlights the cross-cutting nature of the sustainable management of natural resources.

Issues

We welcome the identification of the provision and enhancement of GI, accessible natural greenspaces, provision of sustainable travel options, reduction in the need to travel and the impact of development on air quality as key issues for the plan to tackle.

We would direct you to the Gwent Well-being Assessment as a valuable source of evidence in relation to this objective.

Draft Objective 3.4: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Key Issues

It should be identified in the key issues section that access to nature (or lack of) contributes to inequalities. High quality GI and access to nature in deprived neighbourhoods can help improve resilience and reduce health inequalities. For further information please refer to SoNaRR2020 Aim 3 assessment (cyfoethnaturiol.cymru).

Draft Objective 3.5: Transport and Movement

Key Issues

We welcome the identification of the need for the plan to facilitate sustainable travel choices, reduction of travel and for travel choices to have a positive effect on air quality health and climate change. These issues link to the 'Linking our Landscapes', 'Climate Ready Gwent', and 'Healthy Active Connected' themes of the AS. We recommend that reference be made to the opportunities for active travel routes to

Geodiversity Objective appropriately addresses some of the other points raised. The additional information and resources referenced are noted and will be considered as the plan progresses. We will continue to engage with stakeholders on such matters also. - Support noted for the Climate Change Objective, and reference to flood risk, carbon capture and storage as key issues. We note the need to consider the ability of new development to reduce flood risk for existing communities and will be considered as the plan progresses in line with national policy.

provide multiple GI benefits e.g. tree planting, enhancing biodiversity etc.

Draft Objective 3.6: Natural Resources

We recommend you consider whether the draft objective incorporates or references the four aims of sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR) (as set out in SoNaRR (2020)):

Aim 1. Stocks of Natural Resources are Safeguarded and Enhanced
Aim 2. Ecosystems are Resilient to Expected and Unforeseen Change
Aim 3. Wales has Healthy Places for People, Protected from Environmental Risks
Aim 4. Contributing to a Regenerative Economy, Achieving Sustainable Levels of Production and Consumption

We welcome acknowledgement of the SoNaRR and South East AS as key parts of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) evidence base. We also note acknowledgement of the issue of air quality in Newport. We would direct you to the Gwent Well-being Assessment (GWA) as a valuable source of evidence in relation to this objective. The Environmental well-being section of the GWA considers the extent to which the sustainable management of natural resources is being achieved, by combining local, regional, and national evidence to better understand the performance of the natural environment against the four aims of SMNR (referred to above).

We also welcome the acknowledgement of the following:

1. Soil - Fully functioning soils provide rich biodiversity, sequester and maintain carbon, slow the flow of water, help to regulate the climate and air quality, and produce a sustainable supply of food, fibre and timber. The way land and soils are used can deliver several functions or services at the same time and place, providing multiple benefits.
2. Water Quality - This will be an important issue for the plan to respond to as the policy framework develops.

We suggest the following wording replaces the sentence 'In terms of water quality...' under the first bullet point on page 18 (current situation for objective 3.6 Natural Resources)

In terms of water quality, all water bodies in Newport fail to achieve the objective of 'good status' under the Water Framework Directive with

the vast majority having an overall status of 'moderate' meaning work is required to improve the water environment for the ecology and people of Newport.

This is based on the publication of 2021 WFD classifications.

3. Air Quality - This is important in the relation to the impact upon sensitive ecological receptors, as well as the implications for human health.

Key Issues

We recommend that the need to negate the impact of development on water quality is an important issue that should be referenced in the 'key issues' section. In addition, consideration of aerial impacts on sensitive receptors such as Saltmarsh in the Severn Estuary should be referenced in this section.

Draft Objective 3.7: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

We recommend the draft objective is amended as set out below:

To maintain, enhance and improve the biodiversity and geodiversity of Newport and its surrounds including improved ecological resilience, diversity, connectivity and adaptability, whilst ensuring net benefits are facilitated from development in order to tackle the nature emergency.

NRW works to the definition of ecosystem resilience from the SoNaRR, which is "the capacity of ecosystems to deal with disturbances, either by resisting them, recovering from them, or adapting to them, whilst retaining their ability to deliver services and benefits now and in the future" (Disturbances are interpreted to mean pressures and demands on the ecosystem). Diversity, connectivity and adaptability are properties or emergent attributes of resilience (along with extent, condition, recovery and resistance). Reference to resilience in the objective captures all these attributes and emergent properties. For further information on Resilient Ecological Networks (REN) please refer to Terrestrial and freshwater Resilient Ecological Networks: a guide for practitioners in Wales. We recommend reference to the nature emergency be included in the objective to ensure that the policies linking to the objective have due regard to the urgent need to tackle this key challenge.

We note reference to priority habitats identified under the biodiversity plan in this section. These should align with relevant priority habitats identified in section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

We recommend the inclusion of 'resilience' in the below phrases to highlight the importance of resilience as an overarching aim (connectivity is an important attribute of ecosystem resilience). We note that all the attributes are referenced in the key issues section.

There are many priority habitats, urban and green spaces, coastal areas, and waterbodies that support overall ecological resilience, and connectivity in the plan area. It will be important for any new development to ensure that this ecological network is supported and enhanced both locally and sub-regionally.

New development is required to secure biodiversity enhancement and maximise opportunities for biodiversity net gain, whilst improving ecological resilience and connectivity, avoiding, minimising and mitigating harm.

Key Issues

We welcome acknowledgement of the importance of protecting and enhancing ecological networks, including those that cross administrative boundaries in this section. We are aware that work is underway on the Newport Green Infrastructure Strategy (GIS), which will provide an important evidence source to inform plan policies which seek to address this issue. We welcome acknowledgement of the importance of these networks across administrative boundaries. These links will be of relevance as the Strategic Development Plan, incorporating Newport CC, progresses. Green Infrastructure provides multiple benefits, and in line with the national planning context, resilient ecological networks (REN) form the foundation of GI networks. Resilient ecological networks are best placed to provide the multiple benefits of GI. For further guidance please refer to NRW Guidance Note 042 Green Infrastructure Assessment and Terrestrial and freshwater Resilient Ecological Networks: a guide for practitioners in Wales. We acknowledge that the LDP is at an early stage of development, however consideration of

these issues now can help to deliver an appropriate evidence base to inform effective policies delivering the intended outcomes on the ground.

One of the actions identified in the AS is to work together to develop, populate and use common data sets which will enable organisations to have access to baseline evidence relating to the resilience of our ecosystems. We would welcome the opportunity to work with NCC as the plan progresses to achieve this outcome. This work would also contribute to the development of a common evidence base for nature-based solutions to climate adaptation (a key issue identified in the draft objective on Climate Change).

We welcome acknowledgement of the role new or enhanced GI has to play in connectivity. Managed as part of a GI network, green spaces can deliver many benefits in the same place at the same time. GI refers to all the natural features which make life in our towns and cities possible and can provide wildlife habitats, regulate temperature, absorb flood water, reduce public exposure to air pollution, promote mental health, encourage healthy exercise and attract people to use active travel routes instead of their cars.

We welcome acknowledgement of the issue relating to resilience of ecosystems. This is a key issue identified within the AS. Please refer to the guidance above which will assist in understanding the issue and responding with an appropriate policy context. NRW would welcome an opportunity to further advise on this aspect of the LDP.

We note reference to the establishment of new GI corridors. We recommend that, in addition, reference is also made to how the plan can create more green sites protecting and increasing the space for nature for its own sake and for people's health and wellbeing.

Draft Objective 3.8: Historic Environment

We recommend that reference be made to natural heritage in this section to highlight the important role that nature plays alongside the built environment in the heritage of Newport.

Draft Objective 3.9: Landscape

A landscape scale approach was taken to producing the South East AS. This means that we have considered where and why we want to build ecosystem resilience in terms of the special and distinctive landscape areas of our place. Working in this way will allow us to address the increasingly complex and widespread environmental, social and political challenges that transcend traditional management boundaries.

We note the objective has focussed on the importance of the landscape in visual terms and within the context of providing a visual setting to the built environment. The South East AS seeks to identify opportunities for our protected sites, natural and built environments to contribute towards the resilience of wider priority habitat networks in the region. These opportunities for improving ecosystem resilience should support ecological connectivity between sites, across boundaries and at a landscape scale. We recommend that the key issues section identifies the importance of landscape scale consideration of these matters.

As part of the AS process, we have co-produced landscape profiles. These profiles provide a common evidence base which combines national and local evidence on the health of our ecosystems to help identify where we need to improve the health of our natural assets and why. They can be used to identify spatial and landscape scale opportunities for the delivery of the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR).

The plan area is covered by the Newport, Gwent Levels, and Wye valley and Wentwood Landscape Profiles (it should be noted that the majority of the plan area is covered by the Newport Landscape Profile).

Whilst the priorities and recommendations identified in the profiles are relatively broad many of them are reflected in the visions document.

In brief the Newport profiles identifies the following priorities and recommendations:

-Connectivity - Habitat connectivity should be maintained and enhanced, building ecosystem resilience.

Opportunities - Using the existing evidence, and evidence provided in the future Green Infrastructure Assessment, identify opportunities to

build resilience. Recommend working alongside other urban areas for a joined-up approach. Areas that would provide multiple benefits should be prioritised. An example of this would be a community orchard that was located to improve the connectivity of a near-by woodland, that was also along an active travel route to a neighbouring school, located on a high-risk flood area. In terms of connectivity, the River Usk and generally, all water courses are considered key wildlife corridors.

-Wellbeing provision - Green space provision disproportionality benefits the health and wellbeing of low socio-economic groups. Therefore, these areas need to be prioritised for provision.

In brief the Gwent Levels profile identifies the following priorities in relation to development:

-Water - The location of the Gwent Levels results in high pressure for development. Strengthened protected site designation. Land use planners to encourage sympathetic development adjacent to drainage systems.

-Woodland - Development sites may be strategically important in relation to providing connectivity between existing areas of woodland. Planning including strengthened designation to protect habitat networks including woodland.-Urban environment including previously developed land - It is essential that new developments are designed with inbuilt resilience and must provide green infrastructure and open green spaces

In brief the Wye Valley and Wentwood profile identifies the following priorities in relation to development:

Decisions to ensure we maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) and Section 7 listed habitats and species will be appropriately recognised in the planning process and afforded the protection they require to avoid loss of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

We can provide further commentary on the opportunities identified in the profiles once more detail around the plan is available. Access to the profiles can be provided upon request.

Draft Objective 3.10: Climate Change

We welcome acknowledgement of the key issue of flood risk, carbon capture and storage as a key issue, and acknowledgement of the key role that woodland plays in a Newport context. In relation to flood risk, it would be positive to reference new development reducing flood risk for existing communities as an issue for the Plan to address. This is in addition to striving to avoid locating new development within a flood zone.

Key Issues

Welcome the key issues identified in relation to this objective. The 'Climate Ready Gwent' theme in the AS seeks that biodiversity is protected, enhanced and resilient to a changing climate, water and air quality is good, soils are healthy and ecological connectivity is maximised. Nature-based solutions to climate adaptation contribute towards increase in local resilience to the impacts of climate change.

00004/VIO/4/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Further Advice Growth Levels</p> <p>We note that growth levels are not included as part of this consultation. We recommend that a range of issues are given appropriate consideration in the round as the LPA considers various growth options. Consideration should be given to the definition of growth and how it may be achieved whilst decarbonising rapidly. A valuable and interesting evidence source are the Carbon Budget Reports, prepared by the Tindell Centre for Climate Change Research.</p> <p>We would question whether setting medium and long-term economic targets in terms of GDP and GDP per capita is appropriate and we would encourage your authority to consider growth in terms of Welsh Government's commitment to a Well-being Economy. We recommend options be assessed against how they contribute to key challenges such as those identified in Future Wales, for example the climate and</p>	<p>- The Growth and Spatial Options stage to follow will explore growth levels in further detail.</p> <p>- Additional information and resources referenced are noted and will be considered as the plan progresses.</p>

<p>nature emergencies, against the Well-being of Future Generations goals which provide a framework for encouraging inclusive Growth, and the SMNR aim of a regenerative economy (SONARR 2020).</p> <p>Evidence Base</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Assessment (GIA) - We would refer your authority to Guidance Note 042 Green Infrastructure Assessments (final June 2021 (sharepoint.com)). This document provides guidance with regards to the undertaking of a GIA. We would stress the important role that the GIA plays in the identification of resilient ecological networks. This evidence base can then be used to inform appropriate LDP policies which seek to safeguard and enhance resilient ecological networks.</p> <p>For further guidance on resilient ecological networks see: resilient-ecological-networks-practitioner-guide.pdf (cyfoethnaturiol.cymru) SoNaRR 2020 - Assessment of the achievement of SMNR Aim 2: Resilient ecosystems (cyfoethnaturiol.cymru)</p> <p>We trust our comments are beneficial and we would welcome further discussion on the comments made. We look forward to working with your Authority to ensure that the detail of the plan as it progresses provides a framework to tackle the issues and build upon the opportunities identified.</p> <p>If you have any queries on the above, please do not hesitate to contact us. Yn gywir / Yours faithfully</p>	
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00004/VIO/4/005 - Intro

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales about the above, which we received on 31 January 2022.</p> <p>We have reviewed the document entitled 'Newport Local Development Plan, Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives', prepared by your Authority, dated January 2022. We are broadly satisfied that the visions, issues and objectives identified and advise they align with the South East Wales Area Statement (AS). The following advice can help inform and develop the RLDP, specifically in shaping the Preferred Strategy.</p>	<p>Support noted.</p>

00004/VIO/4/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We welcome acknowledgement within the vision of the importance of the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR). The South East Wales Area Statement (AS) states that to realise the benefits that nature can provide, our natural areas must be healthy and resistant to threats and disturbance. The capacity of natural resources to provide this function is called ecosystem resilience. Ecosystem resilience can be considered a measure of health. The healthier (or more resilient) the ecosystem is, the more likely it is to survive, thrive and benefit people and communities.</p> <p>We recommend the inclusion of references to nature and the natural environment to stress the importance of the natural environment throughout the draft vision. In addition, the aim of helping to deliver a local development plan that protects and enhances environmental interests and ensures long-term, sustainable development.</p> <p>We also recommend the addition of references to sustainable growth to align with the national legislative and policy context which seeks to secure healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems for the future whilst still meeting the challenges of creating jobs, housing and infrastructure. We note sustainable growth is referred to elsewhere in the document and recommend that this is used consistently throughout the plan.</p> <p>Suggested additions to the current draft vision text (page 4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A strategically significant City which will contribute towards the national sustainable growth of Wales. -A City that tackles inequality through sustainable patterns of development, creating places that are safe, connected, inclusive, healthy and well designed with access to housing, jobs, services and nature. -A resilient City which sustainably manages its natural resources, protecting and enhancing the biological and ecological values of the 	<p>Support noted and information welcome.</p> <p>The Vision is to be read as a whole, with each point to be read in conjunction with the others. As such, the suggested revisions regarding "sustainable growth" and "weaving the natural environment into its urban setting" are not considered necessary, with the existing wording already encompassing this.</p> <p>The second point of the Vision will be amended to include reference to "the natural environment" to better emphasise the role of this in facilitating "sustainable patterns of development".</p>

natural environment, including the benefits of ecosystem services weaving the natural environment into its urban setting, in a carbon neutral and climate responsible manner.	
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00004/VIO/4/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Draft Objective 3.1: Economy and Employment We recommend that sustainable economic growth and circular economy are emphasised and that this wording is used consistently throughout. We would recommend that green skills/jobs are also referenced within the document. Suggested wording to Objective 3.1: Economy and Employment (page 7): Provide for Newport's sustainable economic growth and circular economy by offering a diverse range and choice of new and improved employment opportunities, which are adaptive to change and meet the needs of Newport and beyond, supporting a strong skilled and resilient workforce.</p> <p>Draft Objective 3.2: Population and Communities We welcome reference to environment infrastructure in the draft objective. The requirement for new development to deliver green infrastructure will deliver multiple benefits linking to other LDP objectives. It is identified that currently there is a limited supply of brownfield sites and there is likely to be a role for greenfield sites in meeting the housing needs and growth aspirations of the next plan. It should be noted that Future Wales Policy 33 states "Growth at Newport will help manage the development pressures in the region by providing strategic growth focus for the Eastern part of the area. Strategic growth should be focused in and immediately adjoining Newport itself, to support brownfield regeneration." We advise further consideration is given to how this objective can meet the Future Wales policy and recommend that if greenfield sites are chosen, that these are the least biodiverse and have fewer natural features. If it's proposed to use greenfield sites to meet the housing needs and growth aspirations, the RLDP should</p>	<p>- Collectively, the Vision and Objectives as drafted serve to outline how the RLDP will achieve sustainable development, as underpinned by overarching national planning policy. Therefore, regular inclusion of the word "sustainability" or "sustainable" across the Vision, Issues and Objectives is not considered necessary.</p> <p>- Comments regarding additional references to the "circular economy" are noted. It is considered that whilst this could be referenced across multiple Objectives, it is most appropriate under the Natural Resources Objective as currently drafted recognising the specific matters likely to be addressed through the framework of the RLDP. Further consideration will be given to this matter as the plan progresses to the policy development stage.</p> <p>- The allocation of land under the RLDP will be assessed in accordance with the Candidate Site Methodology, national planning policy and in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. The comments and information provided are noted and ongoing discussions are welcomed.</p> <p>- Support for the Health and Well-being Key Issues are noted. The additional information and resources referenced will be considered as the plan progresses.</p>

assess these sites in the context of natural resources. We would be happy to discuss this further, providing advice on the relevant criteria to use in any analysis.

Key Issues

We welcome the acknowledgement of the issue to identify the most sustainable locations for urban expansion. Planning Policy Wales states that development should be located so that it can be well serviced by existing or planned infrastructure. In general, this will involve maximising the use of existing infrastructure or considering how the provision of infrastructure can be effectively co-ordinated to support development plans. Infrastructure choices should support decarbonisation, socially and economically connected places and the sustainable use of natural resources.

This is also supported by NRW's State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) for Wales 2020 which identifies that development within the existing urban boundary should be favoured over those allowing development in the hinterland beyond that boundary because of the effect upon the energy subsystem.

We welcome the identification of environmental infrastructure as a key issue. The potential for Green Infrastructure (GI) to deal with multiple issues identified in the document and the multiple benefits that can be derived from GI are an important consideration for the plan. GI also provides the opportunity to weave the natural environment into an urban setting.

Draft Objective 3.3: Health and Well-being

We welcome the identification of access to open and green spaces in this objective. The development plan process is an important mechanism in delivering multi-functional GI which encompasses open and green spaces. The importance of existing spaces and the creation of new space links to the 'Healthy Active Connected' theme in the South East AS. Good quality surroundings enable people to be more physically active, feel safe and secure, use facilities and services and socialise and play. These factors support good physical and mental health and well-being.

- Note the link between access to green infrastructure and inequality. In our view this has been appropriately captured under other

Objectives. The additional information and resources referenced will be considered as the plan progresses.

- Support for the Transport and Movement Key Issues are noted. We also note the opportunity for active travel routes to provide multiple green infrastructure benefits. In our view, this has been appropriately captured under the Biodiversity and Geodiversity Objective. The additional information and resources referenced will be considered as the plan progresses.

-Agree with the recommended emphasis on water quality and air quality impacts on environmental features within the Key Issues.

- Support noted for the Biodiversity and Geodiversity Key Issues, in particular reference to cross boundaries matters. The significance regarding green infrastructure and nature space generally is noted and will continue to be considered along with the additional information provided as the plan progresses. We will continue to liaise with relevant stakeholders on these matters also.

- Support noted for the Climate Change Key Issues. The information and resources referenced will be considered as the plan progresses.

We welcome the identification of the role of the planning process in dealing with air quality issues. Air quality alongside other forms of pollution is identified as a key risk to the health of our ecosystems and human health (as set out in the 'Linking our Landscapes' theme of the AS).

We recommend that reference is made to the importance of natural resources in the context of this theme. Natural resources are our lifesupport systems, so it is vitally important that they are in good condition. Alongside providing for our essential needs including food, clean water, fuel, aggregate and timber, there are less obvious ways natural resources contribute to well-being, including by helping to regulate carbon by locking it away, providing flood protection by managing water in the landscape and supporting our capacity to adapt to climate change. This highlights the cross-cutting nature of the sustainable management of natural resources.

Key Issues

We welcome the identification of the provision and enhancement of GI, accessible natural greenspaces, provision of sustainable travel options, reduction in the need to travel and the impact of development on air quality as key issues for the plan to tackle.

We would direct you to the Gwent Well-being Assessment as a valuable source of evidence in relation to this objective.

Draft Objective 3.4: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Key Issues

It should be identified in the key issues section that access to nature (or lack of) contributes to inequalities. High quality GI and access to nature in deprived neighbourhoods can help improve resilience and reduce health inequalities. For further information please refer to SoNaRR2020 Aim 3 assessment (cyfoethnaturiol.cymru).

Draft Objective 3.5: Transport and Movement

Key Issues

We welcome the identification of the need for the plan to facilitate sustainable travel choices, reduction of travel and for travel choices to

have a positive effect on air quality health and climate change. These issues link to the 'Linking our Landscapes', 'Climate Ready Gwent', and 'Healthy Active Connected' themes of the AS. We recommend that reference be made to the opportunities for active travel routes to provide multiple GI benefits e.g. tree planting, enhancing biodiversity etc.

Draft Objective 3.6: Natural Resources

We recommend you consider whether the draft objective incorporates or references the four aims of sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR) (as set out in SoNaRR (2020)):

Aim 1. Stocks of Natural Resources are Safeguarded and Enhanced

Aim 2. Ecosystems are Resilient to Expected and Unforeseen Change

Aim 3. Wales has Healthy Places for People, Protected from Environmental Risks

Aim 4. Contributing to a Regenerative Economy, Achieving Sustainable Levels of Production and Consumption

We welcome acknowledgement of the SoNaRR and South East AS as key parts of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP)

evidence base. We also note acknowledgement of the issue of air quality in Newport. We would direct you to the Gwent Well-being

Assessment (GWA) as a valuable source of evidence in relation to this objective. The Environmental well-being section of the GWA

considers the extent to which the sustainable management of natural resources is being achieved, by combining local, regional, and national

evidence to better understand the performance of the natural environment against the four aims of SMNR (referred to above).

We also welcome the acknowledgement of the following:

1. Soil - Fully functioning soils provide rich biodiversity, sequester and maintain carbon, slow the flow of water, help to regulate the climate and air quality, and produce a sustainable supply of food, fibre and timber. The way land and soils are used can deliver several functions or services at the same time and place, providing multiple benefits.

2. Water Quality - This will be an important issue for the plan to respond to as the policy framework develops.

We suggest the following wording replaces the sentence 'In terms of water quality...' under the first bullet point on page 18 (current situation for objective 3.6 Natural Resources)

In terms of water quality, all water bodies in Newport fail to achieve the objective of 'good status' under the Water Framework Directive with the vast majority having an overall status of 'moderate' meaning work is required to improve the water environment for the ecology and people of Newport.

This is based on the publication of 2021 WFD classifications.

3. Air Quality - This is important in the relation to the impact upon sensitive ecological receptors, as well as the implications for human health.

Key Issues

We recommend that the need to negate the impact of development on water quality is an important issue that should be referenced in the 'key issues' section. In addition, consideration of aerial impacts on sensitive receptors such as Saltmarsh in the Severn Estuary should be referenced in this section.

Draft Objective 3.7: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

We recommend the draft objective is amended as set out below:

To maintain, enhance and improve the biodiversity and geodiversity of Newport and its surrounds including improved ecological resilience, diversity, connectivity and adaptability, whilst ensuring net benefits are facilitated from development in order to tackle the nature emergency.

NRW works to the definition of ecosystem resilience from the SoNaRR, which is "the capacity of ecosystems to deal with disturbances, either by resisting them, recovering from them, or adapting to them, whilst retaining their ability to deliver services and benefits now and in the future" (Disturbances are interpreted to mean pressures and demands on the ecosystem). Diversity, connectivity and adaptability are properties or emergent attributes of resilience (along with extent, condition, recovery and resistance). Reference to resilience in the objective captures all these attributes and emergent properties. For further information on Resilient Ecological Networks (REN) please refer to

Terrestrial and freshwater Resilient Ecological Networks: a guide for practitioners in Wales.

We recommend reference to the nature emergency be included in the objective to ensure that the policies linking to the objective have due regard to the urgent need to tackle this key challenge.

We note reference to priority habitats identified under the biodiversity plan in this section.

These should align with relevant priority habitats identified in section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

We recommend the inclusion of 'resilience' in the below phrases to highlight the importance of resilience as an overarching aim (connectivity is an important attribute of ecosystem resilience). We note that all the attributes are referenced in the key issues section.

There are many priority habitats, urban and green spaces, coastal areas, and waterbodies that support overall ecological resilience, and connectivity in the plan area. It will be important for any new development to ensure that this ecological network is supported and enhanced both locally and sub-regionally.

New development is required to secure biodiversity enhancement and maximise opportunities for biodiversity net gain, whilst improving ecological resilience and connectivity, avoiding, minimising and mitigating harm.

Key Issues

We welcome acknowledgement of the importance of protecting and enhancing ecological networks, including those that cross administrative boundaries in this section. We are aware that work is underway on the Newport Green Infrastructure Strategy (GIS), which will provide an important evidence source to inform plan policies which seek to address this issue. We welcome acknowledgement of the importance of these networks across administrative boundaries. These links will be of relevance as the Strategic Development Plan, incorporating Newport CC, progresses. Green Infrastructure provides multiple benefits, and in line with the national planning context, resilient ecological networks (REN) form the foundation of GI networks. Resilient ecological networks are best placed to provide the multiple benefits of GI. For further

guidance please refer to NRW Guidance Note 042 Green Infrastructure Assessment and Terrestrial and freshwater Resilient Ecological Networks: a guide for practitioners in Wales. We acknowledge that the LDP is at an early stage of development, however consideration of these issues now can help to deliver an appropriate evidence base to inform effective policies delivering the intended outcomes on the ground.

One of the actions identified in the AS is to work together to develop, populate and use common data sets which will enable organisations to have access to baseline evidence relating to the resilience of our ecosystems. We would welcome the opportunity to work with NCC as the plan progresses to achieve this outcome. This work would also contribute to the development of a common evidence base for nature-based solutions to climate adaptation (a key issue identified in the draft objective on Climate Change).

We welcome acknowledgement of the role new or enhanced GI has to play in connectivity. Managed as part of a GI network, green spaces can deliver many benefits in the same place at the same time. GI refers to all the natural features which make life in our towns and cities possible and can provide wildlife habitats, regulate temperature, absorb flood water, reduce public exposure to air pollution, promote mental health, encourage healthy exercise and attract people to use active travel routes instead of their cars.

We welcome acknowledgement of the issue relating to resilience of ecosystems. This is a key issue identified within the AS. Please refer to the guidance above which will assist in understanding the issue and responding with an appropriate policy context. NRW would welcome an opportunity to further advise on this aspect of the LDP.

We note reference to the establishment of new GI corridors. We recommend that, in addition, reference is also made to how the plan can create more green sites protecting and increasing the space for nature for its own sake and for people's health and wellbeing.

Draft Objective 3.8: Historic Environment

We recommend that reference be made to natural heritage in this section to highlight the important role that nature plays alongside the built environment in the heritage of Newport.

Draft Objective 3.9: Landscape

A landscape scale approach was taken to producing the South East AS. This means that we have considered where and why we want to build ecosystem resilience in terms of the special and distinctive landscape areas of our place. Working in this way will allow us to address the increasingly complex and widespread environmental, social and political challenges that transcend traditional management boundaries.

We note the objective has focussed on the importance of the landscape in visual terms and within the context of providing a visual setting to the built environment. The South East AS seeks to identify opportunities for our protected sites, natural and built environments to contribute towards the resilience of wider priority habitat networks in the region. These opportunities for improving ecosystem resilience should support ecological connectivity between sites, across boundaries and at a landscape scale. We recommend that the key issues section identifies the importance of landscape scale consideration of these matters.

As part of the AS process, we have co-produced landscape profiles. These profiles provide a common evidence base which combines national and local evidence on the health of our ecosystems to help identify where we need to improve the health of our natural assets and why. They can be used to identify spatial and landscape scale opportunities for the delivery of the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR).

The plan area is covered by the Newport, Gwent Levels, and Wye valley and Wentwood Landscape Profiles (it should be noted that the majority of the plan area is covered by the Newport Landscape Profile).

Whilst the priorities and recommendations identified in the profiles are relatively broad many of them are reflected in the visions document.

In brief the Newport profiles identifies the following priorities and recommendations:

-Connectivity - Habitat connectivity should be maintained and enhanced, building ecosystem resilience.

-Opportunities - Using the existing evidence, and evidence provided in the future Green Infrastructure Assessment, identify opportunities to build resilience. Recommend working alongside other urban areas for a joined-up approach. Areas that would provide multiple benefits should be prioritised. An example of this would be a community orchard that was located to improve the connectivity of a near-by woodland, that was also along an active travel route to a neighbouring school, located on a high-risk flood area. In terms of connectivity, the River Usk and generally, all water courses are considered key wildlife corridors.

-Wellbeing provision - Green space provision disproportionality benefits the health and wellbeing of low socio-economic groups. Therefore, these areas need to be prioritised for provision.

In brief the Gwent Levels profile identifies the following priorities in relation to development:

-Water - The location of the Gwent Levels results in high pressure for development.

Strengthened protected site designation. Land use planners to encourage sympathetic development adjacent to drainage systems.

-Woodland - Development sites may be strategically important in relation to providing connectivity between existing areas of woodland.

Planning including strengthened designation to protect habitat networks including woodland.

-Urban environment including previously developed land - It is essential that new developments are designed with inbuilt resilience and must provide green infrastructure and open green spaces

In brief the Wye Valley and Wentwood profile identifies the following priorities in relation to development:

Decisions to ensure we maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

(SINC's) and Section 7 listed habitats and species will be appropriately recognised in the planning process and afforded the protection they require to avoid loss of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

<p>We can provide further commentary on the opportunities identified in the profiles once more detail around the plan is available. Access to the profiles can be provided upon request.</p> <p>Draft Objective 3.10: Climate Change</p> <p>We welcome acknowledgement of the key issue of flood risk, carbon capture and storage as a key issue, and acknowledgement of the key role that woodland plays in a Newport context. In relation to flood risk, it would be positive to reference new development reducing flood risk for existing communities as an issue for the Plan to address. This is in addition to striving to avoid locating new development within a flood zone.</p> <p>Key Issues</p> <p>Welcome the key issues identified in relation to this objective. The 'Climate Ready Gwent' theme in the AS seeks that biodiversity is protected, enhanced and resilient to a changing climate, water and air quality is good, soils are healthy and ecological connectivity is maximised. Nature-based solutions to climate adaptation contribute towards increase in local resilience to the impacts of climate change.</p>	
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Home Builders Federation - 00522

Date Acknowledged: 25.03.2022

Date Received: 25.03.2022

00522/VIO/1/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Yes, the HBF supports the vision and in particular the references to the need to provide homes for people to live.</p> <p>It is however suggested that the words 'across a range of tenures' could be added after the word housing in the second bullet point of the vision on page 4 of the document.</p>	<p>- Support noted. We believe the Vision in combination with the Objectives as currently drafted is appropriate. It is considered that the phrases “tackles inequality”; “inclusive”; “well designed” and “access to housing” already appropriately captures the point raised whiles remaining succinct.</p>

00522/VIO/1/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>The HBF makes the following comments:</p> <p>Economy and Employment - Should the question be 'how many jobs can Newport provide for rather than 'Newport Need'? Would the question 'Do we need a greater mix of residential uses in the centres?' be better phrased as 'how could the plan support a greater mix of residential uses in the centres?'</p> <p>Would the question 'How will the plan ensure that development takes place in sustainable locations, supported by the necessary social, environmental and physical infrastructure, including employment opportunities?' be better phrased 'how can the plan best support development to take place in sustainable locations.....'.</p> <p>Nature and Resources The HBF suggests that the wording needs to use the word 'balance' more often as it often the case that the need for development has to be balanced against the need for development.</p> <p>Climate Change The HBF is no clear on what is meant by 'How can the plan ensure that surface water drainage is considered appropriately alongside the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) process?' The requirement for SuDS to be used in new development is already in Welsh legislation so the plan does not need to do any more.</p>	<p>Economy and Employment: - Comments noted. The questions asked seek to inform the evidence base (Population and Economic Forecasts, Retail Study, Candidate Site Assessment) we must compile ahead of the Preferred Strategy</p> <p>- Growth levels for the RLDP will be considered in detail as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage.</p> <p>Nature and Resources: - Comments noted. However, we believe the current phrasing is important to highlight the equal importance of each Objective and corresponding Issues.</p> <p>Climate Change: - This Issue relates to the importance of considering SuDS in the overall design of development, as opposed to the legislative requirements to obtain SAB approval. This Issue recognises the need for improved Green Infrastructure to support development and address Climate Change.</p>

00522/VIO/1/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Yes, the HBF supports the Objectives, however on page 5 of the document within the Population and Communities section a reference to a 'range of tenures' would help particular as the National plan is so focused on affordable homes.</p> <p>The HBF suggests that it would benefit the document if a link between the need for a range of new homes and the wish to create new jobs</p>	<p>- Support noted. We believe the Objective as currently drafted is appropriate. The phrase "high-quality homes that meet the needs of Newport" already captures this point succinctly.</p>

<p>within the 'Economy and Employment' section was included.</p>	<p>- We believe the suggested reference of “new homes” in the Economy and Employment Objective is not necessary. Both the Economy and Employment Objective and the Population and Communities Objective seek to “meet the needs of Newport”. The specific needs for both of these objectives will be explored in further detail as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage.</p>
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WG Economy, Skills And Natural Resource - 00707

Date Acknowledged: 25.03.2022

Date Received: 25.03.2022

00707/VIO/1/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>A strategically significant City which will contribute towards the national growth of Wales. We support this aspect of the Vision. Future Wales identifies Newport as a National Growth Area. The Welsh Government is determined to see development and growth in Newport, allowing the city to fulfil its potential as a second focal point for the region. Growth at Newport will help manage the development pressures in the region by providing a strategic growth focus for the eastern part of the area.</p> <p>A City that tackles inequality through sustainable patterns of development, creating places that are safe, connected, inclusive, healthy, and well designed with access to housing, jobs and services.</p> <p>We support this aspect of the Vision. The Local Development Plan should consider how prosperity can be spread across the region, how the local economy can be strengthened and how growth in Newport can benefit the whole region. Strategic growth should be focused in and immediately adjoining Newport itself, to support brownfield regeneration.</p> <p>A City that promotes and protects its historic assets, diverse cultures and languages. We support this aspect of the Vision.</p>	<p>- Support noted.</p> <p>- We welcome the Welsh Government's support for development and growth in Newport to fulfill its potential as a second focal point for the region, and recognition of Newport's strategic role to help manage the development pressures in the region.</p> <p>- We note comments regarding the need to address regional contributions as part of the RLDP. The evidence base for the plan will consider regional matters where required.</p>

<p>An economically thriving City which supports and attracts business and industry at all scales, particularly where they focus on sustainable, innovative and technologically leading practices, which contribute towards cultivating a skilled and adaptable workforce.</p> <p>We support this aspect of the Vision. The university in Newport is an important presence in the region, providing further education, undertaking research and supporting innovation, providing employment, attracting students and supporting the local businesses and communities around them. The Local Development Plan should consider its role in the region and how it can play a bigger role in supporting the regional economy, innovation and their communities.</p> <p>A resilient City which sustainably manages its natural resources, protecting and enhancing the biological and ecological values of the natural environment, including the benefits of ecosystem services, in a carbon neutral and climate responsible manner.</p> <p>We support this aspect of the Vision. The Welsh Government wishes to see biodiversity enhanced and ecosystems become more resilient across the South East, including Newport. In urban areas, the enhancement (net benefit) of biodiversity and the provision of green infrastructure must both shape growth and be fully integrated as part of location and design solutions for proposed development.</p>	
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00707/VIO/1/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Economy and Employment - we support the identified issues, specifically the following:</p> <p>-How will the Plan support the nationally important role of Newport's economy as identified in Future Wales?</p> <p>-How many jobs does Newport need and in what sectors (i.e. office; industrial; high tech; warehousing; etc) for the next 15 years? (particularly give the comments in Future Wales noting that highly skilled employment opportunities in the transport and digital communications sectors should be catalysts for further economic investments).</p> <p>-How much employment land do we need and where does it need to be provided?</p>	<p>- Support noted, in particular Economy and Employment; Health and Wellbeing; Natural Resources; Biodiversity; and Landscape Objectives.</p> <p>- References to the Environment (Wales) Act 2016; Future Wales; Planning Policy Wales are noted.</p>

-How do we support and encourage professional up-skilling and education of the Newport workforce? (particularly give the comments in Future Wales regarding the need to consider how the university can play a bigger role in supporting the regional economy, innovation and their communities).

-What are the impacts of Covid-19 / Brexit and how do we support the post pandemic economic recovery?

Health and Wellbeing - we support the identified issues, specifically the following:

-How should the plan support the provision and enhancement of green infrastructure networks? (particularly give the comments in Future Wales regarding how green infrastructure must both shape growth and be fully integrated as part of location and design solutions for proposed development. The Welsh Government support the need to maximise the use of GI and nature-based solutions as part of shaping urban growth).

Natural Resources - we support the identified issues, specifically the following:

-How can the plan ensure that the tranquillity of Newport's two areas of 'undisturbed' tranquil landscapes is preserved into the future? (particularly given the comments in PPW which note that the compatibility of land uses will be a key factor in maintaining tranquillity of areas and that access to such areas can help boost wellbeing.

Biodiversity - we support the identified issues, specifically the following:

-How can the plan ensure impacts on designated and important biodiversity sites, habitats and species are positive and result in net gains? (particularly given the comments in Future Wales which calls for policies in order to promote and safeguard the functions and opportunities such areas provide, the action required to provide a net benefit and for naturebased approaches to development).

-How can the plan protect and enhance ecological networks, including those that cross administrative boundaries? (all public authorities have a duty to enhance biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems under section 6 of The Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The Welsh

<p>Government encourage cross working with adjoining authorities and other bodies to assist in meeting this duty (para 6.4.4 of PPW)).</p> <p>-The plan can explore opportunities to enhance existing and establish new green infrastructure corridors to improve connectivity, particularly within urban areas.</p> <p>-How can the plan promote the resilience of ecosystem as defined by the diversity, extent, connectivity, condition and adaptability of those ecosystem? (particularly given the advice in PPW on implementing the Section 6 Duty)</p> <p>Landscape - we support the identified issues, specifically the following:</p> <p>-How can the plan ensure that Newport's valued landscapes, townscapes, and seascapes are protected and enhanced? With a particular focus on the Gwent Levels. (particularly given what PPW says about the requirement for protection, management and the opportunities for tourism, recreation and wellbeing such areas afford.</p>	
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00707/VIO/1/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We support the identified objectives for the RLDP, and particularly the following:</p> <p>Economy and Employment Provide for Newport's economic growth by offering a diverse range and choice of new and improved employment opportunities, which are adaptive to change and meet the needs of Newport and beyond, supporting a strong skilled and resilient workforce.</p> <p>Health and Well-being To improve health and well-being through the creation of well-connected, accessible, healthy and active places, tackling health and socioeconomic inequality through sustainable growth.</p> <p>Natural Resources Sustainably manage the natural resources in Newport to meet the needs of present and future communities, by ensuring resource efficiency, improved health outcomes, and the creation of a successful circular economy and green growth.</p> <p>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</p>	<p>- Support noted, in particular the Economy and Employment; Health and Well-being; Natural Resources; Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Landscape; and Climate Change objectives.</p>

<p>To maintain, enhance and improve the biodiversity and geodiversity of Newport and its surrounds, including improved resilience, diversity, connectivity and adaptability, whilst ensuring net benefits are facilitated from development.</p> <p>Landscape To protect and enhance the quality and character of Newport's landscape, townscape and seascape, and maximise the opportunities these features offer.</p> <p>Climate Change To ensure that development and land uses in Newport are resilient to the effects of climate change, and actively tackle the causes and impacts of climate change through minimisation, adaptation and mitigation.</p>	
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St. Modwen Developments Limited - 00648

Date Acknowledged: 24.03.2022

Date Received: 24.03.2022

00648/VIO/2/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
Please see letter (Savills, 24 March 2022).	N/A

00648/VIO/2/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
Please see letter (Savills, 24 March 2022).	N/A

00648/VIO/2/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
Please see letter (Savills, 24 March 2022).	N/A

00648/VIO/2/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
Please see letter (Savills, 24 March 2022). ----	- Support noted.

Savills is instructed by St. Modwen Developments Limited ("SMDL") to make representations to the Newport Replacement Local Development Plan ("RLDP") Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives consultation.

As you will be aware, SMDL is promoting the residential led mixed used regeneration of Glan Llyn which sits on the former Llanwern

Steelworks site. This is one of the Newport's (and South Wales') key regeneration schemes and lies on a major gateway into South Wales.

The site is previously developed (or brownfield) land and occupies a strategic and sustainable position. It is some 243 hectares in size and basically free from environmental designations and constraints. It has, however, been severely affected by its' industrial past.

To date, SMDL together with an experienced project team have fostered excellent working relationships with key stakeholders and officers at

Newport City Council ("NCC" or "the Council"). All parties recognise Glan Llyn as a clear local and regional priority for regeneration. Both

SMDL and NCC also recognise that public sector assistance is needed to deliver the redevelopment of the site. Progress made to date

demonstrates that a mixture of uses is possible and it is important that the site continues to feature as part of an allocated site in the RLDP.

To ensure that it does, the site was promoted as a Candidate Site in August 2021. The submission reinforced the sites' potential for further

redevelopment and recommended that Glan Llyn's allocation within the Eastern Expansion Area ("EEA") is maintained in the RLDP as a specific regeneration allocation.

This letter has been prepared to provide some further explanation of Glan Llyn's credentials. It starts with the headlines of the current

position and background, considers the current policy position before commenting on the draft vision, issues and objectives.

Glan Llyn - current position and background

The Glan Llyn scheme is a very significant regeneration project. The site (and the EEA that it forms part of) is one of the cornerstones of Newport's sustainable growth strategy.

- Candidate Site assessments are being carried out separately to this process, and the results of this assessment will be published at a later stage, any discussions necessary will be undertaken as part of that process.

- For clarity, the landscape objective encompasses all types of landscape areas (landscape, townscape and seascape) and not just those designated in the current plan. How this will affect development in detail will be determined as part of the policy drafting stage.

Outline planning permission ("OPP") was granted in April 2010 for the whole scheme (ref. 06/0471). The basic proposition is a new neighbourhood of approximately 4,000 new homes in a high quality (and transformed) environment, a local centre and a business park (now known as St. Modwen Park, formerly Celtic Business Park).

The site is rectangular in shape with longer sides of approximately 2km and shorter sides of 1km. Its western boundary is formed by Newport Retail Park District Centre, its northern boundary by the Tata and main railway lines and its eastern boundary by the retained Tata Llanwern Steelworks. Its long southern boundary is formed by the Queensway (A4810).

Development of the main new residential neighbourhoods falls into two main sub areas. The masterplan for the western area was approved in November 2010 and for the eastern area in February 2020. Applications (for the approval of reserved matters) have since been made and approved for a number of homes together with infrastructure that will serve them which is now in place. In addition, upgrades to the Queensway road to the south of the site has provided a major new link road.

The scheme is expected to take about 20 years to complete, by which time it will have created or supported 6,000 jobs. Many of these will have come from the development of the new housing on the site. The project requires long term vision and long term commitment. SMDL has provided both. It is one of the UK's leading regeneration companies, acts as master developer and is responsible for installing the new hard and soft infrastructure and landscaping. SMDL has established a Management Company to maintain the new development and will develop most of the business park itself. Individual house builders, housing associations and other bodies will be responsible for the delivery of new homes across multiple phases. A new neighbourhood will transform this previously developed site and will include substantial new areas of open space and parkland, two new primary schools and a local centre. SMDL is committed to the ongoing redevelopment of Glan Llyn development and the adjacent employment site. Reference is made to each

of the sites under policies H1 and EM1 and EM2 of the current adopted Local Development Plan (January 2015) ("LDP"). These policies capture the potential of the site to create a new residential led mixed use urban extension. The successful delivery at Glan Llyn to date has been achieved in very difficult market conditions - especially at the beginning of the development process for a very large scheme. Very few other sites have made anything like the progress that Glan Llyn has in these conditions.

It is therefore entirely reasonable for NCC to allocate the site for redevelopment in the RLDP (2021-2036) and to expect rates of development to increase as economic conditions improve and further key milestones are made with the scheme. These will include the next phases of residential development, the construction and opening of the second primary school, the development of the central and eastern lakes, and construction and operation of the next phases of business units at St. Modwen Park.

Regeneration of the site will also see one of Wales' largest previously developed sites recycled and transformed. This qualitative dimension of the scheme is just as important as the quantity of new housing and employment space that will be developed there.

Western and Eastern Sub Areas

The OPP for the site is based on a masterplan that shows how the development will be organised. The permission requires the agreement of a series of sub area masterplans.

The Western Sub Area extends to about 60 hectares and comprises the first 1,250 new homes split into five main development areas. As its name suggests, it includes the western part of the site next to the Newport Retail Park District Centre (Spytty) and close to where the Queensway turns into Queensway Meadows before it meets the A48.

The majority of the Western Sub Area has been delivered including: tackling the ground conditions, structures and services from its industrial past; provision of new roads (including the site's gateway); the development of a number of homes (by various housebuilders) have been

completed, or are underway, approved or in the planning pipeline; the first of the two primary schools for the development; the majority of Glan Llyn's green and blue grid of open space have been provided, including a large play and sports space, known as Western Park.

The Eastern Sub Area includes the remainder of the site up to its eastern boundary along to St. Modwen Park. It includes a number of phases for homes, together with the rest of the site's infrastructure and landscaping elements, including the central and eastern lakes, and the Avenue Road which connects to the Queensway to the south, and Main Street to the south which connects to the Local Centre. The approval of the Eastern Sub Area masterplan unlocked the remainder of the site and has subsequently seen reserved matters approvals come forward for residential phases and other open space and infrastructure.

Local Centre

A separate sub area masterplan has been approved for the local centre which includes a range of retail, leisure, residential and community facilities to serve the wider Glan Llyn community. The local centre is accessed directly from a signal controlled junction on the Queensway.

The infrastructure has been installed and the Marston's Llanwern Bull Pub and Restaurant is now open. Progress is ongoing on the delivery of other aspects to the local centre.

St. Modwen Park (formerly Celtic Business Park)

At the eastern end of the site, work on St Modwen Park is underway. This area also required its own sub area masterplan which was approved in 2015. The main road access has been approved and installed and the first four phases for business units have been approved, with some built and occupied and others expected to be constructed shortly. A Reserved Matters application for Phase 4 was approved in July 2021 and will deliver a further four business units (Units 4-7). Further planning applications are expected to follow.

Planning policy

Local Development Plan

The Glan Llyn concept responded to the closure of the former Llanwern Steelworks site. In its Unitary Development Plan ("UDP"), the Council allocated the former 'heavy end' of the steelworks and other land in the vicinity as the Eastern Expansion Area ("EEA"). This allocation continues in the adopted LDP. The strategy of the LDP recognises that the EEA is integral to the city's growth strategy, and is underpinned by the allocation and delivery of the Glan Llyn regeneration site. Strategic Policy SP11 relates solely to The Eastern Sub Area and states that:

'The Eastern Expansion Area consists of the former Llanwern Steelworks regeneration site known as Glan Llyn H1(47) and EM1(vii), and housing sites at Llanwern Village H1(3), Hartridge High School H1(19) and Jigsaw Site H1(55). This Eastern Expansion Area is identified as a residential led mixed use, sustainable urban expansion area which will provide a range and choice of housing, employment land and community uses.'

As well as supporting wider growth and regeneration ambitions, Glan Llyn helps NCC deliver its housing requirements in a sustainable way. The site provides 25% of the LDPs overall requirement to 2026 (and the EEA contributes just under 40%). Glan Llyn will also contribute to longer term housing requirements beyond the current plan period.

Future Wales - The National Plan 2040 (February 2021)
Policy 33 (National Growth Area - Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys) recognises Newport as part of a wider National Growth Area across the south east. The policy notes:

"Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys will be the main focus for growth and investment in the South East region. Strategic and Local Development Plans should recognise the National Growth Area as the focus for strategic economic and housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure."

The policy continues:

"The Welsh Government supports an increased strategic role for Newport as a focus for sustainable, long term growth and investment. The

Welsh Government will work with authorities within the region and in England to promote Newport's strategic role and ensure key investment decisions in Wales and England support Newport."

It is therefore clear that, at a national level, the strategic and sustainable development of regeneration schemes such as Glan Llyn should have full support.

Comments on Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives

As a high level document, the RLDP's Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives sets out 10 key themes which will be the focus for the evidence base and policy development of the City's new Plan The key themes are informed by the current situation and key issues for the RLDP to address.

SMDL finds much to support within the document and provides further commentary on each of the 10 draft objectives below.

-Economy and Employment. This objective is to provide for Newport's economic growth through new and improved employment opportunities which adapt to change and support a strong and resilient workforce.

SMDL supports this objective. The Glan Llyn regeneration project delivers both direct and indirect economic and employment benefits, during construction and occupation of the homes and spaces created. The delivery of much needed housing in Newport also provides indirect economic dividend by increasing the prospects of people living, working and spending in the local area. Significant employment opportunities are also to be realised through the delivery of industrial and warehousing units at St. Modwen Park.

-Population and Communities. This objective focuses on the provision of high-quality homes which are also supported by social, environmental, cultural and physical infrastructure to provide safe and healthy places.. The document notes that the current LDP has ensured the protection and delivery of community facilities, including a new primary school at Glan Llyn.

SMDL supports this objective too. Glan Llyn delivers infrastructure to serve the development in the form of new schools, local centre and

open space appropriate to meet the new neighbourhoods needs and requirements. These facilities are important in the successful delivery of communities and place-making.

-Health and Well-being. This objective seeks to improve health and well-being through creating well-connected, accessible, healthy and active places, tackling health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth. SMDL support this objective. The masterplan approach to the delivery of development across Glan Llyn builds in the health and well-being of existing and future residents and visitors. For example, the masterplans seek the delivery of extensive areas of green and open space, for example Western Park and the various greenways throughout the site.

-Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Seeks to create quality positive places in which development assists with creating inclusive, connected, adaptable and accessible communities that are cohesive and where Newport's culture, including the Welsh language is valued and promoted.

SMDL supports this objective and the delivery of Glan Llyn will foster inclusive and accessible communities that promote culture and diversity. Glan Llyn has, and will continue to, deliver a significant contribution to affordable housing

Transport and Movement. Aims to reduce the need to travel and increase the use and provision of sustainable travel options.

SMDL support this objective. Glan Llyn is a sustainably located urban extension, providing housing and employment floorspace in accessible locations. It encourages and enable active travel - on example is the infrastructure provided in the form of shared pedestrian cycleways across the development.

-Natural Resources. Focuses on meeting the needs of present and future communities through sustainably managing natural resources achieved by resource efficiency, improved health outcomes and creation of a successful circular economy and green growth.

SMDL support this objective. The site is heavily contaminated as a result of its industrial past, however, the regeneration of the site is

providing the opportunity to treat and remediate much of the site. By doing so, and utilising previously developed land, this helps improve environmental conditions. Recycling the site also reduces pressure on greenfield sites (and should be prioritised).

-Biodiversity and Geodiversity. This objective is to maintain, enhance and improve the biodiversity and geodiversity of Newport and its surrounds, including improved resilience, diversity, connectivity and adaptability, while also ensuring net benefits are facilitated from development.

SMDL support this objective. As noted above, the site is heavily contaminated as a result of its industrial past. The site offered little by way of biodiversity and ecology during its operations as a steelwork site, however, through careful regeneration and a masterplan that looks to deliver significant green and blue infrastructure, Glan Llyn will be delivering considerable biodiversity improvements.

-Historic Environment. Seeks to preserve, enhance and realise the value of Newport's heritage resources, through investment, interpretation and maximisation of opportunities provided by the historic environment and archaeological assets.

Glan Llyn is free from historic environment constraints. SMDL therefore has no direct comments to make on this matter.

-Landscape. Focuses on the protection and enhancement of the quality and character of the landscape, townscape and seascape and maximise the opportunities from these features.

Glan Llyn is free from any landscape designations or constraints. SMDL therefore has limited direct comments to make but support the objective of improving townscape and is seeking to achieve this at Glan Llyn through a careful masterplanning approach. The regeneration of the site is also a significant visual improvement on what was there previously.

-Climate Change. Aims to ensure development and land uses are resilient to the effects of climate change and actively tackle the cause and impacts of such through minimisation, adaption and mitigation.

SMDL support this objective. As noted above, Glan Llyn is considered a sustainably located urban extension, providing housing and employment floorspace in accessible locations. The regeneration and recycling of the site will also see one of Wales' largest previously developed sites transformed, delivering much needed housing in a sustainable location and in doing so also reduces pressures for housing delivery on greenfield sites. The masterplan-led approach seeks to encourage and enable active travel, for example the infrastructure provided in the form of shared pedestrian cycleways across the development.

Conclusion

As stated at the beginning of this letter, SMDL seeks to reiterate Glan Llyn's importance as a key regeneration site to deliver the objectives of the RLDP. This reflects the planning position and delivery on site to date and the clear potential of the scheme to continue to provide a residential-led mixed use urban extension on a previously developed site within the plan period of 2021-2036 of the RLDP. In this context, SMDL finds much to support across the objectives.

The scheme is a major sustainable regeneration initiative and is a true commitment: OPP has been granted, the site is in the hands of an active and experienced development company, significant and substantial infrastructure has been installed and development is underway by multiple housebuilders. Glan Llyn continues to both warrant and need clear planning support and should be identified as a clear priority and objective for the RLDP.

I trust the above is clear and I look forward to receiving confirmation of the registration of our representations in due course. If you require any further information please do contact me.

The Church Commissioners For England - 00639

Date Acknowledged: 24.03.2022

Date Received: 24.03.2022

00639/VIO/2/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>On behalf of our client, the Church Commissioners for England (CCE), we enclose representation to the Newport Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives document, issued for public consultation until 25 March 2022.</p> <p>CCE is a registered charity that supports the work and mission of the Church of England across the country. Their investment policy is to hold a diverse portfolio of investments across a broad range of asset classes consistent with their ethical guidelines.</p> <p>CCE own land in Newport, to the north of the village of Caerleon, extending to circa 130 hectares. The site was put forward in the Call for Candidate Sites in August 2021, and a copy of the submission is appended for reference. CCE supports in principle the draft vision in the consultation document and welcomes the opportunity to work with the Council to achieve its ambition through the delivery of homes and infrastructure to create safe and sustainable places. CCE's land at Caerleon has the potential to deliver a new garden village to realise the Council's ambition by contributing to national growth in Wales; tackle inequality through sustainable patterns of development; and can suitably manage natural resources to contribute to a resilient city.</p>	<p>Support noted.</p> <p>Candidate Site assessments are occurring separately from this process. The outcome of those assessments will be published at a later stage in the process.</p>

00639/VIO/2/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>CCE generally supports the identified key issues to be addressed for each objective within the consultation document. We comment in relation to specific issues and objectives below.</p> <p>In relation to the key issues for population and communities, in considering the most suitable locations for urban expansion the Council should consider allocating land for garden villages as part of its strategy. CCE's land at Caerleon is a suitable, viable and deliverable site that could come forward and we expand on the benefits of this further in our comments on the objectives.</p>	<p>Support noted.</p> <p>Candidate Site assessments are occurring separately from this process. The outcome of those assessments will be published at a later stage in the process.</p> <p>Comments regarding air quality are noted. It is considered that this issue is already reflected under both the Health and Well-being Objective and the Transport and Movement Objective.</p>

In considering the key issues for transport and movement, air quality should be a fundamental consideration. It is noted that the health and wellbeing issues identified include how the plan can negate the impact on development on air quality. However, it is considered that the plan should go further, and the Council should also consider how strategic transport solutions can contribute to addressing air quality issues prevalent within the area.

It is understood that air quality in Caerleon is a particular issue due to traffic congestion along the one-way system and narrow streets. As such, Caerleon is particularly suited to any improvements which would help improve air quality in the area, such as a strategic relief road.

CCE's site brings the opportunity to deliver a relief road between Caerleon and the A4042, limiting the amount of traffic which would need to go through the village on a day to day basis. Therefore, it is likely that this development could assist in improving air quality within the wider village.

Air quality in Caerleon would be further improved by the opening of a new train station, a key aspiration of the Welsh Government which could be supported by the development of CCE's site. The size and positioning of the proposed development allocation would increase the demand for local rail services and help in supporting long-term viability of the service. The proposal site could also generate the case for increasing the frequency of current rail services on the route between Cwmbran and Newport Stations (the Welsh Marches Line), supporting the RLDP objective of increasing the use and provision of sustainable travel options. Such strategic solutions should specifically be incorporated as key issues for consideration and to be addressed as part of the RLDP preparation, as well as forming objectives.

In relation to the key issues for landscape, specifically whether current urban boundaries should be extended or tightened, the Council should carefully consider how boundaries are drawn to ensure there is sufficient space to plan for the development necessary to meet

Noted. The appraisal of urban and village boundaries and Green Wedge designations will be carried out as the plan progresses.

identified needs. Similarly, current Green Wedge designations should be reviewed to ensure sustainable development can come forward over the next plan period.

00639/VIO/2/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>CCE supports the objectives identified for the RLDP and considers these to be appropriate to meet the vision and ambition for the plan.</p> <p>In particular, it strongly supports the population and communities objective to deliver high quality homes supported by necessary social, environmental, cultural and physical infrastructure. As part of its strategy to meet this objective, the Council should consider options for a strategic garden village. CCE's land at Caerleon extends to circa 130 hectares and provides an opportunity to deliver a new sustainable garden village development of up to 2,000 new dwellings alongside a local centre, employment land and social and community infrastructure.</p> <p>Allocation of the site for a garden village could make a substantial contribution to meeting this objective as well as the other objectives identified within the consultation document. The development would be designed to be sustainable, with local residents able to meet the majority of their day to day needs on site.</p> <p>Whilst the development is of a scale to be considered a standalone community, it will also be within walking distance of Caerleon village and cycling distance of Newport city centre, making it a sustainable development opportunity. The western boundary of the site is located less than 1km from the built-up area of Newport City via an existing direct cycle route, and the eastern most parts of the site would only be a 1.3km walk into Caerleon village. As such, the site provides opportunities for a modal shift towards active travel and a reduction on the reliance on cars. The site also has excellent links to Malpas and Ponthir.</p> <p>The site is subject to several environmental designations, including Lodge Wood which is part of a Site of Importance for Nature</p>	<p>- Support noted, in particular the Population and Communities Objective.</p> <p>- Candidate Site assessments are occurring separately from this process. The outcome of those assessments will be published at a later stage in the process.</p> <p>- Comments regarding air quality are noted.</p> <p>The Vision and Objectives are overarching elements of the plan that apply to all areas.</p> <p>The Transport and Movement Objective as currently drafted is considered appropriate, as more areas specific details would undermine its overarching function.</p>

<p>Conservation (SINC). This natural resource can be sustainably managed as part of development plans in line with the natural resources objective, by excluding it from the development area and enhancing it as an area for nature conservation and recreation. Further opportunities for green infrastructure, open space, leisure and recreation provision would be provided through the strategic garden village development itself.</p> <p>With respect to the transport and movement objective, in line with our earlier comments on air quality, the objective should be bolstered to consider strategic highways and rail solutions to address the air quality issues within the area. This should include consideration of a relief road between Caerleon and the A402 which CCE's land could facilitate as part of a wider strategic development allocation.</p>	
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00639/VIO/2/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
<p>CCE's site represents an opportunity to provide a garden village to the north of Caerleon. The provision of housing (a proportion of which will be affordable), the creation of ancillary employment generating uses, and the green infrastructure that will be included on site represent significant environmental, social, cultural and economic advantages. The proposals would be well contained due to the existing topography and the natural site boundaries. The site is within a sustainable location with good opportunities for walking and cycling in the local area as well as diverting/extending existing public transport services into the site.</p> <p>We trust that the above comments will be taken into account by the Council during the preparation of the emerging Local Plan. Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleague, Pauline Roberts.</p>	<p>- Candidate Site assessments are occurring separately and any discussions necessary will be undertaken as part of that process.</p>

H E Murray - 00637

Date Acknowledged: 24.03.2022

Date Received: 23.03.2022

00637/VIO/2/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>In general terms we agree with the RLDP vision. In new housing development such as the recently submitted candidate site (Ref: CS-0025 - Land at The Griffin), we place significant emphasis on creating new, sustainable neighbourhoods that deliver a mix of new homes to suit a range of needs, new high quality green spaces for people to enjoy and new pedestrian and cycle links which integrate with the surrounding active travel network. It is important for the RLDP to work alongside national policy documents such as Future Wales and Planning Policy Wales to ensure good design and placemaking principles are adhered to, to create accessible, sustainable, high-quality places where people want to live. Any new development should seek to benefit the wider local community through the provision of new and improvement of existing active travel to promote health and wellbeing and job creation, where possible. Outside of the commitment to deliver better places within Newport, we recognise the importance of the local economy, maximising historical and cultural assets and the protection of the existing natural environment. These are well signposted in the 'vision' and expanded on in the subsequent issues and objectives. The vision successfully captures the key challenges and opportunities that currently exist and look likely to evolve into the next plan period.</p>	<p>- Support noted. - Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process. The results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>

00637/VIO/2/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>The projected significant increase in housing need in Wales and, particularly Newport is a critical issue that has been sufficiently identified. Latest household estimate figures for Wales highlight the ongoing trend over the last 30 years for an increase in households, mainly due to increases in one-person and two-person households, which remained the most common household types in Wales, based on these</p>	<p>- Support noted. - The mix of housing types and tenure will be considered in further detail as the plan progresses. - Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process. The results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>

<p>estimates. A greater emphasis should be placed on housing type and tenure when addressing housing growth. Recognising that this ongoing trend for the increase in the formation of one and two person households is likely to continue through the plan period, points to a clear need for the provision of additional smaller homes in the City to accommodate for this growth and cater for smaller households. New sites need to consider the provision of a range and mix of homes to assist in addressing the demographic and affordability challenges facing Newport, as demonstrated at Site CS-0025 - Land at The Griffin. The issue of climate change is at the forefront of all new development in Wales and its regions. It is important that we continue to make positive contribution toward addressing the causes of, and adapting to the impacts of, climate change. This can be achieved through reducing energy demand and promoting energy efficiency; developing a sustainable water strategy; aiming to use sustainable materials and minimise resource use, where possible; and the incorporation of green infrastructure, reduction of solar gain, passive ventilation, flood risk management, and sustainable drainage systems.</p>	
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00637/VIO/2/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>The objectives should perfectly align with the key issues facing Newport during the plan period. The starting point is growth. This agenda will be achieved by making existing places better for now and the future. Compromise is inevitable. The opportunity to improve existing places exists but will require greenfield land. Accepting this necessity enables the most otherwise sustainable outcome to be achieved. In doing so, the overall growth objective is not compromised. Development at greenfield sites located at West Newport can utilise the sustainable transport modes available including the rail services to Cardiff and Newport from Rogerstone and Pye Corner. The site at the Griffin (CS-0025) offers the opportunity to provide housing within walking distance of existing communities where access to facilities can be made on</p>	<p>- The need to facilitate sustainable growth is noted and recognised within the current drafting of the Vision, Issues and Objectives. This will be explored in further detail as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage to follow. - Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process. The results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>

foot / by people with reduced mobility. There are not that many locations where you can access as many facilities as easily as you can from the Griffin.	
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00637/VIO/2/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
Whilst listed in the anticipated evidence base, viability and deliverability is key to the implementation of any new development. Sufficient assessment and appraisal work should be undertaken to identify significant constraints early in the process, that would have a negative effect on potential viability.	Noted.

Persimmon Homes Welsh Government - 00641

Date Acknowledged: 24.03.2022

Date Received: 23.03.2022

00641/VIO/2/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We agree with the stated vision for Newport which reflects the position of the city within the National Growth Area and as a focus for strategic economic and housing growth (as identified in Future Wales - The National Plan 2040). It also reflects the reference to Newport in Future Wales as having "an increased strategic role as a focus for sustainable, long-term growth and investment." By defining Newport as "a strategically significant City which will contribute towards the national growth of Wales" the Vision reflects the following commitments in Future Wales:</p> <p>1 "The Welsh Government will work with authorities within the region and in England to promote Newport's strategic role and ensure key investment decisions in Wales and England support Newport." (page 164)</p> <p>2 "The Welsh Government is determined to see development and growth in Newport, allowing the city to fulfil its potential as a second focal point for the region." (page 165)</p>	<p>- Support noted.</p> <p>- Details on the most appropriate places to accommodate sustainable growth will be explored as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage to come.</p> <p>- We note the importance of the placemaking objectives/outcomes within Future Wales and Planning Policy Wales, and in our view this has been appropriately reflected in the current drafting of the Vision, Issues and Objectives.</p> <p>- Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process. The results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>

3 "Growth at Newport will help manage the development pressures in the region by providing a strategic growth focus for the eastern part of the area." (page 167)

4 "Strategic growth should be focused in and immediately adjoining Newport itself, to support brownfield regeneration." (page 167)

Newport is rapidly expanding. The Welsh Government's 2018-based Household Projections identify a 9% increase in the number of households in Newport between 2021 and 2036. This is the highest rate of increase of all local authorities in Wales; it is more than double the average of 4.25% in South East Wales and three times the increase of 3.1% in Wales over the same period. Newport also has the capacity to continue its rapid employment growth - serving as a driver of the Welsh economy and assisting in its recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be important to support this through the identification of suitable sites for housing and employment purposes.

We further agree that sustainability should be at the heart of the vision for Newport and that this aspiration should inform future patterns of development, the management of natural resources and mobility strategies for individual development schemes and the city as a whole.

Given the significant constraints that exist in Newport, this raises particular challenges when set alongside the ambition for growth. It is important to direct future development to locations that are not subject to specific landscape or ecological sensitivities or at risk of flooding.

This results in very limited options for growth - predominantly to the east in locations that benefit from good accessibility via active travel routes and public transport options.

A move towards carbon neutral and zero carbon development is a key Welsh Government objective and is appropriately supported in the draft RLDP vision. Whilst we are supportive of this ambition, it is important to have regard to the deliverability implications of this - balancing the need to address the challenge of climate change against the need for development.

Given the importance that is placed on placemaking objectives within Future Wales and Planning Policy Wales, we would recommend that

<p>consideration should also be given to these within the vision, issues and objectives of the LDP The proposed development at land north of Llanwern is fully compliant with this vision. It has the capacity to make a significant contribution to growth in Newport, and contribute to its role in Wales, by concentrating development on one of the only sites in the local authority area that is free from significant constraints (including flood risk and existing/proposed green belt/Best and Most Versatile agricultural land) and which can benefit from high quality sustainable transport options. The delivery of zero carbon mixed-use development in this location by Persimmon Homes and Welsh Government will also reflect the key sustainability and placemaking aspirations.</p>	
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00641/VIO/2/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We agree with key issues identified in the Vision, Issues and Objectives document in the sections entitled What is the current situation? and Key issues for the Plan to address and comment on these matters in more detail below. Housing and the economy The identification of Newport as a focus for development within the National Growth Area in Future Wales has significant implications for the LDP which must help to drive economic growth through the provision of sufficient land for economic development and housing. In this regard, consideration of the future direction of the economy should be very carefully tested through evidence so as to understand both the level of job growth and the type of sectors that will experience the most rapid growth over the LDP period. However, recognising that some sectors might also decline locally, the LDP should adopt a flexible approach to dealing with sites that may no longer be suitable for continued employment purposes. As preparation of the Newport LDP Review moves forward, the quantum of growth and the distribution of employment sites will both be critical, particularly given the physical constraints from which Newport suffers. In considering this matter, we would recommend that regard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support noted. - Specific details on the levels of growth required, including changing patterns of work, will be explored as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage. - The evidence base will be developed in line with the Development Plan Manual requirements. - The importance of any new development being sustainably located to address health, equality and transport matters is noted. These will continue to be considered in detail as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage to follow. - The challenges for the plan to address climate change and enhancing the environment are noted, and will continue to be an ongoing consideration as the plan progresses.

should be given to the increased demand for people to work locally or from home as this will have implications on the mix of housing to be provided (i.e. generating a demand for larger properties with dedicated space to be used as home offices) and the provision of work-hubs within district and local centres.

The role of Newport as a centre for growth in South East Wales and part of a national growth area similarly sets the context for the LDP in respect of population and housing growth. It is recognised that growth in Newport has been, and continues to be, significantly above the average for South East Wales and Wales as a whole. Housing delivery over the current LDP period has been relatively strong but we agree that this has not been able to address the problems of increasing house prices and deteriorating affordability. This underlines the importance of ensuring an adequate supply of housing in the future. Whilst the Welsh Government's household projections should form the starting point for the assessment of future housing need, these should not be the only source that is taken into account. Instead, regard should be given to the range of considerations that are set out in the Development Plans Manual including alignment with economic growth, demographic trends and affordable housing need. We would be very concerned were the housing requirement contained within the LDP to be limited to the level of household growth set out in the Welsh Government projections. Such an approach would fail to reflect the true need that exists in Newport and would not reflect its growth status.

We agree with the consultation document's statement that Newport combines the most wealthy and most deprived neighbourhoods in Wales.

It will be important for the LDP to address this through regeneration initiatives and the provision of a sufficient quantum of new housing (including affordable housing) and associated community facilities. In addition to focusing on the overall need for housing, it will also be important to ensure that an adequate range and mix of housing types is provided in order to meet the needs of all communities and

households that wish to live in Newport. This should not solely focus on the delivery of smaller homes but a balanced provision must also be made for family homes and specialist accommodation for older people and those with particular needs.

We note that a large proportion of recent housing delivery in Newport has been on brownfield sites and agree that the limited supply of such sites going forward will necessitate the release of greenfield land. The LDP should recognise this in its allocation of development sites and, whilst continuing to support the redevelopment of brownfield land, it must identify an adequate quantum of greenfield sites to meet the identified housing needs. This should include sites for urban expansion which will offer a means by which a range of land uses can be delivered so as to maximise sustainability. Any review of opportunities for such strategic sites should reflect the significant constraints that affect Newport - not least the large proportion of the authority that is at risk of flooding - and ensure that future development can be resistant to - and help to address - the effects climate change.

Health and equality

We agree that health and wellbeing represent key objectives of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and that the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of this. A key implication for the LDP will be to ensure that new developments are planned around open space and Green Infrastructure and that a sustainable mix of uses can reduce the need to travel, with sustainable transport options (including active travel) available. This again highlights the importance of sustainable urban extensions which are very well placed to contribute towards these aims alongside smaller-scale development sites within the existing urban area.

Transport

The sustainable transport hierarchy that is set out in Planning Policy Wales represents an important starting point for any consideration of transport and mobility issues in the LDP. The draft Vision, Issues and Objectives document recognises that, going forward, new

developments should be framed around the use of active travel, public transport, the internalisation of travel, off-site mitigation (where required) and the promotion of ultra low emission vehicles. Such an approach will be important in helping to address existing issues of congestion, poor air quality and carbon emissions.

Given the limited ongoing supply of brownfield land within the existing urban area, there may be challenges in continuing the exiting "centrefirst" approach to development. However, the development of greenfield sites - and particularly urban extensions - provide the opportunity for a step change in the approach to mobility by offering the potential to build the new community around the principles of accessibility and sustainable movement. This would include the integration of different land uses and the provision of high quality virtual connectivity in order to reduce the need to travel; the provision of convenient, safe and attractive active travel routes; and the integration of existing neighbourhoods to new facilities and services so as to help reduce the need for existing residents to travel.

Climate change and the environment

The need for new development in Newport must be considered in the context of the environmental constraints of the city and the overarching importance of tackling the impacts of climate change. The Welsh Government and Newport Council have declared a climate emergency and it is important that the revised LDP provides a basis by which to help address this. However, seeking to resist growth would not be a sustainable solution and would not serve the best interests of Newport or its existing and future population. Instead, it is important to ensure that an appropriate level of new development is provided for in appropriate locations, having regard to the environmental capacity of the area. This will include:

- 1 Ensuring that new development avoids areas that have been identified as being at risk of flooding - this will be a particular challenge in Newport given the extent of flood zones 2 and 3;

<p>2 Ensuring that new development incorporates an appropriate quantum and type of blue and green infrastructure and contributes to biodiversity net gain whilst improving ecological connectivity, avoiding, minimising and mitigating harm;</p> <p>3 Avoiding the areas of best and most versatile agricultural land, so far as possible;</p> <p>4 Avoiding designated sites - including the existing and proposed Green Belt - so far as possible;</p> <p>5 Ensuring that the landscape impact of new development is minimised so far as possible and that it can be sensitively integrated through a careful approach to location, design and mitigation; and,</p> <p>6 Requiring new development to meet high standards of energy efficiency and decarbonisation through their location, layout, approach to mobility, and building design.</p> <p>The key issues that are identified in respect of environmental and climate change issues are very significant and will require careful consideration. However, we believe that it will be possible for the LDP to deliver the quantum of development that is required in Newport in a manner that will support and enhance the environment and those characteristics that make it such a special place.</p>	
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00641/VIO/2/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We agree with the objectives relating to the importance of providing for economic growth and a sufficient number of high quality homes, and that regard should be had to the status of Newport as the second focal point in the national growth area behind Cardiff in respect of both of these matters. Going forward the quantum and location of land for employment and residential development will be key considerations and it will be essential to ensure that the sites that are identified for development are deliverable in the context of the significant constraints that exist across Newport.</p> <p>We likewise agree that it is important to ensure that new homes are supported by the full range of necessary infrastructure that will maintain</p>	<p>- Support noted.</p> <p>- Details on the most appropriate places to accommodate sustainable growth will be explored as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage to come.</p> <p>- Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process. The results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>

and enhance the local community and wider settlement. The opportunity exists through new development to enhance the sustainability of Newport and deliver a range of facilities and services that will benefit existing and future residents. The delivery of mixed-use strategic sites will play a particularly important role in this regard. Such sites will also be important in promoting the health and well-being of existing and future communities and delivering inclusive communities that support the needs of all, including those in need of affordable housing and specialist accommodation.

The objective to reduce the need to travel and increase the use and provision of sustainable travel options is logical and appropriate. This can be achieved through the delivery of sustainable urban extensions which provide a mix of land uses and integrate high quality and innovative public transport solutions from day one. However, a complete modal shift away from the private car will take a considerable time to be achieved and so the LDP should plan for and support ultra low emission vehicles through the provision of adequate charging infrastructure as part of new developments.

The objectives relating to the environment and climate change are appropriate and provide the basis by which the need for development can be accommodated in a manner that protects and enhances the environment and tackles the causes and impacts of climate change.

However, it is of critical importance that any allocations and policies within the LDP support the deliverability of development. In the face of competing pressures for the provision of affordable housing, community facilities, green infrastructure/public open space, mobility solutions and carbon neutral development, Newport Council must think very carefully about its priorities in order to ensure that its policy aspirations do not render development unviable and consequently result in the LDP becoming undeliverable.

00641/VIO/2/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
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<p>The proposed development of a residential-led strategic mixed use development north of Llanwern accords with the vision, issues and objectives of the LDP. In summary, it:</p> <p>1 Represents the right location for growth:</p> <p>a Benefitting from a strategic location that is well related to Newport;</p> <p>b Being largely free from the risk of flooding, not designated or proposed for designation as a Green Belt, not sensitive from a landscape and ecological perspective, and not designated as best and most versatile agricultural land; and,</p> <p>c Having limited heritage assets, and the ability to integrate these into the development. This freedom from constraints sets it apart from the majority of sites in Newport.</p> <p>2 Has the capacity to accommodate housing and employment growth together with a range of community facilities, all set within a very high quality environment.</p> <p>3 Is able to integrate with sustainable transport options and benefit from an extensive active travel network;</p> <p>4 Offers considerable opportunities for biodiversity net gain;</p> <p>5 Will provide zero carbon ready buildings;</p> <p>6 Will respond to economic imbalances and deprivation issues, both locally and at a local authority level.</p> <p>We consider this to represent one of the best opportunities for development in Newport at this time and look forward to working with officers in respect of this opportunity as the LDP process progresses.</p>	<p>- Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process. Any information or discussions required will be carried out as part of that process. The results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>
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Newport Golf Club - 00193

Date Acknowledged: 24.03.2022

Date Received: 23.03.2022

00193/VIO/2/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>In general terms we agree with the RLDP vision. In new housing development such as the recently submitted candidate sites at Newport</p>	<p>- Support noted.</p>

<p>Golf Club (Wood Close (NGC(1)) and (Pontymason Lane (NGC(2))), we place significant emphasis on creating new, sustainable neighbourhoods that deliver a mix of new homes to suit a range of needs, new high quality green spaces for people to enjoy and new pedestrian and cycle links which integrate with the surrounding active travel network. It is important for the RLDP to work alongside national policy documents such as Future Wales and Planning Policy Wales to ensure good design and placemaking principles are adhered to, to create accessible, sustainable, high-quality places where people want to live. Any new development should seek to benefit the wider local community through the provision of new and improvement of existing active travel to promote health and wellbeing and job creation, where possible. Outside of the commitment to deliver better places within Newport, we recognise the importance of the local economy, maximising historical and cultural assets and the protection of the existing natural environment. These are well signposted in the 'vision' and expanded on in the subsequent issues and objectives. The vision successfully captures the key challenges and opportunities that currently exist and look likely to evolve into the next plan period.</p>	<p>- Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process. The results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>
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00193/VIO/2/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>The projected significant increase in housing need in Wales and, particularly Newport is a critical issue that has been sufficiently identified. Latest household estimate figures for Wales highlight the ongoing trend over the last 30 years for an increase in households, mainly due to increases in one-person and two-person households, which remained the most common household types in Wales, based on these estimates. A greater emphasis should be placed on housing type and tenure when addressing housing growth. Recognising that this ongoing trend for the increase in the formation of one and two person households is likely to continue through the plan period, points to a clear need</p>	<p>- Support noted. - The mix of housing types and tenure will be considered in further detail as the plan progresses. - Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process. The results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>

for the provision of additional smaller homes in the City to accommodate for this growth and cater for smaller households. New sites need to consider the provision of a range and mix of homes to assist in addressing the demographic and affordability challenges facing Newport, as demonstrated at Wood Close (NGC(1)) and (Pontymason Lane (NGC(2))). The issue of climate change is at the forefront of all new development in Wales and its regions. It is important that we continue to make positive contribution toward addressing the causes of, and adapting to the impacts of, climate change. This can be achieved through reducing energy demand and promoting energy efficiency; developing a sustainable water strategy; aiming to use sustainable materials and minimise resource use, where possible; and the incorporation of green infrastructure, reduction of solar gain, passive ventilation, flood risk management, and sustainable drainage systems.

00193/VIO/2/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>The objectives should perfectly align with the key issues facing Newport during the plan period. The starting point is growth. This agenda will be achieved by making existing places better for now and the future. Compromise is inevitable. The opportunity to improve existing places exists but will require greenfield land. Accepting this necessity enables the most otherwise sustainable outcome to be achieved. In doing so, the overall growth objective is not compromised.</p>	<p>- The need to facilitate sustainable growth is noted and recognised within the current drafting of the Vision, Issues and Objectives. This will be explored in further detail as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage to follow.</p>

00193/VIO/2/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Whilst listed in the anticipated evidence base, viability and deliverability is key to the implementation of any new development. Sufficient assessment and appraisal work should be undertaken to identify significant constraints early in the process, that would have a negative effect on potential viability.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

The Coal Authority - 00324
Date Acknowledged: 24.03.2022

Date Received: 23.03.2022

00324/VIO/5/001 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Thank you for your notification received on the 31st January 2022 in respect of the above consultation.</p> <p>The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. As a statutory consultee, The Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.</p> <p>Our records indicate that there are no recorded coal mining legacy features present at surface or shallow depth in the Newport City area that may pose a risk to surface stability. Records we hold also indicates that no surface coal resource is present in the area.</p> <p>On the basis that there are no recorded shallow coal mining legacy features present in the area the Planning team at the Coal Authority has no specific comments to make.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this further.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Monmouthshire County Council - 00031
Date Acknowledged: 19.03.2022

Date Received: 18.03.2022

00031/VIO/1/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We have no specific comments to make on the Newport RLDP Draft Issues, Vision and Objectives. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with Newport City Council on cross boundary issues as part of our respective Replacement Local Development Plan processes.</p>	<p>Noted. We look forward to working collaboratively as our respect plans progress.</p>

John Harper - 00608

Date Acknowledged: 21.03.2022

Date Received: 18.03.2022

00608/VIO/1/001 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Thank you for sending me a copy of the Newport development plan and the opportunity to respond.</p> <p>My suggestions for the plan fall under 3 headings ;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Best use of vacant space2. Link the town centre to the Glebelands3. Usk barrage <p>1 and 2 are not costly . I will provide further detail in my Formal response which will follow.</p> <p>I was born and bred in Newport.</p> <p>The views are entirely my own but I am a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors ,the Rating and Valuation Association and the Chartered Institute of Housing.</p> <p>My formal response will follow.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your draft.</p> <p>I have consistently bemoaned the deterioration of the town centre. This is not the fault the council but there are issues that could be addressed without massive cost:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Vacant Space. There are opportunities to improve the vacant space around the town centre such as the top of Cambrian Road (opposite the Station). This presents an opportunity for a much more welcoming feature to travellers entering the town, perhaps a bench or tree or both. Improvements at Maindee (opposite the Police Station) could be added.2. The opportunity for cycleways is enormous. Linking the town centre to the Glebelands via the riverside would enable access to an enormous green space and eventually link Caerleon and Severn locks.3. The Usk Barrage could be a big lift to the City and create an environment to attract increased footfall and visit the transporter	<p>- Support noted and enthusiasm for the city welcomed.</p> <p>- The Vision, Issues and Objectives drafted broadly seek to address the issues raised, with particular regard for improving the vitality of the city centre and opportunities for improving active travel connectivity throughout the city. However, it is important to note that the purpose of the RLDP is to provide a framework which future development proposals may be considered against, and not to explicitly deliver such specific proposals.</p> <p>- How these objectives will be specifically implemented will be outlined in the more detailed policy development stage.</p>

bridge , the Westgate and the Coldra.
 This is not wishful thinking. Given a time period of 15 years it could be done alongside the refurbishment of the new Market and the Arcades.
 Key to all of this is the Barrage. There is much to do here including gaining approval, engineering work and funding but if led and planned by the right people it would raise the whole quality of life for Newport and the surrounding area. If there is anything here you want to discuss please ring me or e-mail.
 There is nothing in your draft with which I disagree. I believe my objectives tick many of the boxes contained in the draft and the national sustainable outcomes in Planning Policy Wales.

Axis Land Partnerships Ltd - 00625

Date Acknowledged: 21.03.2022

Date Received: 18.03.2022

00625/VIO/2/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>A vision for a Development Plan is essentially the foundation of the Plan and the framework against which the success of the Plan will ultimately be measured. In our opinion, the vision is too long - they are often concise statements rather than a series of paragraphs. We also feel that the vision is too generic and could sit at the start of any city-based development plan and does not encapsulate what this particular Plan is seeking to achieve over the 15 year period. The vision as currently written is more akin to one that you would expect to see at the start of a tourism destination strategy than a Development Plan. The creation of a City that has the attributes that currently comprise the vision is the outcome of successful implementation of the Plan. The policies and the allocations within the replacement Plan will define and deliver outcomes spatially - the Plan is the process/mechanism and so its vision should frame the Plan itself.</p>	<p>- The Vision for an LDP can take various forms, but ultimately needs to explain what the RLDP is seeking to achieve, respond to local circumstances and address the key issues for the area. It should be aspirational, clear and succinct. - It is our view, having regard to the feedback received through this consultation, that the Vision as currently drafted appropriately achieves this as a whole. - Importantly, the Vision serves an overarching role which is then distilled progressively into more detailed Objectives, and eventually measurable Policies, which set out how the plan will be delivered. Collectively, the RLDP serves as the framework, not just the Vision in</p>

	isolation.
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00625/VIO/2/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Having challenged the vision for being overly generic, we again would seek more specificity in the nature of the issues and which ones are of particular importance in the Newport context over this Plan period. Many of the issues are longstanding and some will no doubt remain post this Plan - what are the acute/core issues now and for the next 15 years? It is those that should appear in this Plan.</p> <p>The way the document is currently set out, the issues are written as a series of questions and read as considerations for the Plan, not specific issues that it needs to tackle. Issues such as brownfield versus greenfield development site allocations are buried away in paragraphs on 'current situation'. This means the reader has to go looking and also be able to recognise what is an issue amongst substantial narrative.</p> <p>The issues should be set out in a much more overt, simpler format so that it is far clearer from the narrative what they are, what tensions, balancing, priority is needed in policy formulation later in the Plan's evolution.</p> <p>As written, the document does not spell out issues, rather it asks itself a series of questions that are embedded in narrative on current situation and among pages of objectives that themselves are laid out across too many topics. There are some extremely important issues identified such as the projected significant increase in housing need and for new sites to consider the provision of a range and mix of homes to assist in addressing the demographic and affordability challenges facing Newport. Climate change is another acknowledged issue, but it, like housing need is subsumed among all the other 'considerations'. Perhaps it is too early in the process to have the focus that we expect, but for the Plan to succeed, it needs to deliver on solving the core issues and there is a risk that in trying to cover off so many across so</p>	<p>- At this stage we are seeking to identify the extent of issues that the plan should address, many of which serve to help inform the evidence base we must compile ahead of the eventual Preferred Strategy. As some of these questions/issues are addressed through the plan preparation, the ultimate list of key issues for inclusion within the Preferred Strategy will be refined/consolidated.</p> <p>- While some of the issues identified may be considered "longstanding" or may "remain post this plan", it does not logically follow that they should not be addressed by this RLDP. Actions taken within the plan period can still positively improve the current situation for such issues moving us closer to achieving the overarching Vision.</p> <p>- It is important to reiterate that the format of the Vision, Issues and Objectives in the consultation paper do not represent a final format. The arrangement as proposed for the RLDP will be presented as part of the Preferred Strategy which will be consulted on at a later stage.</p> <p>- Comments regarding the number of issues and objectives identified are noted and will be considered as the plan development progresses through to the more detailed Preferred Strategy stage.</p>

<p>many topic areas that it will not be sufficiently impactful and end up just scratching the surface of some extremely important challenges by trying to be so many things.</p> <p>Essentially, a document like this should be concise and have a clearly auditable trail/flow from identification of issues, to the actions necessary to solve them, to finish with what the outcome will be, encapsulated in a vision statement. As drafted, the document has the flow in the wrong order.</p>	
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00625/VIO/2/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>In our opinion, the objectives are too generic, lack specificity and are somewhat utopian in what they set out to achieve. It is important that the objectives perfectly align with the key issues facing Newport. Central in that is the topic of growth and how it will be delivered over the Plan Period. There will inevitably be tensions and compromises and the objectives need to be framed accordingly to acknowledge that and seek to deliver growth sustainably and viably.</p> <p>As a general point, it is considered that in many cases, objectives could benefit from a definition of terms. For example the objective under Equality, Diversity and Inclusion starts with the words 'To create quality positive places'. It reads as if the statement is missing a comma, but even if it were, what is the definition of a 'positive place'? Other phrases/statement that could benefit from definitions include 'circular economy', 'geo-diversity' and 'green growth' among many others.</p> <p>A key failing of the objectives is that whilst some of them will be readily measurable, such as Transport and Movement, many aren't as they are simply high-level statements of general intent. When one looks back at monitoring and Plan review, how will one determine whether the objectives have been met when they are not S.M.A.R.T?</p>	<p>- The Vision and Objectives have been drafted based on the available evidence and in response to the key issues identified for Newport.</p> <p>Both the Vision and Objectives need to be aspirational to positively enhance Newport over the plan period and to accord with the test of soundness required by the Welsh Government's Development Plan Manual.</p> <p>- The amount of growth required and how it will be delivered over the plan period will be explored in further detail as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage to come.</p> <p>- Key terms or phrases used in the RLDP will align with the definitions in National Policy, and where necessary will be explained either within the relevant supporting text or listed in a specific section of the plan.</p> <p>- We note the importance of monitoring the progress of the plan and the progress towards achieving the Vision and Objectives of the plan.</p>

	However, the measurable detail described as being necessary to evaluate this sits more appropriately with the detailed Policies which will follow each Objective. Further detail will be explored at the Policy drafting stage.
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Usk Properties Ltd - 00391

Date Acknowledged: 11.03.2022

Date Received: 11.03.2022

00391/VIO/1/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
I agree with the Vision for the RDLP.	Support noted.

00391/VIO/1/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
Yes	Support noted.

00391/VIO/1/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
Yes	Support noted.

Lewis Homes (South Wales) Ltd - 00661

Date Acknowledged: 08.03.2022

Date Received: 08.03.2022

00661/VIO/2/001 – Cover Letter

Comment	Officer Response
Savills is instructed by Lewis Homes (South Wales) Ltd ("Lewis Homes") to submit representations to the ongoing consultation on the Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives Consultation Paper ("DVIOCP"). It is	- Noted. - Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process and the results of this will be published at a later stage.

understood that this consultation is non-statutory but will ultimately inform the strategy and approach of the Replacement Local Development Plan ("RLDP") that is being prepared by Newport City Council ("NCC").

Lewis Homes controls the "Land at Coal Pit Lane, Castleton" (CS-0063) site and is committed to its promotion the RLDP. Whilst much of the DVIOCP is broad, uncontentious, and agreeable (as a document at this stage should be), Lewis Homes has comments to make with regards to the site's compliance with the principles that are set out within the document.

Given the nature of Lewis Homes' comments, they are provided in the form of this covering letter rather than on the forms provided.

Background

With over 50 years of experience, Lewis Homes is a family-run and South Wales headquartered SME housebuilder that has delivered in excess of 600 homes across South Wales and has a pipeline in place for a number of future sites.

Within NCC, Lewis Homes has entered into an option agreement on the site known as "Land at Coal Pit Lane, Castleton". The Site comprises of an irregularly shaped 1.75ha field within Castleton. It is improved grassland with hedgerows containing dispersed trees on its northern, western, and southern boundaries with its eastern boundary formed of lighter vegetation cover. The site's context is heavily urbanised with built development along its eastern boundary, the A48 forming its southern boundary, and the M48 close to its northern boundary.

Having been submitted as part of the Informal Call for Sites in November 2020, the site was submitted as part

<p>of the statutory Call for Sites in August 2021 where it was given the reference CS-0063. A Capacity Layout Plan for the site was submitted which showed that the site could deliver approximately 40 homes with a vehicular access from Coal Pit Lane. The submission was accompanied by a package of technical reports and survey data which considered matters such as transport, ecology, landscape, heritage, archaeology, drainage, and viability.</p>	
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00661/VIO/2/002 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Draft RLDP Vision Presented on Page 4 of the DVIOCP is a Draft Vision for the RLDP. Understandably, the Draft Vision is broad and non-contentious and accordingly there is little to be opposed by Lewis Homes. That said, it is assumed that where reference is made to "Newport" this relates to the NCC area in its entity rather than the city of Newport itself. This may seem a stylistic (and pedantic) point but is also an important one as clearly the towns and villages other than Newport within NCC will have an important role in delivering the RLDP's vision and meeting its requirements.</p>	<p>- Reference to 'Newport' or the 'City' within the Vision refers to the full extent of the Local Authority Area, not just the urban areas. All parts of Newport will play a significant role in achieving the overall Vision for the RLDP, which is subsequently reiterated in the proceeding Objectives. Amendment of the Vision is therefore not considered necessary to further elaborate this point.</p>

00661/VIO/2/003 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Draft RLDP Objective - Population and Communities For each Draft Objective, bullet points are presented setting out the current situation before a series of questions are asked as to how the RLDP should respond. Given Lewis Homes' interests, further comments are provided with regards to a number of questions that are raised in the Draft Objective 2 - Population and Communities section of the DVIOCP.</p>	<p>- The need to identify the amount and types of homes required to support the population of Newport over the plan period is recognised. This will be explored in further detail as part of the Growth and Spatial Options stage to follow.</p>

What is Newport's population forecast for the next 15 years? And how many homes does Newport need to provide to meet this demand?

It is assumed that the RLDP will make use of the 2018-based household projections and, as set out in Edition 11 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW), this is the correct starting point for establishing the housing requirement. That said, it is essential that the RLDP housing requirement reflects that not only is NCC within a National Growth Area in Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 but that the strengthening of its role and function is a key priority for the South East Wales Region. It would seem that the housing requirement for the RLDP should be substantially greater than the 2018-based household projections such that it is similar to, or greater than, that in the adopted LDP.

How will the plan meet the identified housing needs by delivering a diverse range of new homes of different tenure, type and location in response to Newport's specific housing needs, ensuring that an appropriate proportion is affordable and accessible to all?

The Spatial Strategy should recognise that the RLDP has an important role in delivering a range of different types of housing and across the whole of NCC. Whilst PPW (and general good planning principles) suggest that previously development should be prioritised in the strategic search sequence, there is a recognition in the DVIOCP that there is a role that greenfield sites to play and these should be both around Newport itself but also the towns and villages within NCC to ensure that a suitable choice of different locations is created.

Where should these homes be located? And What are the most sustainable locations for urban expansion?

In effect, these two questions are broadly the same. On the basis that there is going to be a requirement for greenfield allocations, Lewis

Homes' is clear that Castleton is a suitable location for growth. This is because:

- There are sites (and the "Land at Coal Pit Lane, Castleton" site is an example) which are suitable, deliverable, and viable;
- There are a range of services nearby within Castleton and Marshfield that can be accessed on foot;

- Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process and the results of this will be published at a later stage.

<p>- Existing public transport and active travel routes provide connections to the broader range of services within Cardiff and Newport;</p> <p>- The Welsh Government is committed to enhancing the A48 as a corridor for active travel and public transport, with Castleton likely to benefit significantly from this.</p> <p>The level of growth will obviously need to be proportionate to its size, but there is a compelling case for some of these homes to be located in and around Castleton.</p>	
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00661/VIO/2/004 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Draft RLDP Objectives</p> <p>Much of the DVIOCP is given over to 10 Draft Objectives for the RLDP. Again, these are fairly typical and noncontentious but it is nevertheless worth noting how the site being promoted by Lewis Homes performs strongly against each of them.</p> <p>Economy and Employment - The proposals will deliver an economic dividend, both at construction stage but also through increased Council tax and local expenditure when fully occupied. The site is strategically located such that employment opportunities in both Cardiff and Newport can be reached by a range of means of transport;</p> <p>Population and Communities - This is considered in more detail in the following section of the covering letter;</p> <p>Health and Well-Being - The proposed development's location will encourage active travel and this will be further enhanced by the measures proposed within the Welsh Government's "Cardiff to Newport Active Travel and Bus Corridors" consultation whilst incorporated into the Capacity Layout Plan for the site is usable public open space;</p> <p>Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion - A High Level Viability assessment submitted at Candidate Site stage confirms that the site can be compliant with the requirements set out in Policy H4 (Affordable Housing) of the adopted LDP with regards to affordable housing provision.</p> <p>These will be delivered in a way such that they are spread throughout the scheme;</p>	<p>- Support noted.</p> <p>- Candidate Site assessments are being carried out as part of a separate process and the results of this will be published at a later stage.</p>

Transport and Movement - A Transport Appraisal submitted at Candidate Site stage confirms that the site is located in a fundamentally sustainable location that is close to a range of services and accessible by active travel and public transport (the Welsh Government's "Cardiff to Newport Active Travel and Bus Corridors" consultation proposes the strengthening of these). The Transport Appraisal confirms that trips associated with the development will not have a material effect on the local highways network and that a vehicular access into the site can safely be delivered;

Natural Resources - Documentation submitted at Candidate Site Stage demonstrates that development of the site will not result in the loss of best and most versatile land, that the site is not within an Air Quality Management Area, and that development would not result in the sterilisation of usable minerals;

Biodiversity and Geodiversity - The site is not subject to any statutory or non-statutory ecological designations. A Preliminary Ecological Assessment submitted at Candidate Site stage confirms that the site's ecological value is derived from hedgerows which would be retained as part of its development and that a biodiversity net gain could be delivered through the strengthening of the hedgerows that form the site's boundaries, the planting of additional native trees and vegetation throughout, the provision of wildlife boxes, and the implementation of a sensitive lighting strategy;

Historic Environment - The site itself is not subject to any heritage constraints itself though a Scheduled Ancient Monument immediately abuts the site's eastern boundary. A Heritage Impact Assessment submitted at Candidate Site stage confirms that any impact of development of the site on its setting would be, at worse, "Minor Adverse". An Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation submitted at Candidate Site stage, which draws upon desk-based analysis and trial-trenching, confirms that there are no archaeological deposits predating the modern era.

<p>Landscape - The site itself is not subject to any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations. Whilst the site is located within a Green Wedge, the Landscape Position Paper submitted at Candidate Site Stage concludes that the removal of the site from the Green Wedge would have a negligible and inconsequential effect on its function and integrity as a whole with there being no perceived discernible reduction in the distance between Cardiff and Castleton;</p> <p>Climate Change - Whilst exact house types are yet to be determined, Lewis Homes can deliver a package of measures aimed at sustainability and responding positive to climate change. More fundamentally, the site's location is such that a meaningful proportion of trips will not be on motorised vehicles.</p> <p>The above re-affirms the conclusions of the Candidate Site submission; that the site itself is free from constraints that would fundamentally preclude development and can deliver against the Draft Objectives of the RLDP.</p>	
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00661/VIO/2/005 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Conclusion These representations have been prepared on behalf of Lewis Homes as the promoter of the site known as "Land at Coal Pit Lane, Castleton". In short, Lewis Homes is supportive of the approach taken in the DVIOCP and believe that the land under their control performs strongly against the Draft Objectives of the RLDP. NCC recognise that the RLDP is going to trigger the need for greenfield allocations and the contents of this letter (combined with documentation submitted at Candidate Site stage) demonstrate that their site is one that is suitable, deliverable, and viable.</p> <p>Lewis Homes is committed to the promotion of the site through the RLDP and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the site with NCC when appropriate.</p>	<p>- Support noted. - Candidate Site assessments are being carried out separately from this process. Should further information or discussion be required they will be carried out as part of that process. The results of this assessment will be published at a later stage.</p>

Anon (RS) - 00708

Date Acknowledged: 04.03.2022

Date Received: 03.03.2022

00708/VIO/1/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
<p>We need a vibrant town centre with a proper public transport system, as in other towns./cities, this is accomplished using tram cars running on 3 rails, ie wireless.</p> <p>We also need decent pavements, lamposts should be positioned 2ft from kerb, as they should be (not against peoples boundary walls.)</p> <p>Pavement should be marked for Pedetsrians only, and wheeled veihcals,(mobilty scooters,prams, pushchairs,etc)</p> <p>Cyclists should be prohibited since this do over 4MPH</p> <p>Hope you take notice of what is wanted in this area EBBW BRIDGE</p>	<p>Noted. These broader matters will be considered as the plan progresses. It should be noted the technical matters raised are beyond the scope of the RLDP.</p>

Friends Of Newport Ship - 00068

Date Acknowledged: 03.03.2022

Date Received: 03.03.2022

00068/VIO/3/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Yes, I agree</p>	<p>Support noted.</p>

00068/VIO/3/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Health & Well-being: How can the plan create attractions for educational visits for families, to learn the history of Newport? Historic environment: Agree</p>	<p>- The suggested issue for Health and Wellbeing has been considered and it is our view that the current issues identified under the Historic Environment objective has appropriately captured this point. Based on the current drafting we fell that it should not be best placed against the Health and Wellbeing objective.</p> <p>- Support for the Historic Environment issues noted.</p>

00068/VIO/3/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>Historic Environment: Commendable objectives Tourism: There is very little mention of promoting Newport as a major tourist destination. It is features as one issue under "Economy and Employment" (p. 8). This should have more emphasis. The City Centre would be transformed if there was a major internationally famous tourist attraction at its centre. The conserved and displayed Newport Medieval Ship located in a refurbished Newport Museum, along with other maritime archaeological finds, would fit that bill. An Information Centre, Heritage trail etc. would direct visitors to the Transporter Bridge, the Cathedral, Tredegar House, Caerleon. Footfall in the town centre would be significantly increased, so that market forces would then bring in more shops and other facilities.</p>	<p>- Support noted. - The importance of tourism is recognised and is appropriately reflected in the vision and across multiple objectives. Consideration will be given to these points once we progress to the policy drafting stage. It should be noted that the role of the plan is not to deliver such tourist attractions or facilities, but to be the framework to support such development proposals in appropriate locations.</p>

00068/VIO/3/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
<p>On the Planning Aid web pages, most of the videos are not available</p>	<p>Noted. Reference to those videos has been removed and will be uploaded onto the webpage as the RLDP progresses.</p>

Gwent Ornithological Society - 00040

Date Acknowledged: 03.03.2022

Date Received: 22.02.2022

00040/VIO/3/001 - Do you agree with the Vision for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think it should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
<p>As Conservation officer for Gwent Ornithological Society, I only wish to comment on the vision concerning biodiversity. I broadly agree with the vision for biodiversity.</p>	<p>Support noted.</p>

00040/VIO/3/002 - Do you agree with the issues identified? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
I agree with the biodiversity issues identified,	Support noted.

00040/VIO/3/003 - Do you agree with the Objectives for the RLDP? If not, how and why do you think they should be changed?

Comment	Officer Response
I agree with the biodiversity objectives.	Support noted.

00040/VIO/3/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
Enacting the biodiversity objectives, will require a huge ramping up of activity in this area of activity. This cannot be an add on, it must be central to all of the other objectives if you wish to make Newport an attractive City, as for example Cardiff is perceived. If you want investors to come to Newport you need to make Newport a green attractive place- it's current perception from colleagues is brown, urban and unattractive. The concentration on attracting investors without first improving the towns environment has been a major mistake thus far. Please use this replacement plan to correct this, to ensure long term vibrancy and success.	Noted. The importance of improving biodiversity as described is recognised, and has been drafted to sit across multiple of the Objectives drafted to reflect this.

Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust - 00063

Date Acknowledged: 03.03.2022

Date Received: 16.02.2022

Summary of Comment 00063/VIO/3/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
Thank you for consulting us on this draft document; we welcome the opportunity to comment. You will be aware that we are retained by your Authority to give advice to you regarding archaeology and the historic environment, through our archaeological planning team and the heritage management team. Newport have adopted the Historic Environment Record which is curated by this Trust and holds data on the historic environment for south east Wales. The draft documents acknowledge the existing policies within both national Welsh Government and local government relating to archaeology	Comments and information noted. Consideration will be given to these points once we have progress to the policy drafting stage.

and the historic environment. We note that the draft Objective 3.8 for the Historic Environment is directly relevant in the draft Vision, Issues and Objective document.

To add to this, the aspects of archaeological and built heritage potential that may affect development of both new build and building conversions, are the importance and value of buried archaeological remains, the nature of historic buildings, and the impact on the setting of all historic assets. The document details that the origins of Newport as a current city primarily lie in the Roman, Medieval and post-Medieval periods, relating to maritime transport and trading, military and defensive aspects of settlement and industry and transport as well as religious and secular buildings. These have contributed to the current form and layout of the city and its environs. The areas of the Wentlooge, Mendalgief and Caldicot Levels, which are a Registered Landscape, are an important part of the historic environment in Newport's boundaries. We note the draft document details the numbers of statutorily and locally protected historic assets, to add to this there are at least 2,169 sites, features and artefacts noted within Newport's boundary noted on the Historic Environment Record; the much larger proportion of known assets are not protected.

Current legislation and policy is supported by the TAN24: the Historic Environment and a series of best practice guidance on managing change in the historic environment. Awareness of the archaeological and built heritage resource ensures identification of opportunities to mitigate impact prior to or during development, and also potential for enhancement and protection by design. The understanding of and managing change within this framework is also an opportunity to comply with the seven well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, with archaeology and the historic environment feeding into all of these.

We welcome the positive outlook and proactive challenges posed in the draft, and also note that cross sector working brings positive

outcomes. The current Sector Adaptation Plan for the historic environment and climate change Historic Environment and Climate Change Sector Adaptation Plan (gov.wales) (<https://cadw.gov.wales/sites/default/files/2020-02/Adaptation%20Plan%20-%20FINAL%20WEB%20-%20English%20%281%29.pdf>) details aspects of proactive working, and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts have been undertaking Cadw funded projects to identify and monitor change. Proposed changes affecting the historic environment can best be mitigated by early consultation with us as your Authority's archaeological advisors. Factors from a historic environment aspect which may cause risk are change from both physical and development means, on a large scale or as accumulative impact from smaller events.

It is also important to recognise that Planning Policy Wales refers to historic assets, including buried archaeological remains and built heritage, being preserved in situ as a priority, and preserved by record if preservation in situ cannot be achieved.

Chris Thomas - 00709

Date Acknowledged: 07.02.2022

Date Received: 01.02.2022

00709/VIO/1/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
<p>English lesson</p> <p>On page 29, replace "anticipated" with "expected". Anticipate means to do something in advance of something else, eg I anticipated your error by sending you this message (if I knew that you were going to get it wrong). It is not the same as expected (Latin - ante, before, and capio, to take or undertake).</p> <p>Apart from that, the document is a pointless waste of time.</p>	<p>Noted. The Vision, Issues and Objectives are an important element of the local development plan making process and will inform the subsequent Growth and Spatial Options stage. We hope that you remain engaged as the RLDP progresses and offer constructive feedback in the interest of ensuring the RLDP best addresses the needs for Newport for the next 15 years.</p>

Cadw Planning - 00005

Date Acknowledged: 28.03.2022

Date Received: 28.02.2022

00005/VIO/1/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
As a Welsh Government department we do not get involved with the development of the LDP but we grant aid GGAT to provide advice on the historic environment so it would be a good idea to invite them if you haven't already done so.	Noted. GGAT have submitted comments for consideration.

Bishton Community Council - 00015

Date Acknowledged: 16.02.2022

Date Received: 15.02.2022

00015/VIO/1/004 - Any other comments

Comment	Officer Response
Bishton Community Council consider the Village Boundaries for Bishton Village and Underwood are not consistent with the villages and are haphazardly drawn with a lot of properties in the villages not within the boundaries for no apparent reason. This does not allow for reasonable growth particularly within Bishton village where only one sibling of an existing family have been able to locate within the village. Bishton Community Council would like to be involved with the LDP with recommendations for re-drawing of the boundaries to encompass the properties existing in the areas. BCC is available for any on site walk arounds or meetings you could involve us with as we were for the last LDP revision which BCC submitted suggestions for revised Village boundaries. I would like to add Bishton now has a very good Book a Bus service and a village farm shop. Bishton Village hall also has a 3phase electrical connection for a vehicle charging point if required.	Noted. The appraisal of village boundaries will be carried out in consultation with the relevant stakeholders as the plan progresses.

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Planning Aid **Wales**
Cymorth Cynllunio **Cymru**

Community Engagement

Newport Replacement LDP Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives

Engagement Events Report

June 2022

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1.0 Context

- 1.1 Planning Aid Wales has been instructed by Newport City Council (NCC) to support the engagement activity for the Newport Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) – Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives.
- 1.2 Our instructed brief was to prepare and deliver a series of community and stakeholder engagement events between 29 January – 25 March 2022, in accordance with NCC's Delivery Agreement. The events were targeted at identified stakeholders living or operating within the Newport City Council area. Due to Covid-19 regulations and uncertainties surrounding this issue a mixture of online and face to face events were carried out. The online events were carried out remotely using Microsoft Teams platform.
- 1.3 A further constraint on the engagement process was the need to complete the engagement work before the start of the Council's pre-election period on 28 March 2022 ahead of Local Government Elections held on 5 May 2022.
- 1.4 To deliver the brief our work involved:
 - Analysis and understanding of the Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives (VIO) consultation paper.
 - Review of other key documents and activities including the Delivery Agreement, previous LDP engagement activity, previous barriers identified, key stakeholder contacts etc. and discussions with NCC Planning Policy Team as required.
 - Selecting, defining objectives and programming methods of engagement for the events.
 - Attending and leading all events as facilitators for discussions and to encourage understanding of the LDP process and the VIO consultation. The broad purpose of the events was to raise awareness and encourage responses to the VIO consultation which had a deadline of 5pm on Friday 25 March 2022.

- 1.5 In relation to the events our role was:
- (i) To agree clusters of stakeholders for the events and arrange suitable dates for the event. Send invitations to interested parties to attend events.
 - (ii) Introduce the purpose, aims and key stages involved in the LDP preparation process.
 - (iii) Explanation of the key themes and proposals put forward in the VIO.
 - (iv) Facilitate a discussion to capture initial feedback on the VIO.
 - (v) Advise on next steps and how communities / stakeholders can input into the process.
 - (vi) Prepare a report of feedback and issues raised for NCC Planning Policy Team.
- 1.6 As part of the process the following work was carried out by the Council:
- (i) Provision of all relevant planning documents and stakeholder list.
 - (ii) Provision of details of the VIO.
- 1.7 The role of Planning Aid Wales in the drafting the issues report is to report back the issues and comments raised by attendees at each event. Therefore, the issues and comments listed within this report are solely those of the attendees who attended each event and do not represent the views of Planning Aid Wales.

2.0 About Planning Aid Wales (PAW)

- 2.1 Planning Aid Wales is a registered charity that advocates and supports community involvement in planning in Wales. Founded in 1978, we have over 40 years' experience of helping individuals and community groups to understand and engage with the planning system. Our core services include delivering planning training to a range of audiences, developing easy read planning guidance and a free planning advice helpline. We are an organisation that has been commissioned for many community engagement in planning projects in Wales; we have built a significant repository of engagement methods, tools and techniques and regularly publish news on good engagement practice.
- 2.2 We recognise LDP preparation is an important avenue for securing more effective public involvement in planning; our current business plan identifies LDP review as one of the three elements in the planning process on which we focus our engagement efforts.
- 2.3 Planning Aid Wales is an advocate of meaningful community engagement in planning. Through our work, we seek to raise the knowledge and capacity of communities to engage, but not just in the activity at hand - we seek to enable people to effectively participate in planning activities on an ongoing basis.
- 2.4 As an independent third party organisation, we have found time and again that communities are willing to engage with us, even where Local Planning Authorities have encountered barriers to engagement in the past. As part of our process, we encourage active collaboration between Local Planning Authority (LPA) staff and community groups, thereby building better relationships for future engagement. We take no view on any local policy or specific development; we only support individuals and communities to express their own views effectively.

- 2.5 We recognise that the planning system can be complex and the needs / wants of communities do not always align with other interests. We manage expectations by helping our beneficiaries understand that planning is a holistic system that seeks to address a wide variety of priorities, and clearly explain the scope and limitations of what the planning system (or particular activity) can achieve.

3.0 Stakeholder Vision, Issues and Objectives Engagement Events

3.1 Given the number of individuals and organisations listed on the Council’s Stakeholder list, at the time of the VIO engagement work, and the additional organisations identified, it was decided to identify particular sectors and arrange events based on these sectoral divisions. The groups are identified below:

- Community Councils
- Gypsy and Traveller Organisations
- Heritage and Cultural Organisations
- Transport and Utilities
- Environment and Rural Organisations
- Developers and Development Consultants
- Community Groups and Organisations
- Individuals/ Residents

3.2 However, it was also made clear that any representative from outside each group could attend another event if required and such requests were accommodated. In addition, the engagement activities were advertised on the Council’s website, social media posts and also promoted by other organisations.

3.3 Ten events were held, and the groups invited to each. Given the fluidity of Covid-19 regulations at the time a mixture of online and face to face events were held, 7 events being online and 3 face to face events. The timing of the events was varied to allow wide participation i.e. morning, afternoon and evening sessions. The date and format of the events is listed below:

1.	Community Councils	Online	10 February 2022
2.	Gypsy and Traveller Groups	Online	1 March 2022
3.	Heritage and Cultural Groups	Online	2 March 2022
4.	Transport and Utilities	Online	3 March 2022
5.	Environment and Rural Groups	Online	14 March 2022
6.	Developers and Consultants	Online	15 March 2022

7.	Community Groups and Residents	Face to Face	16 March 2022
8.	Community Groups and Residents	Face to Face	17 March 2022
9.	Community Groups and Residents	Face to Face	17 March 2022
10.	Environment Group and Residents	Online	24 March 2022

3.4 It was agreed with NCC at the outset of the project that the Planning Policy Team would not attend the events to allow for an independent discussion of issues.

Format of events

3.5 All events followed a similar format. Mark Jones, Planning Engagement Officer, Planning Aid Wales, introduced the event and provided an explanation of Planning Aid Wales and their role as independent facilitators for the event. The main presentation covered:

- PART 1 General LDP Policy and Procedures
- PART 2 Current position of LDP in Newport
- PART 3 The Council's Draft Vision
- PART 4 The Council's Draft Objectives
- PART 5 Issues in Newport
- PART 6 How to respond and next stages
- PART 7 Conclusion

3.6 At the end of the Part 1, a brief question and answer session took place to address any issues on the process. Mark Jones then delivered a more detailed presentation on the content of Newport Replacement LDP VIO consultation document. Each event also focused on the draft vision, issues and objectives. In addition, there was also a discussion on wider issues raised by the attendees. Questions were invited and where possible responded to, the issues raised were also noted for inclusion within this

report. Planning Aid Wales participated in all the discussions to listen to the issues raised and also to pose queries to facilitate discussion.

- 3.7 The event concluded with Planning Aid Wales repeating the deadline for comments on the VIO consultation of 5pm 25 March 2022. It was emphasised that this was an appropriate time to make meaningful comments to influence the LDP as once the document moves forward the opportunity to influence the plan will become less. Attendees were also advised that an independent inspector would examine the plan on behalf of the Welsh Government and prepare a report on the soundness of the plan.

Event attendance

- 3.8 All stakeholders and residents listed on the Council’s Stakeholder list, at the time of the VIO engagement work, and any additional organisations identified were invited to attend at least one event, invitations were sent by email and letter. A copy of the invite is included in Appendix 2. A total of 690 invites were sent, in addition, the advertisements of the engagement work on other sources also attracted interest and attendance. Follow up contact was also made with stakeholders to highlight the events. The table below summarises the attendance at each event:

Event	No. Attending
10 February 2022	12
1 March 2022	2
2 March 2022	3
3 March 2022	4
14 March 2022	14
15 March 2022	18
16 March 2022	21
17 March 2022 (afternoon)	4
17 March 2022 (evening)	6
24 March 2022	5

4.0 Summary of Issues Raised

4.1 The events generated a number of views and identified a number of issues from all participants, and these are listed in Appendix 1 of this report. In summary, there were a number of common issues which are summarised below under the following broad headings of the objectives included within the consultation document:

- Draft Vision
- Economy and Employment
- Population and Communities
- Health and Well-being
- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Transport and Movement
- Natural Resources
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Historic Environment
- Landscape
- Climate Change

Draft Vision

4.2 A discussion was held at all events in relation to the draft vision. On the whole most attendees raised similar comments at each event. The majority opinion being that the draft strategy did not contain anything that was objectionable, and the aims were laudable.

4.3 Notwithstanding the above point there was also a regular comment that the draft vision was very generic and could apply to any LPA across Wales and not distinct to Newport. These issues were subject to debate and others felt that the draft vision should not be unduly prescriptive and should set the scene for the objectives to expand upon and ultimately the detailed policies. Whilst there was a general feeling that it could be more Newport-centric without being unduly prescriptive and identify any specific Newport issues. One point put forward is that Newport is the gateway to Wales and that this

should be recognised and the vision allow the Council to provide an appropriate and high quality gateway.

- 4.4 It was considered that transport was missing from the vision and in particular the role of active travel and this matter should have more prominence in the vision.
- 4.5 Another comment related to whether the vision and the LDP would be influenced should Monmouthshire County Council pursue a non-growth strategy and what implications this would have for Newport City Council and its LDP.
- 4.6 Finally, there was a view that the draft vision should be worded to allow a clear review and audit towards the end of the plan period.

Draft Objective - Economy and Employment

- 4.7 Overall, there did not seem to be any major issues with regard to this matter. However, some attendees questioned whether there was a manufacturing base for the area particularly since the loss of the more traditional industries such as the steelworks and its ancillary business links. It was felt that the area had a low skilled economy and there was a need to upskill workers and enhance opportunities. A range of industries were needed for a range of people with different skills. Although at the same time it was commented that it is not solely in the power of the Council to use the LDP to provide jobs, but the LDP needs to be flexible to allow employers/investment to do this.
- 4.8 It was pointed out that 70% of the Council area was rural. Agricultural policy is changing for example with matters such as, rewilding, food security, etc. It was also suggested that there was scope for small scale employment uses within these areas and also linked development opportunities in the rural communities as contributing to making such communities more sustainable.

- 4.9 There were queries in relation to what some terms meant and that they were open to interpretation (e.g. What is meant by growth? Is it Gross Domestic Product [GDP]? GDP per head? or other definition, what is Green Growth? etc). It was felt the plan should be more explicit on such matters.
- 4.10 There was an opinion that there are a number of vacant office spaces and that better use could be made of such space. One suggestion was to provide more serviced offices for small businesses and also allow a more flexible use. It was considered that there is a need for training/education, as it was felt that young people were leaving and not returning to the area.
- 4.11 Concerns were raised on the current situation of the city and town centres, there was a general feeling that they were under pressure. It was considered that too many shops were closing and remaining vacant. There was recognition that this was a wider issue than just the NCC area and factors such as internet shopping and more recently implications of the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted also. It was also pointed out that the viability and attractiveness of a town centre also affected smaller settlements (e.g. villages) outside the towns, which use the larger town centres and Newport city centre as their main destinations for retail, social and employments uses. It was considered that there was a need for more investment and other uses to boost town centres.
- 4.12 There was a view that there is a need for a new vision and purpose for the town and city centres. Such locations need to become a destination to visit and not just for shopping, there is a need to attract people into these areas for other reasons such as leisure or cultural activities with retail activity being an ancillary activity whilst there. In light of the closure of flagship stores, which historically acted as a magnet for other retail providers, small independent shops should be promoted and provide a wider retail offer. Vacant retail uses could also be put to other uses such as flexible working locations e.g. hub type uses where people can use workspace for short periods of the day. Whilst there is a move to work from home post pandemic

such uses may bring people into the centres for some days during the week, with a knock on benefit to other uses in the centre. More residential uses in the town and city centres particularly the upper floors of current properties would bring life to the centres. This would also provide more security due to overlooking of the public realm.

- 4.13 Parking issues were again raised as an obstacle to using town centres, although many comments related to prices. Also, the lack of adequate public transport was cited which meant the car was still the main mode of transport to such centres.
- 4.14 As mentioned non planning issues were raised as part of the problem and as a constraint to providing a vibrant town centre. It was explained that the planning system and the LDP cannot really address the fiscal issues and also the issue of town centres is national issue across Wales and the wider UK and is subject to a current national debate.
- 4.15 On the whole there was a view that the town and city centres were declining and a need for innovative solutions to provide mixed use developments into these areas.

Draft Objective - Population and Communities

- 4.16 Queries were raised in relation to the housing need. Whilst it was briefly explained how the housing requirement was calculated there were a number of concerns. There was a query whether population in the Council area had actually grown. Another common comment related to the potential for towns and villages within the Council area to become dormitory settlements, i.e. settlements where there are little or no services, commercial or employment opportunities and where people would then travel elsewhere to meet these needs, in particular Cardiff and Bristol. The suggestion being that the housing requirement in Newport is being driven by the needs of other areas. Where new housing led to more commuting this would also have a knock on effect on traffic issues and congestion.

- 4.17 There was discussion at all events in relation to greenfield and brownfield sites. It was noted that the Council had historically been successful in promoting development in brownfield sites, although it would be difficult to achieve this in the new plan period. Overall many considered that brownfield sites should still be the focus, including using vacant buildings in town centres. Alternative views also pointed out that the cost of developing brownfield sites is greater, e.g. land remediation etc, and as such can have a knock on effect on the provision of affordable housing due to scheme viability. In addition, it was emphasised that brownfield sites can provide important biodiversity habitats and appropriate greenfield development may be a better option in some cases.
- 4.18 There was a view that smaller settlements could accommodate an appropriate level of residential development which would help meet local needs and sustain these communities. There was an opinion that village and settlement boundaries need to be reviewed and adjusted to allow for such development.
- 4.19 In response to the Council's question on where residential development should be located it was acknowledged that there were significant constraints. Large strategic greenfield site locations would be constrained to the north by transport, west by Cardiff and south by the sea. One suggestion was the possibility to develop within the following area Basseleg – Pentrepoeth – Rhiwderin wedge.
- 4.20 Affordable housing was identified by a number of respondents as being a key issue. It should be noted at the outset that there was some misunderstanding as to what affordable housing was e.g. cheaper market housing or the equivalent of council house provision. A regular request at all events was for a clear definition of what is affordable housing in the NCC area. There was an overall recognition that affordable housing was required and should be addressed in the LDP. It was also raised that affordable housing should meet the local needs and requirement of specific areas to

allow people who wanted to remain in their home communities to do so. Housing to rent was seen as an important requirement.

- 4.21 With regard to gypsy and traveller sites the main comments related to the need for more sites, in particular but not exclusively the need for transit sites was highlighted. It was suggested that this may be more of a regional issue particularly along the M4 corridor and there needed to be close work with other authorities or addressed in the future Strategic Development Plan. A further comment was that any decisions on gypsy and traveller site allocations should be based on up to date and robust data, this would require ways to ensure the community engaged in in matters such as Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).
- 4.22 Other comments related to the importance of the design of new housing, both in relation to how it looks and fits in with the character of the area but also in relation to layout and construction. It is important to ensure that new housing is highly sustainable and reduces CO2 emissions and has a long lifespan to avoid the need to rebuild. Layouts should meet current needs, particularly as highlighted by the pandemic (i.e. adequate private space and communal open space, ability for flexible accommodation e.g. to allow people to work from home).
- 4.23 Two other issues touched upon were, firstly, Green Belt and although it was accepted this is Strategic Development Plan issue it was felt that the LDP should be setting out its opinion on Green Belt and any changes in the LDP. Finally, in relation to housing the implications of the new Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15: Development and Flood Risk, when issued, would need to be considered.

Draft Objective - Health and Well-being

- 4.24 There were no objections to the draft objectives and many felt this would be achieved through other objectives.

- 4.25 Other aspects of infrastructure concerns related to health facilities such as General Practitioner (GP) Surgeries. It was acknowledged that such matters were controlled by Health Authorities, but respondents suggested that where it was felt such services were full this should be a consideration to any proposed residential development.
- 4.26 A number of delegates felt that planning obligations obtained for new developments did not materialise as expected or were subsequently removed at the request of the developer. There was a feeling that policies for community and infrastructure requirements need to be robust and defended to ensure the impacts of new development are properly addressed.

Draft Objective - Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

- 4.27 There were no objections to the draft objectives and many felt this would be achieved through other objectives in particular through housing for all people. With regard to the Welsh language there were a few dissenting voices who did not see this as an important issue.

Draft Objective - Transport and Movement

- 4.28 One issue that was raised consistently at all events was with regard to infrastructure. There was a feeling that new development was coming forward without the necessary infrastructure to support it. In particular concerns were raised regarding road and transport infrastructure. A number of attendees felt the road system and capacity across the Council area was not sufficient to accommodate new developments. A common view was that development was coming forward which increased congestion and highway issues and these matters were not being adequately addressed through the planning process.
- 4.29 At the same time, it was acknowledged by some attendees that planning policy did look to reduce the use of cars in new development, however, at the same time concerns were raised that public transport was insufficient to

replace the use of cars. Therefore, new development would always generate car movements. Respondents' comments suggested that the availability and accessibility of public transport did vary across the area and between towns and smaller communities. One issue that was highlighted by many was the locational relationship between the railway station and the bus station and that there was no public transport interchange between the two. There was a view that there needs to be a better link between the two so you can arrive from a train and catch a bus without the need to walk somewhere else.

4.30 A particular issue that was raised in relation to transport was Junction 24 of the M4 motorway which a number of respondents said often suffered from serious congestion, including tailbacks along the slip road and back onto the side roads leading into Newport. Any new development which would lead to use of this junction would worsen the situation. It was alluded to that this may also apply at Junction 25 to 27 as well.

4.31 Whilst it was accepted that the decision in relation to the M4 relief road has been made and this is also a decision for the Welsh Government and not the Council, it was suggested that the LDP should set out the Council's views on how the traffic issues can be addressed within their area in the absence of the relief road.

Draft Objective - Natural Resources

4.32 Overall there was a general view that the LDP should look to safeguard natural resources within the Council area. A number of points was raised in relation to minerals and building materials. It was suggested that the supply of materials is assumed and this is an issue that needs to be considered in LDP policies in relation to new development. Also, the supply of minerals is more than a local issue and needs to be safeguarded. It was also emphasised that the minerals industry is highly sustainable and as an industry has addressed environmental impacts.

Draft Objective - Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- 4.33 There was a general consensus across the events to safeguard the environment and biodiversity including landscape areas. A number of attendees referred to the need to protect and manage green spaces and ecological sites. One point raised was that there is a significant variation in flora and fauna and as such these varying needs should be considered. In relation to the Gwent Levels there was general response highlighting their importance and protection, although there was some comment in relation to management and sea level rises which could impact upon this area.
- 4.34 A number of attendees emphasised that they considered that it was important to protect the green spaces in built up areas and not just the designated sites. These spaces provided environmental benefits and also provided useable spaces for residents. It was mentioned that the issues arising during lockdown had highlighted the importance of such areas.
- 4.35 As mentioned previously the contribution of brownfield sites as a valuable biodiversity resource was mentioned.
- 4.36 The issue of farming policy changes was discussed, and implications would need to be considered in relation to environmental issues e.g. rewilding. It was suggested there needed to be a balanced approach in rural areas to meet the changing agricultural requirements.

Draft Objective - Historic Environment

- 4.37 Overall, it was felt that the objectives for tourism and heritage was good. However, it was considered that at present not enough was being done to promote tourism or Newport's heritage. It was considered that Newport had a long and interesting history, however, it is something that is not prominent or known to many particularly outside Newport. One comment described it as a bit of a "Cinderella" issue, that it was simply forgotten compared to other matters. It was felt that previously heritage issues were not important and this led to some buildings, structures and sites being lost. Many pointed

out that Newport has world famous sites e.g. Transporter Bridge, Newport Ship and Roman sites at Caerleon. It was suggested that heritage and by its association tourism could be used as a catalyst to promote economic development. However, infrastructure issues were cited as a concern that could hamper the maximisation of such uses. Some attendees felt the protection of heritage sites needed to be enhanced.

- 4.38 With specific reference to tourism it was suggested that there was no major hotel except the Celtic Manor within the area. There should be more major hotels within the city which would attract visitors and businesses and therefore the existing assets such as heritage, leisure and the International Convention Centre (ICC) Wales.

Draft Objective - Landscape

- 4.39 There were no specific objections raised on this objective and many of the comments in relation to other objectives reflected views on landscape. Generally, the main view that it was important to safeguard the quality of the landscape and new development should reflect this character.

Draft Objective - Climate Change

- 4.40 There was a general consensus across the events of the importance of the effects of climate change. Reference was made to the declared Climate Emergency and the requirements of The Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Appendix 1 Issues Raised at Each Event

As part of each event discussions took place at regular points and attendees were asked to identify and list issues which they felt currently existed and could be addressed within the Replacement LDP. A list of the issues raised by the attendees are detailed below, under the heading of each event.

1. Community Councils Online 10 February 2022

- Marshfield is on the Gwent and Wentlooge Levels and there's a lot of pressure on these areas. At the same time Marshfield is impacted by pressures from Cardiff and Newport with development. Therefore, there is a need for greater emphasis on natural environment, biodiversity and protection.
- A lot of solar applications in at the moment e.g. a current application for Wentlooge Solar and it was going to take about 420 to 450 acres at the Wentlooge levels. If allowed there would not be any Wentlooge Levels left.
- During COVID it becomes so evident that this area was needed for mental health and wellbeing, and I think the area needs enhanced protection such as a different designation because there is also another solar application and there is a feeling of free flow of these type of developments. There is a need to protect what is left.
- Protecting the existing green space especially to the to the west of Newport. I think that development plan needs to bring in some stronger controls on this side.
- Address the situation of waste disposal/sites. This is spreading across the Gwent Levels at the moment, but particularly on the west side of Newport. You've got people that are opening up and unauthorised and unlicensed tips on the west of Newport and taking acres of land. Waste is building waste but has a lot of it is contaminants which is damaging the environment on this side. But also taking away the green space for example, in the last 10 months we've seen 2 acres disappear.
- Need stronger designation to deal with waste issue.
- No enthusiasm to enforce these matters.

- Solar parks and we've got a huge one going now on the Gwent levels again by between Nash and Redwick, which is taking up a massive amount of the levels.
- Also is a large hydrogen plant planned for Magor. These type of developments are increasing and we're just losing the countryside. They say they are temporary and only be there for 25 years, but there will be new technology and new panels and these will remain beyond 25 years. So I think there should be some ruling about solar parks on the Gwent Levels to retain the Levels.
- Like to see this LDP focus on some of the historical significance of the whole area around Newport as a city. It's got this wonderful ship and my research shows that everywhere else in the world where they find these ancient ships they have a purpose built building to display it and encourages hundreds of thousands of visitors per year. If we had those types of attractions, it would filter out to all the historical significance that surrounds Newport. In my opinion the history around of this city is some of the best kept secrets in the world.
- I'd like to see a stronger emphasis on issues that would encourage people into the city. It could then bring life into the city centre, encourage people to take up space and could kickstart the regeneration of the city centre.
- I would like to see more focus on the city centre rather than pushing all your shopping to the perimeters of the city. Most of it is going to the east side of the city.
- There is a strong element that the centre is struggling, to understand why there's no real focus on development and access to shopping in the city centre or any of the facilities within Newport from the west side of Newport, it seems to be out on a limb.
- There are ways to regenerate the city. With the right kind of focus on the right kind of development. The type of development that is being focused on this side of Newport on the levels itself is not bringing any local employment. The large solar farm up application developers were quite open with the fact that this solar farm would be built by imported

contractors, materials would be imported, maintenance Staff would be imported and all the recycling would be exported out of the area, so there would be no benefit to employment to the Newport area.

- Is development being adequately serviced ahead of the time? So for example? We have routine flooding issues. We have overcapacity, sewer issues, poor infrastructure ultimately ends up in the Gwent Levels. There is a need for Welsh Water input.
- Provision for reservoir overflows and general development.
- Water runoff and sewage issues don't seem to have been properly addressed. New houses being built. Between Magor and Rogiet have already resulted in flooding that didn't exist before.
- There is catchment over the hillside and all of the water runs towards the Gwent Levels, and we've got a sewage complications and that associated with that flooding water.
- Bishton and Underwood Community Council would like to see the village boundaries considered, the way they're drawn at the moment is haphazard with half the houses in and half out and we'd like as a Community Council to be involved with the redrawing under village boundaries to allow some small development. To walk around and show them perhaps the "errors of the way it's drawn" and include most of the houses within the village is the to be within the boundary.
- This would allow people who have siblings to build houses and live in the village we don't want to see large housing estates. In Bishton, there is only one sibling that that that lives in the village and that's a farmer whose parents died and they had their house. One of the excuses last time was we don't have a bus service. We do have a bus service now.
- Housing should be carbon neutral. The research that we we've done locally suggests the most efficient way to use solar power is to put it on the roof, whether it be industrial or domestic. So should this be Plan B saying that new builds should be carrying solar panels on their roofs?
- In addition, I know Welsh Government are looking to promote heat source air pump. There are a lot of options out there which could be brought into new builds.

- It is difficult to comment on housing because we are situated in a no expansion area because there are no facilities over this side (east) of Newport or in any other villages.
- Affordable housing is very important in Marshfield. It's mostly a private executive type homes but needs to be more inclusive.
- Housing needs to provide nature areas and thinking about mental health and wellbeing instead of just concrete everywhere and packing as many homes in as possible. I think it's really important to rethink the layout of developments. Also there needs to be facilities for walkers and cyclists, I know that's coming down to the transport then.
- Using a Brownfield site near the city centre.
- We find in Marshfield that the best service is a dial a bus and we haven't had a regular service for many years and I think villagers are finding it very difficult to get out of the village. So unless there's some alternative to the car young people is just relying on parents. So I think more thought should be given to perhaps developing nearer the towns and city so that people can walk or cycle into the city centre and then that would help regenerate the area.
- Literally, Aberdare borders Cardiff, and I think it's really important that the Green Belt is kept so that we don't join up with Cardiff. But Cardiff is filled right to the boundary and so we are affected greatly by what Cardiff decides to do in their LDP.
- There is a train station that he's being considered now for Saint Mellons and that will have a great impact though it's not within our village it will have a great impact on the village.
- There is a need for housing so that people can stay if they've been born and brought up in the village. There is little scope for this at the moment.
- I think we have got a Green Belt or it's a green wedge which needs to be retained.
- I think planning should encourage developers to put in applications where there are going to be solar panels on the roofs of houses and they have increased insulation and to allow for air heat pumps "as you probably all know, radiators don't get us hot!"

- With air heat pumps you do need an increased level of insulation. However, they don't work in older houses where the insulation is very low and particularly in the affordable houses.
- Development should be more or less self-contained for their heating, I think these types of developments should be encouraged, although the LDP can't change the building regulations. I guess it will come in time that you won't be able to build houses without solar panels on them, but that's not enforceable at this moment, but I think applications that give higher levels of insulation which will allow air source heating.
- Heat pumps and solar panels, battery cells should be given priority by the Council.
- The expansion within the rural areas, there needs to be facilities to support that. You could go right across the Gwent levels and the outlying villages and there are no shops, no pubs, no doctors, no chemists. From Jeffrey into the Cardiff border There is one shop serving three villages. Pubs are closing at the rate of knots. We're down to two now and could be one within the next 15 months. We're losing all these facilities and if we put more houses here, it's only going to put a strain on these and the bus service or the dial a bus service doesn't help. It doesn't encourage younger people to travel to Newport because they have to book it the day before. The timings are not that great over this side. It's not flexible enough and if you're going to bring more people into these outlying villages, they need to be to have a proper transport system.
- Health and wellbeing, we live in such a beautiful area where we should be able to walk and enjoy on the grounds of health and being active. But we've got very few safe places to walk. You certainly wouldn't walk along our roads because they are so busy and we have so many heavy goods vehicles. And to be honest, even though we've got access to the Wales coastal path and we have that beautiful walk that we should be able to do as well as the actual access to those to that facility is so poor. Things could be done in the area to improve to improve the area for the purpose of health and wellbeing.

- With everything being on the east of the of the city and on this side of the city we have no leisure facilities. I know we're going to have a new swimming pool and but that's going to be on the east of the city, so we really do need some accessible health and active facilities on the on the West of the city as well.
- Gypsy traveller accommodation. We have a real big problem on this side of the city with unlawful developments. And that's because we haven't got sufficient provision for Gypsy traveller families.
- I think it's more than actually we need to address it in the LDP and is definitely something that the Welsh Government need to assess as well because I personally don't think the Gypsy traveller strategy is fit for purpose.
- We're not being asked to provide a gypsy traveller sites which would seem to fit with the whole culture of the Gypsy traveller community. We are not asked to provide transient sites we are asked to provide residential sites, and that doesn't exactly fit with the ethos of a traveller and I know that Gypsy and travellers like to live in caravans.
- I think that's one of the issues is that we were asked being asked to provide big residential sites and not transient sites which we would maybe expect to associate with Gypsy travellers. But certainly the lack of provision does cause problems, certainly on the levels with all the unlawful developments in the unlawful sites that we have.
- Housing is going to depend on the type of housing you build , because I know if you look at the land over John side of the city, there's a lot of commuter housing and it's become a big commuter belt now. Now that the toll has gone off the seven bridge houses are an awful lot cheaper over this side and there's a lot of people that have moved from Bristol to the east of Newport. And it's creeping closer and closer towards the city because it's becoming an easy commuter route.
- You know when they when they do drop South as the M4 on., John, side of the city. The motorway no longer becomes an issue because they're using the rural roads and joining the motorway so they're not struggling

with any congestion around the city. that's not helping the local need for housing.

- LDP needs to be very specific of what type of housing goes where. If you do keep building executive homes tagged onto the end of villages, especially to the eastern Newport, you're just going increase the number of commuters that are coming to that area.
- Brownfield sites should take priority for development rather than encroaching on the Greenfield sites for large development. So I'm not referring to infill planning, but I think there's still several large brownfield sites that could be developed, and as long as the facilities are put into them for access to the roads and the M4 and things like that.
- Could the LDP look at any scope for housing around the city centre? Because it is noticeable now when you're traveling around the country that cities that have city centres that are still quite vibrant and have housing that wraps up either close to or within the city centres. When you have housing near the city centre people can walk to the city centre or cycle if the commute is much easier. Coming from the west of the city, there seems to be large blocks of land that may be appropriate.
- Marshfield at the moment is undergoing a consultation with Transport for Wales, trying to address the number of cars on the road and trying to make it safe for pedestrians and cyclists.
- There wouldn't be this pressure on the road if people were working or living near where they work so that the pressure on the car was taken off and people would access their places of work much easier. More thought should be put into this if we are going to provide new development?
- Regarding housing in the centre of Newport. If you walk through the town centre besides the empty shops you look up and there's two or three storeys that have been empty for years above the shops and never been used, pressure should be put on the people who own or lease see shops to exchange it for housing and particularly affordable housing. Within central Newport people probably don't have cars and would be able to walk or cycle.

- A lot of planning within the centre of Newport, where people want to change it into flats is resisted because of inadequate parking, but you're never going to get parking in those areas. They're going to have to use the car parks within the city. There's probably room for cycle racks etc.
- You talk to people that don't live in the area and they talk about our city centre, they say, "oh that's the one that's full of pound shops and charity shops" and I think that's really sad that that's the only the impression that they've got but actually it is probably the truth. Losing Debenhams, we've certainly lost a key attraction.
- The city centre is tired and there is a need a kind of a catalyst for attracting people to Newport and at the moment it's not there -it's a very hard thing to do. Out of town shopping has killed the city centre. Certainly at "Spytty," some of the big names that moved out from the city centre was the start of the demise of the city centre, so that's something that definitely needs to be addressed, again it's not an easy job.
- There should be an onus on placemaking giving the city a more united identity helping communities create a sense of self. This might be a more positive thing if there was an overall city image. Then onus on how it makes people feel.
- Newport on the east side, where the shops are, all of a sudden there's a development for a Domino's, drive through Greggs and a Starbucks all in one spot. Now they must know that the area is going to grow. Otherwise they won't come. They are smart business people, so they they're not concentrating on the city centre. They're concentrating out of town because that's where they see the footfall growing.
- Newport has got a wonderful opportunity by looking at the model that Cwmbran has taken on. It is one of the busiest shopping centres you can go into at the moment. It has new shops opening, it's got the full range of shops. Yes, it's got pound shops, but it's also got custom shops e.g. bespoke cupcake shop and movie theme shop, and they're busy. Why have they gone to Cwmbran and not Newport City Centre? This LDP needs to look at this success and draw on it.
- To develop what we need to develop within the city itself.

- LA sites can sometimes be too big where people cannot live together and sites are then empty or problems arise. Smaller sites would help to address this. Smaller sites are easier to manage, less problems and more attractive to community.
- Easier to find smaller sites rather than larger areas of land for large sites.
- Transit sites challenging for Newport as on M4, this needs a joint approach with other LAs. If policies are in isolation, then the policy will fail for transit sites.
- Impact of “Police Bill” which will criminalise gypsy and travellers parking roadside. Need to look more realistically to meet these goals and will need joint working and an appropriate joint working structure depending on circumstances.
- Border areas of Cardiff and Newport are attractive areas to the community due to family links.
- Can the SDP meet this matter? Need a Wales wide or strategic approach and needs to include community representatives in this process. Groups need to be involved early before details are starting to form. Early engagement important.
- To engage the community, frequently the answer is what is the point? Lack of appreciation on how much the group do engage there are numerous organisations doing this but never get any feedback on what they have said, no changes seem to appear in response to comments or support e.g. type of things that would help them. This makes it difficult for groups to encourage people to engage. They need feedback on LDP and how it will help address their needs.
- Engagement with schools would be an important way of putting message across and identify the issues that affect each group including gypsy and travellers.
- Need updates during the process or at the end to explain how their thoughts were considered. Needs something tangible to encourage future engagement.

- GTAA process needs changing as people do not engage, as above, and if people do not engage, we will not get the up to date information that is needed on needs of the community.
- Concerns on how complete is the data on which judgements are being made.
- The data on which decisions and policies are made needs to be robust.
- Qualitative information can accompany the data to look at whether sites being missed.
- Caravan counts survey does it match up to the date of the current population and other data that is being provided.
- There are no transit sites anywhere which is a failing. All GTAA have acknowledged the need for such sites but nine have been developed. This applies across Wales.
- Newport is unique as it needs to be done in conjunction with other LPAs on the M4 corridor as there is a clear travelling route.
- Transit needs to come after mainstream provision is met as if you don't have adequate accommodation for residents who live permanently how can you address the needs of those moving through.
- New police powers mean there is a more urgent need for transit sites.
- Newport has a site which is not being used but it is not felt that this meets all the need.
- Allocation policies on how obtain a place on plot needs to be addressed e.g. if you have lived in bricks and mortar, you may be classed as not having cultural need for a plot even if living in house was essential to provide shelter for children.

3. Heritage and Cultural Groups Online

2 March 2022

Vision

- Vision generally fine i.e. it says what it is. This compares to others.
- Difficult to challenge any of the statements this may come when the detail comes later.
- Some may consider growth as undirected or un-planned growth, this may be an issue, may think growth has negative comments.

- There may be a case for a no growth option to be explored.
- Would like to see other widescale options explored whilst acknowledging that Newport is identified as a growth area.
- Concern that inequality is growing in Newport, this is not healthy and has been flagged up in many monitoring reports, these reports are useful and informative.
- Some areas of Newport are getting worse on multiple deprivation index. There needs to be a recognition of this.
- Need an understanding how land use planning impacts or contributes to inequality. The reports to date don't seem to provide an answer on this issue. Recognise the limitations of the land use planning system.
- "Motherhood and apple pie."

Objectives

- How much flexibility in defining planning policy given national policy, SDP and the Cardiff City Region requirements? Where do these leave the Newport LDP.
- Air quality has been an issue in Caerleon in relation to vehicles for construction and those living there. 90% would need to use a one way system where air quality was already poor and below required standards.
- Physically Newport is not a big authority albeit it is important with road and rail connections, not much open space left except probably the levels. Development here would be immensely destructive on a range of issues including archaeology and heritage.
- How do you grow when your boundaries are restricted?
- From an archaeological point of view the new SPG is good.
- Visitor destination - Newport has many attractions, but many do not know about them. Needs marketing and promotion, a number of information sources have closed recently.
- Newport museum is undervalued and footfall is going downhill.
- For the vision for jobs and homes to be successful then we are talking about people and how they perceive the area, connection between successful strategy. Historic assets have been underplayed and this needs to change to provide a more successful future.

- Historical assets can be a catalyst for other development.
- Newport Ship needs a fixed home which is accessible and attract visitors with knock on benefits.
- The Castle is first thing seen as you arrive on the train, but it does not provide a good image at present. But the key point is that these assets can promote other activities e.g. walking trails, accommodation in the city.
- It is accepted that there is a need for investment to achieve many of these aims.
- Investment such as the new Market Arcade provides optimism. But there are other buildings in the city that others may not be aware of.
- There is a need to bring the main players all together such as landowners, local trusts, Cadw etc.
- Potential conflicts – housing allocations. Llanwern has addressed a lot but there are archaeological issues with this site not just industrial but also next to the Levels and its archaeological importance.
- Developers will look at statutory assets, but this is less than 5% of overall areas recorded in the historical record. More needs to be taken into account
- Should LDP give greater emphasis on the other 95% - the new SPG does address this.
- Housing targets where do these come from?
- What housing growth is needed? I would think Llanwern development would satisfy all housing need.
- Few places for housing to go within the boundary of Newport.
- There are a number of large estates still to be built.
- Design is an issue, in my opinion they all look the same. This is a sad conclusion.
- Need more variation in design and look at local design needs and not just off the shelf designs.
- Needs to be a greater emphasis on Placemaking.
- Move from brownfield to greenfield brings up a range of conflicts in particular sustainability issues. These issues need greater explorations

e.g. in somewhere like Caerleon this is not the way to go. Possible low growth option for housing.

- Expect large greenfield site west of Lodge Hill to come forward as a candidate site but this has significant implications.
- Greenfields - pressures to develop these but there is a risk particularly where you have land like the one mentioned at Caerleon e.g. one that has significant evidence of Roman history. Also need to consider the setting of monuments e.g. the amphitheatre and barracks at Caerleon can only be appreciated in their setting.
- LDP must emphasise placemaking and move away from standard design. More recognition for localised design not necessarily those that are instantly acceptable to the community. There is a need for innovation not uniformity.
- Some sites are big enough for variation in design within the estates. It was felt the opposite was achieved at the Redrow site in Caerleon – heritage design was needed.
- Site at East Harnham, Bristol is a good example of what to do. Public owned land was put up for auction, whoever came in to build had to adopt a different design approach, result is different to the other side of dual carriageway, it stands out but in a good way and feedback is residents have adopted it positively.
- I want to see in VIO much greater development of sustainability. A number of points that have been discussed but sensitivity to environment and recycling begs the question that more “meat” is needed on the bone of sustainability. A number of things can create sustainability but also raises the question as to what sustainability is. The RLDP is a prime opportunity to enshrine our current notions of sustainability for 15 years. Not seeing as much as I would have liked at this stage and would like more to covered on this as the plan progresses at each stage particularly as we try to trade off issues such as transport and housing.

- Feels more like a regeneration introduction than a vision.
- There is a need to contextualise the vision.
- This feels like any plan for anywhere and needs to be more Newport specific. With a clear audit trail over the life of the plan.
- Feel that currently this lacks bite and needs to reflect on what has happened since the last plan .e.g. climate emergency and loss of the relief road.
- Should the vision set out a timescale or period as to when objectives will be met. The plan should consider questions such as
 - Should we do this?
 - Certain things we need to do.
 - What we have to do?
 - This is what we specified.
 - Specific actions needed.

Objectives

- The employment and economy objectives feel like an agenda for growth.
- Feel like the document is “over egging” the effect that population has grown. Rest of Wales is at a plateau. This feeds into the economic and housing allocations.
- Populations calculations need to be relooked at.
- Seems to be pre-empting development needs with this position, Needs a more neutral stance on issues.
- High quality homes will this meet affordable housing needs, seems to imply more about market housing. The use of good quality homes would be better.
- Need for high quality jobs and to raise the standard.
- What is meant by growth is it GDP? GDP per head? it is currently not clear what this means.
- What trades offs will be required to achieve the objectives.
- There is a need for clear understandable definitions.
- The plan must be evidence based.
- What is the role of growth?
- Quality is required across all objectives.

- Objectives can be grouped together and no need for one for each category. This would give clarity.
- The plan needs to address the tensions between the objectives.
- Biodiversity is an issue that needs to be addressed fully. Positive that Gwent Levels are mentioned, the levels are unsuitable for development.
- Lot of what is currently being suggested for the plan is not deliverable, the plan can only act as an enabler e.g. housing.
- It is not in the power for Newport City Council to provide jobs.
- If there was an end date it would be easier to understand. If terms are vague, it is difficult to understand objectives.
- There is a need for a sub-regional context.
- The area of Newport City Council is 30% Urban and 70% Rural. There is a need to protect BMV land 3a and above.
- The implications of national changes to farming need to be considered e.g. rewilding, move to public goods, biodiversity, farmland strategies, food production and food security and family farms.
- There is no reference to SPGs.- In my view it is not too soon for this to be covered on a topic basis. Spatial statements like the one in relation to Newport Docks.
- Another view is that more detail in the vision means this may go into policy too soon would better suggest hint at these matters, provide an appropriate level of detail at this stage.
- 15 year vision and the future of the Gwent Levels, provide an objective for the Gwent levels – what will it be like over and at the end of the plan period?
- What are the housing needs of the Council area?
- Candidates sites should not be confidential as people need to time to assess these to comment properly. Some sites will be contrary to the FGA and the 5 ways of working.
- Sites need to be assessed against issues. Land promotion needs to consider tenants. Landowners to have a say on the issues.
- Need more detail on the integrated sustainability appraisal.

- Housing is not just about location. There needs to be a look at design and layout the need for gardens.
- One person raised possibility of a site near Langstone, but more houses where there are no services – doctors or post office.
- The plan needs to consider the UN sustainable development goals.
- In and out commuting is an issue, Newport should not be a dormitory town for Bristol. Impact on sustainable travel.
- Housing growth should equal employment growth.
- Make the area a nice place to be.
- A brownfield only strategy is unsound.
- There is a need for choice not everyone wants to live in brownfield town centres.
- Brownfield sites and remediation costs can cause issues in bringing forward such sites.
- Green Belt, the deposit plan will predate the SDP, therefore the plan should advocate Green Belt changes and not wait for the SDP.

6. Developers and Consultants Online 15 March 2022

Vision

- It is much of a muchness.
- There needs to be an ability to deliver the vision. It should be focussed and not too lengthy.
- The vision should not be more specific or too detailed.
- Whilst there needs to be care that it is not too detailed it does seem very generic and possibly could be more Newport centric. – strategically.
- I think it is a good starting point.
- It provides a nice balance
- Welsh Government are looking at Monmouthshire as a non-growth strategy, Newport is therefore a logical area as a growth area.

Objectives

- Have to look at greenfield sites as brownfield ones are becoming exhausted.

- In relation to future development Newport is constrained due to the sea to the south, Cardiff to the west and north by transport routes.
- Large greenfield sites can “wash their face” in relation to sustainability.
- There are difficult political decisions to make in this regard.
- Affordable housing – the success of brownfield sites has an impact upon viability of schemes and ultimately affects the amount of affordable housing that can be provided and leads to a reduction.
- A greenfield focus means the level of affordable housing is likely to increase.
- There are constraints to development such as flood risk. Focus east of Newport.
- Delivery is dependent on viability which is impacted by not just infrastructure costs but also community facilities and level of affordable housing.
- Pressures for development may come from Monmouthshire but also Bristol and Cardiff.
- Supply of raw materials is assumed in relation to development. Minerals are more than a local issue. Needs to be safeguarded to meet needs and be available.
- Minerals industry is working hard to improve environmental credentials.
- Minerals must not be sterilised unnecessarily. Also there has to be hard rock opportunities.
- Industry needs LPA collaboration with regard to minerals.
- Town centre flats above shops were a tradition which can be explored.
- What is the purpose of town centres this has a wider debate?
- Housing possible but may not appeal to all, attractive living for some but not others e.g. families.
- Greenfield urban expansion possible in sustainable locations but needs to be next to transport nodes.
- Transport for minerals – decarbonisation needs new technologies- need to be running these not during the working day.
- One other consideration is the Regional Transport Strategy.
- There is a need to consider where the raw materials come from.

- Sand needs to come from sites with close transport links.
- Excluding the impact of the Celtic Manor Newport's, the new plan needs to fully realise the potential for tourism especially that in the eastern part of the county.
- The rural areas have huge potential to attract tourism through improved stay vacations and holiday accommodation. There is a wealth of tourism attractions surrounding us including the Gwent levels, the sea wall and national walks, Wentwood, Caerleon Roman History, and the proximity to the Wye Valley and Cardiff.
- Good accommodation is quite sparse and not in countryside areas where people generally want to stay. Councils such as Monmouthshire recognise this by allowing the conversion of buildings that are over 30 years to holiday accommodation and it would be useful if the new Plan included this in its policies. This development is sustainable and would in effect protect a number of vulnerable agricultural buildings such as Dutch Barns and water towers that have been in our landscape for more than seventy years but are being lost very rapidly. Thereby enhancing the quality of and protecting and maximizing the potential of development that is sustainable.

7. Community Groups and Residents Ringland 16 March 2022

Vision

- Newport is going downhill. Town is looking derelict, lots of empty shops.
- Vision could be cut and paste from anywhere.

Objectives

- New development occurring but no infrastructure to support it.
- Llanwern only has one way in and one way out.
- Unsustainable travel in the area as commuters travel back and fro.
- Many employment sites have gone.
- The workers are not here to live or require additional housing. Mainly low paid jobs.
- Caerleon is the most polluted place in the country but more houses being built.

- Redwick, has never flooded for years but development is resisted.
- Settlement boundaries need to be reviewed in the RLDP to allow more housing particularly for local needs.
- More homes within the smaller settlements.
- There is a need for local people to afford houses and not just provide large houses for commuters.
- More social housing is needed not just low cost to buy, need houses to rent.
- Social housing is a priority need.
- Public transport routes an issue e.g. there is a disconnect between the bus station and train station can't get to the rail station by bus.
- Newport is overcrowded and infrastructure is old.
- Smaller developments in communities and settlements i.e. organic growth will also encourage community identity.
- High paid high tec jobs are required upskill the workforce. There is a need for a clear employment strategy.
- There is brownfield land available brownfield development should be considered first.
- Internet speed is slow e.g. in Bishton has speeds of 8.9, 6.7, 7.7 mbs/sec. Too slow needs faster communications for residents and business needed. Slow speeds will not encourage employment.
- Internet needs to be high speed, if not it will undermine the aims of the vision.
- Work from home is increasing due to lockdown and should be encouraged.
- Encourage employment hub buildings within the city for people to work and flexible working space.
- Commuters are important to other businesses and parts of the city economy e.g. worker buying lunches hence need for employment in the centres.
- Hubs and flexible space would be good for those who do not want to work from home but want to be local.
- Newport has a strong skilled and reliable workforce.

- To reduce the use of cars there is a need for a strong and affordable public transport system.
- No out of town developments due to travel issues and impacts on centres.
- Need more local service centres and hubs in communities to allow more walking, particularly for those with no cars.
- Protect and enhance the retail and commercial uses in the town centres – not more flexibility for change of use to residential etc.
- Small independent shops should be encouraged.
- A more diverse town centre is needed with independent shops and provide more cultural and recreational uses. Make the town and city centre an experience to want to visit.
- We are running out of brownfield sites and need more greenfield sites.
- Investment going into Pill but there are no services like a dentist. There is a high anti-social behaviour. Planning is not making a contribution.
- Change of use to flats and HMOs in Pill is not attracting people or professionals to the area. There is overcrowding with too many flats and HMOs.
- It is not accessible to come into town to help traders. Accepted this is more of a fiscal issue.
- There are parking issues though main issue with parking is it is expensive.
- Too much construction in Newport.
- Cwmbran does well, parking is free and is much more attractive for people to go to.
- More houses in town centres.
- Out of town retail has hampered the town centre.
- Vision should be more Newport specific.
- Newport should be the gateway to Wales.
- Newport is the honeypot to homeless and anti-social behaviour.
- Need to use ICC and events like the Ryder Cup to attract investment into Newport.
- Use culture and history as a catalyst to Newport.

- Historic environment is neglected, need to encourage more use and improve the facilities.
- Examples of neglect Corn Exchange, Chartist mural.
- Train station near Imperial Pass built to help commuters transfer to Imperial Road.
- Rural area is 70% of Council area. There is a need for clear farm and rural diversification policies.
- What does high quality mean, this is vague and needs to be defined.
- Need more technology e.g. for electric cars.
- Space standards are needed for new housing particularly post lockdown including outdoor space.
- Services need to be increased e.g. dentists, GPs, playgrounds etc.
- We are losing green spaces and need to protect the remaining ones within the town centres.
- Protect statutory environmental sites but also need to protect locally important sites, for the local people and also species protection.

8. **Community Groups and Residents Maesglas 17 March 2022**

Vision

- Vision is generic and could be for anywhere.
- Bring employment but need to attract the right companies. What sort of employment? Is it services or engineering?
- Potential jobs equal housing.
- Public transport issues there needs to be more sustainable transport. Make sure the Metro works within the bigger picture of S E Wales.
- Needs to be a little more detailed for Newport but being too specific could be a constraint.
- Newport is the third city of Wales so needs to have a little more on this than the others.

Objectives

- Employment – what do the Council want the area to be? needs to provide more information.

- How much employment in a given area this may be addressed when land allocations are put forward?
- Out of town retail at least you know what is there.
- Where will the growth be – business parks- a concentration can attract national names.
- National firms need a well designed and top of the range employment facilities.
- It may make sense to have such uses all together e.g. the Passport Office etc.
- Flexibility is the key to adjust to changes in the economy. Capable of subdivision for smaller units if needed.
- Opportunities in the town centres – retail at ground floor level with upper floors better used e.g. residential. Newport is a good example to do this.
- May need another mechanism there were previous Welsh Government grants.
- Small businesses could be promoted within the town e.g. Cowbridge has a number of successful independent shops.
- Make the town centre a destination, small businesses, restaurants. Provide a town centre experience. Find a reason to attract people or they will go elsewhere.
- No large hotel except the Celtic Manor, there needs to be others to act as a magnet.
- There are lessons to be learnt from how Cardiff developed, although it is accepted that they had Cardiff Bay.
- One simple thing – simplify the barrage scheme e.g. flood gates keep the high water in Newport. Possible hydroelectric benefit at a small scale albeit a small %. Exploit the tidal reach in Newport.
- Creation of links/hubs for home working where people would like the odd day working away from home but not following the serviced offices model like Regis.
- Develop flats with a communal room as part of the overall scheme to allow for residents to work.

- Home builders will build what the market wants e.g. houses with studies etc and space. The market will drive this.
- Detail is now a significant issue even at candidate site stage.
- Town centre regeneration. Hubs within the town centres. Council led development could be a catalyst to other retail, restaurant, take aways etc. Near to the bus station.
- Important to allocate small blocks of land, Torfaen has a surplus of employment land.
- Town centres need a fresh and creative look.
- There is a housing shortfall across all wards.
- Target 40% affordable housing provision in high cost areas with 25/30% in other areas.
- High quality can apply to all types of housing and not just market housing. In fact RSLs are going beyond building regulations.
- Affordable housing should be as good if not better than the private sector housing.
- TAN 15 and climate change will have an implication for development sites. FRA are going to need to consider these aspects.
- Gwent Levels is a no go area for development.
- Housing for jobs target, where is this coming from?
- Developing to the west is difficult due to the need to keep a gap between Newport and Cardiff.
- Basseleg – Pentrepoeth – Rhiwderin wedge is possible option for a strategic site. Round this area off as a growth area. Deliver most of the housing.
- Relocate town centre businesses out of town to an SDR. Provision of appropriate units with easier access and space. This may also allow land to become available in town centres for housing and other forms of development. May need an incentive to achieve this.
- Scope for residential development in certain smaller settlements e.g. Marshfield, Castleton etc.
- Private sector development with S106 affordable housing to avoid use of social housing grants. This has been considered at Langstone.

- South and West of Ocean Park – possible Welsh Government Land.
- Newport is constrained by its geographical area and then you add the physical constraints. East side is mainly countryside until you get to the Coldra. North almost in Monmouthshire.
- Monmouthshire LDP - no growth strategy will increase pressure on Newport.
- Need to look at the green agenda and make best use of green resources. Don't think wind farms are the answer. More use of hydroelectric schemes, small scale schemes based on Archimedes screw principle. Nuclear power plants, small scale – Rolls Royce are looking small size plants. Solar may help but kept to an appropriate scale and be able to blend into the landscape.
- Heritage needs to be exploited and used as a catalyst of development. Part of the idea to make town centres a destination

9. Community Groups and Residents Pill 17 March 2022

Vision

- Aspirational
- Can't see it happening.
- How will the vision be measured and at what point?
- Generic and not unique to Newport.
- Needs a Newport focus.

Objectives

- Employment is not currently thriving. Covid has had a major impact.
- Infrastructure issues including the over capacity of M4.
- Traffic issues M4 can have tailbacks which lead to knock on issues on the sides road and into Newport.
- People will go to Bristol to work.
- There is a need for strategic infrastructure.
- Public transport issues. Flexi bus is not working efficiently. There is a disconnect between the bus station and the rail station i.e. no bus service at the station.

- A range of industries are needed with a range of people with range of skills.
- Llanwern “pulled the plug on employment” and now playing catch up.
- Business hubs are a reasonable idea for small scale work spaces.
- Number of office blocks are empty and these need to be used more efficiently. Serviced offices are needed.
- It would be best if these employment sites are connected to the town centre. More people working in the town centre adds a positive knock on effect to other businesses.
- Training and education are important as young people are leaving and not returning to Newport.
- Out of town retail has adversely impacted the town centre.
- Cost of parking in the town centre also an issue.
- The town and city centres are struggling and need to be reinvented to provide other uses. The market looks good and is an example to follow.
- Upper floors of properties should be used for residential uses. More independent shops needed.
- Town centre should provide high quality accommodation. Overall need for a mixed use town centre.
- There is a need to be drawn to come to Newport that cannot be met elsewhere including parking.
- Friars Walk is a positive, but it has killed the High Street.
- Llanwern development was an error – flooding issues. Loss of green space.
- Good design will be important in future development.
- Need to protect and balance easy access to green spaces.
- Relief road decision is an issue how can this issue be addressed in the LDP?
- Houses are cheaper in Cardiff.
- There is still a lot of Llanwern site to develop to meet housing need.
- Brownfield land should be developed first.
- Use Welsh Government land.
- Land banking is an issue.

- Llanwern and Rogerstone is an ongoing development is more really needed?
- Builders will build where they can sell.
- Villages need more thought regarding development to make them more sustainable and meet local needs.
- Housing has been too high density and not high quality. Newport looks crammed when compared to elsewhere.
- Parking for new housing development is an issue. Too much on sites.
- The need for green spaces.
- Better infrastructure needed before development. Balance houses and services. At present infrastructure services not adequate for housing.
- Role of Welsh language 50/50, some said important some said not important and bigger issues to deal with.
- There is a tension between biodiversity and development, how can the plan address this?
- Gwent Levels need to progress - sea wall needs to be higher.
- Lots of important history in Newport that has not been given appropriate importance in the past. This can be a catalyst for visitors and businesses.
- Create more landscape and green space areas not just protect and enhance the existing.
- There is a need for a coherent approach. It all feels a bit “bits and pieces” at the moment.

10. Environment Group and Residents Online 24 March 2022

Vision

- This is a laudable vision in line with the themes throughout the County.
- Vision is generally acceptable and ticks all the boxes.
- Devil will be in the detail. There are going to need to be trade offs between the aims of the vision.
- Recognise that we are in the middle of a climate crisis.
- Transport is omitted including implications of the M4 relief road decision.
- There is a need for an integrated public transport strategy including active travel.

- Need the link for the objectives to meet the visions.

Objectives

- How are we going to measure the objectives? Currently they don't tend to lend themselves to being measured.
- Economy we are a low skilled economy and no opportunity to promote hi tech industries. To upskill and enhance will need more than just the objective. Not sure the LDP is the vehicle that could deliver this.
- LDP can influence subject to macro forces.
- Housing needs to be more sustainable currently only has a 60 year life. They need to be more sustainable including energy sources.
- The type of houses, a high proportion are semi detached or detached rather than high density houses.
- Issue is not just where but what houses, not just beholden to the housebuilders and provide what they want to build.
- 60 year lifespan is unacceptable. Specification needs insulation, energy use. Policies need to look at this issue.
- Greenfield/ Brownfield development. The latter can be more important for biodiversity than some greenfield sites e.g. old oil refineries. Therefore the choice is not clear cut.
- Need more smaller compact sustainable houses.
- Need to avoid the wrong houses in the wrong place.
- Less commuter houses.
- Removal of the bridge tolls has made Newport a suburb of Bristol. Housing needs to address people living and working here.
- Inevitable that buyers from Bristol will price people out of the market. How can the LDP address local needs?
- LDP should look to address communities considered to not be sustainable and make them more sustainable, thereby reducing travel.
- Impact on the rental market and this need particularly where people cannot afford to buy a house.
- Impact of changes to rental market from changes to the PRS legislation.
- New vision for town centres- mixed use including residential. Take advantage of the empty retail space.

- European cities have a more mixed use town centre and are successful.
- Residential development on upper floors of town centre brings a range of benefits including activity and security. Avoid town centres being a residential desert.
- Small shops needed to meet local needs.
- Changes to rejuvenate city to provide more communities. People moved out to satellite areas, town centre occupation will reduce use of cars.
- Redefine the town centres which needs a vision.
- There is a danger in phrases such as green working, it says a lot but can do little. Environment must be at the heart of everything. Particularly on the coast.
- Sea level rises over the next 50 years is going to have a major impact. Current defences will be broken and breached. Therefore, this has to be at the heart of all decisions as it will have an economic impact.
- Need to promote the green economy e.g. passive solar energy systems.
- Forward thinking local authorities must take the lead and cannot wait for national governments to deal with this matter.
- Transport issues, adjust the way people work, people can work at or near to home. There is a need for the LDP to embrace and encourage this approach.
- Local work hubs can also contribute to reduced car use.
- Massive potential for power from the estuary, spring low tide and spring high tide is a massive volume. But we cannot solve one crisis by creating another. There are ecological issues, range of bird species and fish species.
- Large pressure on the Gwent Levels from solar farms. There is an impact form covering large areas of land.
- Factory roof areas could be used to provide such areas.
- Large barrage has a major impact, but small schemes also need careful consideration and they can impact too.
- Gwent levels – maintaining the landscape on the levels.
- Circular economies – green growth.

- Farming is in crisis how with agriculture be subsidised? Local authority could do a lot to support farming, such as farmers markets, diversification, more sustainable industries e.g. yoghurt and cheese production. Reduce the use of pesticides and fertilisers.
- The LDP can support farming in many ways and farmers are keen to engage.
- Biodiversity and carbon capture.
- Historic assets could be used as a catalyst for investment.
- Examples include Transporter Bridge, water gate- medieval castle, there is a road through the castle. There is so much heritage that can be exploited.
- Other cities exploit their heritage and exploit their townscape and heritage and this creates jobs.
- Landscape £4m grant put the Gwent Levels on the map. This importance needs to be carried forward in the LDP.
- Tension for development at the Gwent Levels have to be resolved but will be difficult. There are limits on development which is not sustainable.
- No growth strategy? It is not sustainable to have growth without limits.
- Quality not quantity in relation to development. Not growth for the sake of it.
- Circular economies how much can we keep in Newport.

Appendix 2 Invitation to Events

Dear RLDP Consultee,

Planning Aid Wales (PAW) has been commissioned by Newport City Council (the Council) to carry out the community engagement in relation to the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). As such we are a partner of Newport City Council for this purpose.

The Council have recently issued a consultation paper on the Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives (VIO) for the RLDP. As part of this process we are carrying out a number of engagement events and meetings to obtain your views on the planning issues facing Newport City Council over the next 15 years. These events will provide more information on the LDP process, the implications of the RLDP to your community and how you can comment on the content of the Plan.

PAW is a registered charity that supports community engagement on planning matters in Wales. We have extensive experience helping communities understand the planning system and to have their say. PAW recognises LDP preparation is an important avenue for securing more effective public involvement in planning.

At the events, Planning Aid Wales will be independent and impartial and will seek to encourage you to put forward your opinions. We will capture this information and report it back to the Council to consider as part of the VIO consultation.

The purpose of this email is to invite you and/or a representative of your organisation to attend a meeting online on **2 March 2022 at 10 am** to discuss your views. Your feedback will help refine these Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives to best represent the communities that live in, work in, and visit Newport.

You can find out more information and submit your comments on the Draft Vision, Issues and Objectives for the RLDP online at www.newport.gov.uk/rldp. You can also request copies of the document and comment form by emailing LDP.consultation@newport.gov.uk, calling 01633 656 656, or by writing to us at Planning Policy, Newport Civic Centre, Newport, NP204UR.

Please note that if you supply comments, you will be added to our RLDP database and will be kept informed of future stages. Of course, you are welcome to opt-out at any point of the process in the future by informing a member of the Planning Policy Team. All data captured will only be used for the purpose of the RLDP and will not

be used for any other purpose and will be deleted when no longer required. The Council's privacy notice can be viewed at

<https://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Council-Democracy/Privacy-Policy.aspx>

and the Planning Policy Team privacy notice at

<https://www.newport.gov.uk/documents/Council-and-Democracy/Transparency/Privacy-notices/Planning-Policy-Privacy-Notice.pdf>.

Please can you confirm if you are able to attend by contacting Mark Jones at mark@planningaidwales.org.uk or alternatively calling 02920 625 904. Once confirmed we will send you the appropriate meeting link.

In addition, in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards, we would like to establish your language preference. When confirming your attendance at this event please indicate whether you would like to hear the presentation in Welsh or to respond to any discussions in Welsh.

If you require further assistance, please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01633 656656 or email LDP.consultation@newport.gov.uk.

Annwyl Ymgynghorai yr RLDP,

Comisiynwyd Cymorth Cynllunio Cymru (CCC) gan Gyngor Dinas Casnewydd (y Cyngor) i gynnal ymgysylltiad cymunedol ynghylch y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Amnewid (RLDP). O'r herwydd rydym ni'n bartner gyda Chyngor Dinas Casnewydd at y diben hwn.

Yn ddiweddar mae'r Cyngor wedi cyhoeddi papur ymgynghoriad ar y Weledigaeth, Materion ac Amcanion Drafft (VIO) ar gyfer yr RLDP. Fel rhan o'r broses hon rydym yn bwriadu cynnal nifer o ddigwyddiadau a chyfarfodydd ymgysylltiad i gael eich safbwyntiau ar y materion cynllunio sy'n wynebu Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd dros y 15 mlynedd nesaf. Yn y digwyddiadau hyn ceir mwy o wybodaeth am y broses Cynllun Datblygu Lleol (CDLI), goblygiadau'r RLDP i'ch cymuned chi a sut y gallwch gyflwyno sylwadau ar gynnwys y Cynllun.

Mae CCC yn elusen gofrestredig sy'n cefnogi ymgysylltiad cymunedol â materion cynllunio yng Nghymru. Mae gennym brofiad helaeth o helpu cymunedau i ddeall y system gynllunio ac i ddweud eu dweud. Mae CCC yn cydnabod bod paratoi CDLI yn fodd pwysig i sicrhau ymrwymiad mwy effeithiol gan y cyhoedd mewn cynllunio.

Yn y digwyddiadau bydd Cymorth Cynllunio Cymru yn annibynnol a diduedd a bydd yn ceisio eich annog i fynegi eich barn. Byddwn yn casglu'r wybodaeth yma ac adrodd yn ôl i'r Cyngor er mwyn ystyried hyn fel rhan o'r ymgynghoriad VIO.

Diben yr e-bost hwn yw eich gwahodd chi a / neu gynrychiolydd eich sefydliad i fynychu cyfarfod ar-lein ar **2 Mawrth 2022 am 10 am** i drafod eich safbwyntiau. Bydd eich adborth yn helpu coethi'r Weledigaeth, Materion ac Amcanion Drafft er mwyn cynrychioli'r cymunedau sy'n byw a gweithio ac ymweld â Chasnewydd, er y gorau.

Gallwch ddod o hyd i fwy o wybodaeth a chyflwyno'ch sylwadau ar y Weledigaeth, Materion ac Amcanion Drafft ar gyfer yr RLDP ar-lein yn www.newport.gov.uk/rldp. Gallwch hefyd ofyn am gopïau o'r ddogfen a'r ffurflen sylwadau trwy e-bostio LDP.consultation@newport.gov.uk, ffonio 01633 656 656, neu drwy ysgrifennu atom ni yn Polisi Cynllunio, Canolfan Ddinesig Casnewydd, Casnewydd, NP204UR.

Dylech nodi pe byddwch yn cyflwyno sylwadau yna fe'ch ychwanegir at ein cronfa ddata RLDP a chewch wybod am y camau a gymerir yn y dyfodol. Wrth gwrs mae croeso i chi adael y broses ar unrhyw bryd trwy ddweud wrth aelod o'r Tîm Polisi Cynllunio. Defnyddir unrhyw ddata a gawn yn unig at ddiben yr RLDP ac ni cheir ei ddefnyddio at unrhyw ddiben arall ac fe'i dilëir pan na fydd ei angen arnom mwyach. Gellir gweld hysbysiad preifatrwydd y Cyngor yn

<https://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Council-Democracy/Privacy-Policy.aspx>

a hysbysiad preifatrwydd y Tîm Polisi Cynllunio yn

<https://www.newport.gov.uk/documents/Council-and-Democracy/Transparency/Privacy-notice/Planning-Policy-Privacy-Notice.pdf>.

Byddwchystal â chadarnhau a ydych yn gallu mynychu trwy gysylltu â Mark Jones yn mark@planningaidwales.org.uk neu ffonio 02920 625 904. Unwaith eich bod wedi cadarnhau anfonir dolen i'r cyfarfod atoch.

Yn ogystal, yn unol â gofynion Safonau'r Iaith Gymraeg, hoffem wybod pa iaith yr hoffech i ni gyfathrebu â chi. Wrth gadarnhau eich presenoldeb yn y digwyddiad

hwn byddwch cystal â nodi a ydych am glywed y cyflwyniad yn Gymraeg neu i ymateb i unrhyw drafodaethau yn Gymraeg.

Pe baech angen mwy o gymorth cysylltwch â'r Tîm Polisi Cynllunio ar 01633 656656 neu e-bostiwch LDP.consultation@newport.gov.uk.

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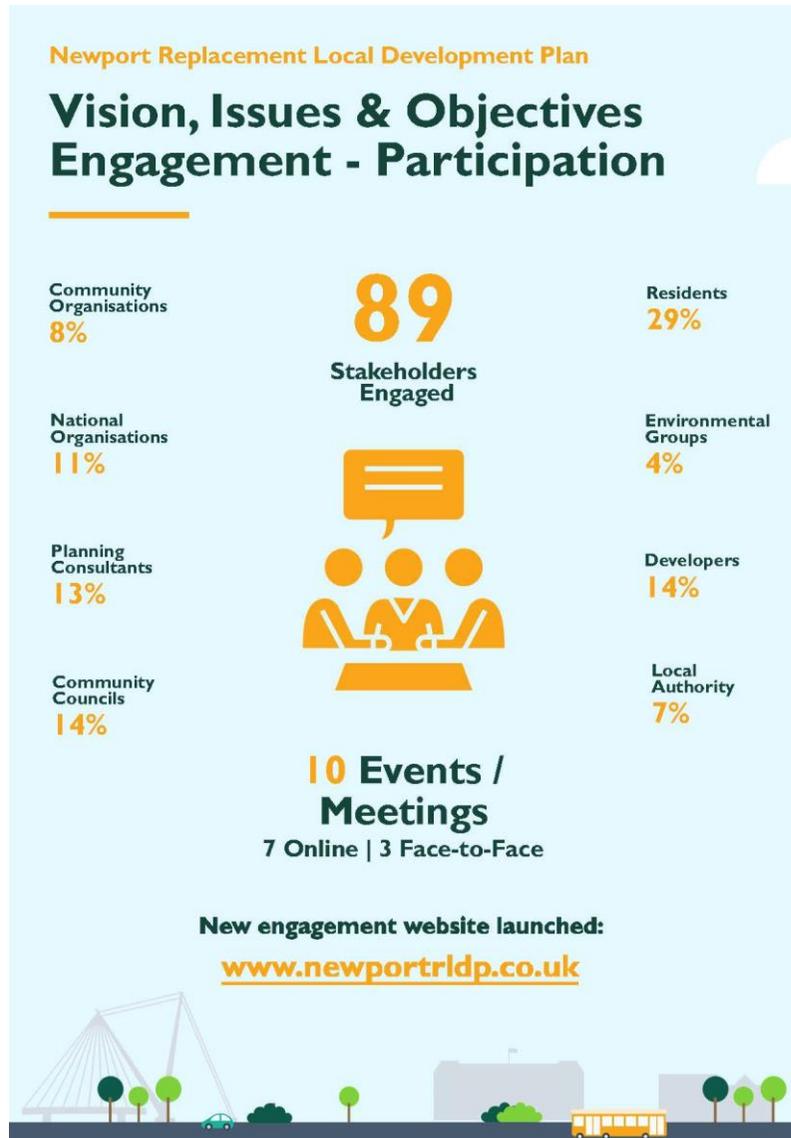


Figure 1: Summary VIO Engagement Participation

Vision, Issues & Objectives Engagement - Feedback Summary

Population & Communities

Don't create dormitory areas for commuters to Bristol and Cardiff.

Review settlement boundaries allow more housing in smaller settlements.

Provide local needs housing.

Brownfield sites important but recognise that greenfield sites are going to be needed.

More affordable housing, particularly to rent

Greenfield sites may allow more affordable housing provision. Brownfield sites can also be important biodiversity sites.

Need more gypsy and traveller sites including private sites and transit sites.

Geographical constraints on where large developments can be proposed.

High quality housing design including sufficient indoor and outdoor space.

Health & Wellbeing

Lack of infrastructure such as services and community facilities for development.

Transport & Movement

Transport infrastructure an issue. M4 congestion and back up on surrounding roads.

Need adequate public transport and active travel provision.

Economy & Employment

Upskill workers and enhance opportunities.

Town and City centre regeneration: need a mix of uses – make them a destination / experience and not just retail.

Use vacant office space more flexibly.

The area is 70 % rural - consider the needs of changing agricultural policy.



Biodiversity & Geodiversity

Gwent Levels should be protected.

Solar farms are an issue of concern.

Need to preserve, enhance and increase green spaces within towns.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

No objections to the draft objectives. Many felt this would be achieved through other objectives.

Historic Environment

Importance of heritage matters, need to enhance and use as a catalyst for development and town centre regeneration.

Natural Resources

The LDP should look to safeguard natural resources within the Council area.

An available supply of materials (e.g. aggregates) is assumed and should be considered in LDP policies in relation to new development.

The supply of minerals is more than a local issue and needs to be safeguarded.

Landscape

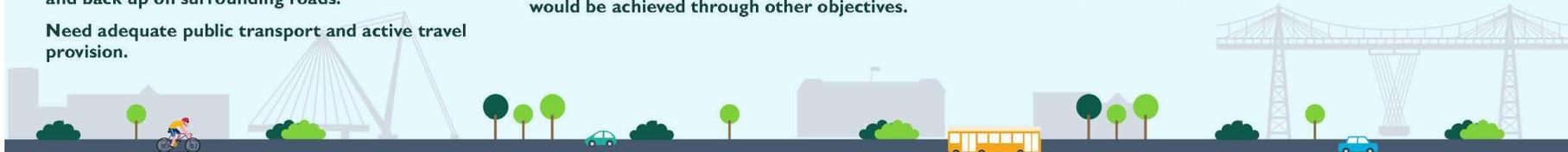
No specific objections raised - many of the comments in relation to other objectives reflected views on landscape.

It was important to safeguard the quality of the landscape and new development should reflect this.

Climate Change

Consensus on the importance of the effects of climate change.

LDP to have regard to the Climate Emergency and the requirements of The Well-being of Future Generations Act.



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Appendix C – Proposed changes to Draft Vision Issues and Objectives

Proposed changes to Draft Vision Issues and Objectives Document following Public Consultation

Comment made by	Page no of comment and Officer response	Change Proposed	Proposed New Wording	Section to change	Page no of Draft VIO to Change
Natural Resources Wales - 00004/VIO/4/001	63-64	Amendment	<i>A City that tackles inequality through sustainable patterns of development, creating places that are safe, connected, inclusive, healthy and well designed with access to housing, jobs, services <u>and the natural environment.</u></i>	Draft RLDP Vision – Bullet Point 2	4
Natural Resources Wales - 00004/VIO/4/002	64-72	Amendment	<u>In terms of water quality</u> Newport's coastal location and its two main rivers (Usk and Ebbw) alongside their tributaries and the expansive ditch / reen network across the Gwent Levels means that nowhere in Newport is far from a water source. In terms of water supply the current LDP, informed by Dwr Cymru's Water Resource Management Plan, evidenced ...	3.6: Natural Resources – Current Situation	18
Natural Resources Wales - 00004/VIO/4/002	64-72	New	How can the plan help reduce the impact of poor Air Quality on the environment?	3.6: Natural Resources – Key Issues	18
Natural Resources Wales - 00004/VIO/4/003	56-62	Amendment	<i>To maintain, enhance and improve the biodiversity and geodiversity of Newport and its surrounds including improved <u>ecological</u> resilience, diversity, connectivity and adaptability, whilst ensuring net benefits are facilitated from development.</i>	3.7: Biodiversity and Geodiversity - Objective	6 and 20

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Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 13 July 2022

Subject Annual Welsh Language Monitoring Report 2021 - 22

Purpose This annual monitoring report sets out Newport City Council's progress against its Welsh language commitments during the financial year 2020-2021.

The attached monitoring report is required to be published on the council's website in accordance with statutory responsibilities under the Welsh Language Standards by 30th June 2022.

Author Strategic Director, Transformation and Corporate
Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Ward All

Summary The Council is required to report annually on its progress in complying with the Welsh Language Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. This report covers the sixth year of implementation, following the imposition of the Council's Welsh language standards in March 2016.

The attached report provides an overview of the Council's progress in meeting the Welsh Language Standards, includes information required by law to be published on an annual basis, a summary of key achievements during the year, and priority areas for future work.

Proposal To approve the attached final monitoring report and publish it on the Council's website, in accordance with statutory deadlines.

Action by Corporate Management Team

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Cabinet Member for Organisational Transformation
- Welsh Language Implementation Group (staff group)
- Strategic Director, Transformation and Corporate
- Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Signed

Background

Legal context

This annual report has been prepared in accordance with Welsh Language Standards 158, 164 and 170, and sets out how Newport City Council has complied with the Welsh Language Standards imposed on the authority by the Welsh Language Commissioner. This represents the council's sixth year of implementing the Welsh Language Standards which came into force on the 30th of March 2016.

Governance

The implementation of, and compliance with, Welsh Language Standards is supported by the council's officer Welsh Language Implementation Group, chaired by the Corporate Strategic Director. The Cabinet Member for Organisational Transformation has Welsh Language within their wider equalities portfolio and the council also has an Elected Member Welsh Language Champion.

Developments

This annual report reflects the positive work undertaken by the Council, in another challenging year which impacted on the delivery of our Welsh language priorities – particularly where they depended on community engagement and outreach. Highlights this year include:

- Our Welsh Language Promotion Officer worked closely with schools and community stakeholders to support and develop a Promotion Plan that will align the outcomes of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and general education targets. They will play a key part in developing the governance and monitoring of the plan during the forthcoming year.
- Funding made available via the Welsh in the Community Grant to support local community groups, organisations, and individuals to promote, facilitate and increase the use of the Welsh language across Newport
- The publication of Welsh Language related Strategies and Policies to support the use of the Welsh Language across the Council.
- Citizen engagement activities to find out more about what people in Newport thought about the Welsh language and inform the focus of the strategic themes.
- Facilitated the translation of the Council's "Becoming Bilingual" parents' booklet into 12 different languages to support all Newport Communities to learn and use Welsh.
- Created a Task and Finish group that will review and scope the current position regarding Welsh language skills levels across OneNewport's partner members, the third sector and others.
- Worked with our refugee, migrant, and minority ethnic communities to better embed Welsh language as part of a shared sense of identity across the city, particularly in the context of the development of our fourth Welsh medium primary school.
- Improved, developed, and began to deliver a new Welsh Language Skills Policy. Processes have now been implemented and put in place to allow delivery next year.
- Engaged and consulted with key stakeholders and our communities to inform the development of our new 5-year Welsh Language Strategy which has been passed with the full support of Council.
- Adopted several Clear Cymraeg principles to better encourage staff to use Welsh in the workplace as part of our Welsh Language Skills policy.
- Delivered a cohesive approach to Welsh language skills development across our partners through the Right Skills Board.
- Developed creative partnership arrangements outside of the public and voluntary sector to raise the profile of the Welsh language across Newport. This included working with the Dragons Rugby and Newport County AFC to promote the Welsh language.

The report also identifies priorities for the next reporting period, including

- Working with stakeholders and partner to deliver the new 5-year Welsh Language Strategy and embedding a performance monitoring framework to assess delivery of objectives
- Engaging with all of Newport's diverse communities to promote the Welsh language, raise awareness and visibility of the language and continue to develop Welsh medium education and the inclusivity of the language
- Embedding our new performance management structure across the council
- Rolling out our newly developed Welsh language training videos to all staff
- Scope and consider Welsh language courses for lapsed speakers, or those that need a confidence boost

The report is attached at appendix 1 to this report and a Welsh language copy can be found at [Welsh Language Annual Monitoring Report 2021-22_CY \(newport.gov.uk\)](http://Welsh Language Annual Monitoring Report 2021-22_CY (newport.gov.uk))

Financial Summary

Newport City Council continues to invest in the Welsh language, with a Welsh Language and Equalities budget to support internal adoption of standards and facilitate partnership and community initiatives. The most significant expenditure is translation costs. Additional funding for short-term projects is available through a Welsh Language Reserve. There is an expectation that service areas will factor in costs associated with Welsh language provision when developing new services to ensure sustainability.

Risks

Risk Title / Description	Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (1-5)	Risk Probability of risk occurring (1-5)	Risk Mitigation Action(s) What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?	Risk Owner Officer(s) responsible for dealing with the risk?
That the Welsh Language (WL) Standards in their entirety are not implemented	3	3	Monitoring of compliance with WL Standards is supported by the WL Implementation Group.	Corporate Management Team Head of People, Policy and Transformation
That the Standards are not understood by employees	3	1	The WL Implementation group includes membership from all service areas. Regular communications are issued to all staff. Training on Welsh language awareness is regularly delivered, with new videos loaded to the Learning@NHSWales learning portal. Information is available to all staff on the Welsh language intranet pages.	Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Corporate Plan 2017-22

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032

Options Available and considered

1. To approve the attached report and publish on the council's website
2. To request further information or not approve the attached report and redraft.

Preferred Option and Why

1. To approve the attached paper and publish on the Council's website so that the Council remains compliant with its statutory obligations.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no direct financial consequences as a result of the proposal to approve the monitoring report and then publish on the Council's website. Cost of the implementation of the Welsh Language Standards is met by service area budgets, and a central budget is also in place to develop a sustainable translation service, with a reserve available to draw on for additional projects or set up costs associated with compliance.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The Council has a statutory duty under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 to comply with prescribed Welsh Language Standards. The Council is required to report annually on progress in meeting the Welsh Language Standards and publish the report in accordance with standard 158. This report sets out the actions taken, and the progress made in meeting the Council's Welsh language commitments during 2021/22. It demonstrates that the Council has responded to the legislative requirements in a systematic way, however, further progress will be required in the next 12 months.

Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation

There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.

This annual report reflects the positive progress made and highlights some examples of good practice that we have delivered over the past 12 months. The report also identifies some areas in which we will need to make improvements in the year to come.

Continued work on the Welsh Language agenda, and the 5 Year Welsh Language Strategy contributes to the delivery of the Council's well-being objectives and the national well-being goals, working towards a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.

Scrutiny Committees

Discussed at Scrutiny on Friday 24 June 2022. Feedback overall was positive with members agreeing the report to be submitted to Cabinet. The following comments were provided as recommendations for future reports.

- The committee asked for an executive summary of responses from community surveys to be provided in future.
- The committee recommended that the outcomes of the grants provided to organisations to be monitored.
- The committee noted that there was an absence of specific achievements and that achievements needed to be more clearly evidenced within the report
- The committee requested a comment be included from the Chief Education Officer regarding the surplus of Welsh medium nursery places.
- The committee asked for specific information regarding projections for the percentage of Welsh speakers in Newport by the 2050 goal.

- The committee agreed that the report was a fair representation of what had occurred over the past year and that it highlighted the ongoing commitment to the Welsh language.
- The committee agreed that comments and recommendations should be submitted to Cabinet.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

This annual report demonstrates how the Council has performed against the standards and raised the awareness and use of the Welsh Language across the Council and Newport as a whole. Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment process has improved the way our Welsh language responsibilities and community views impact on our policy and decision making.

In consideration of the sustainable development principle, 5 ways of working:

Long Term – Activities in relation to delivery of compliance with the Standards contained within the Compliance Notice and the 5 Year Strategy will help deliver a Wales of, “vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.”

Preventative – The report covers the work undertaken with the Right Skills Board, stakeholders, and partners to raise awareness of the Welsh language across all of Newport’s diverse communities. The key themes and actions in the report underpin them and balance short term needs with the delivery of medium to long-term solutions.

Integration – It identifies key successes and challenges for the Welsh language in Newport and shows how the council has worked towards compliance with the Welsh language standards and promoted Welsh across the diverse communities of Newport increasing the visibility of the language across the city.

Involvement – Engagement of citizens and other key stakeholders in the drafting of this report and the associated policies is demonstrated through this report.

Collaboration - The actions in the report have and are being undertaken in collaboration with partners from the Council’s Right Skills Board and Welsh Language Implementation Group and partners within each service area. The collaborative work enables the Council to share resources and build expertise and knowledge.

Consultation

Not Applicable

Background Papers

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032

Welsh Language Skills Policy

5 Year Promotional Strategy

Dated: 6 July 2022

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Welsh Language Annual Monitoring
Report
2021-2022
Newport City Council



Contents

Foreword by Cabinet Member for Organisational Transformation

Foreword by the Chief Executive

- 1. Legislative Context**
- 2. Introduction**
- 3. Key achievements**
- 4. Monitoring**
- 5. Complaints**
- 6. Training**
- 7. Overview of work against Standards**
- 8. Looking forward**

DRAFT

Foreword by Cabinet Member for Organisational Transformation

Foreword by Chief Executive

DRAFT

1. Legislative Context

This annual report has been prepared in accordance with Welsh Language Standards 158, 164 and 170, and will highlight how Newport City Council has complied with the Welsh Language Standards which were imposed on the authority by the Welsh Language Commissioner, set out in [Newport City Council's Compliance Notice](#).

As well as outlining the authority's general compliance, this report also contains the specific information required by the Standards to be published annually. This includes data on the number of complaints we have received, the Welsh language levels of our staff, the training we offer through the medium of Welsh, and the level of Welsh we require on all vacant and new posts we have advertised during the financial year.

2. Introduction

This year, the Council has continued to face several challenges presented by the on-going situation with regards the pandemic, COVID restrictions, and continued advice to work-from-home meaning there have been limited opportunities to engage with staff and communities across Newport. The Council has needed to focus on adapting to new ways of working and continuing to deliver services to our citizens whilst ensuring staff are safe, and navigating the shifting risks associated with an on-going global pandemic.

We have had to continue a flexible response to COVID-19, reassessing priorities, and redeploying resources. These challenges were recognised and acknowledged by the Welsh Language Commissioner, whilst still recognising the need, and value of providing bilingual services.

One of the most significant challenges for the Council, repeated this year, has been the continued restrictions placed on face-to-face engagement, particularly at a time when we had been focussed on improving the promotion of Welsh language across our communities.

As the level of restrictions lightened, we successfully implemented a Welsh in the Community Grant scheme to support activities across Newport in promoting the Welsh language and managed a soft launch of our 'Many faces of Welsh-ness' campaign, as way of creating a Welsh identity and inclusiveness across Newport's communities and were able to appoint a Welsh language promotion officer.

Despite the restrictions associated with the pandemic, we have been able to engage with our partners in new ways, reflect our internal processes, and adapt to new ways of working which look set to continue.

The Welsh Language Standards continue to provide the Council with a framework within which to work towards the Welsh Government's aspiration of delivering bilingual public services.

Work continued during the year to revisit and develop a new version of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and to update the 5 Year Promotional Strategy to inform policy, plans and work programmes across the Council to help achieve Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy.

This annual report provides updates on positive progress made this year, as well as identifying areas for continued development. The Council continues to invest in the Welsh language, both to support

internal compliance with standards, and facilitate partnership and community initiatives. Our Welsh language work also continues to be supported by an Elected Member Champion.

3. Key Developments

Welsh Language Promotion Officer

As noted in last year's report, the Council revisited the post and were able to reappoint during the autumn. The remit continues to include engagement with Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities in the Pillgwenlly area of Newport to promote Welsh medium education and promotion of Welsh medium education in general. To do this they have developed a Promotion Plan, which will be delivered and monitored with colleagues in the Education department and relevant stakeholders. The role also includes the promotion of Welsh in general to both staff and residents of Newport.

Our officer worked closely with schools and community stakeholders to support and develop a Promotion Plan that will align the outcomes of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and general education targets. They will play a key part in developing the governance and monitoring of the plan during the forthcoming year.

The officer has also assisted the four Welsh medium school Headteachers along with a project manager to develop several workshops and resources to be uploaded to HWB. This has helped pupils develop their skills following the education they missed during the lockdowns.

Internally, they supported promotional activities for staff, including a bilingual St David's Day Newsletter and supported the delivery of Welsh Language Awareness sessions.

Welsh in the Community Grants

The Council made funding available to support local community groups, organisations, and individuals to promote, facilitate and increase the use of the Welsh language across Newport. The grants, which had to be applied for, were for those who wished to develop small projects that would

- Promote the use of Welsh in the community
- Increase the use of Welsh in social and non-educational environments.
- Increase of the visibility of Welsh in Newport
- Support Welsh speakers and learners across the city to use, practice and develop their skills.

The funding available was for a variety of spends, and could include but was not limited to:

- Purchase of supporting materials that to enhance communications or widen its reach
- Covering the costs of an event or activity in the local community.
- Purchase of new equipment and that will promote and support the use of the Welsh language
- Costs associated with developing support materials and networks.

Welsh in the Community Grant scheme we received:

- 13 applications from a variety of Community Groups
- an overall application value of £32,614.79

These projects cover a variety of activities and community groups, with some of the projects 100% funded as a result of the scheme.

The council received a number of excellent applications from community groups, stakeholders and a national group operating in Newport- these included Capel Mynydd Seion for a Welsh medium community radio station, Mudiad Meithirin to promote Welsh medium nursery activities and The British Red Cross to support and increase the use, awareness, and visibility of the Welsh language by specifically targeting refugees/asylum seekers and wider Black, Asian and Ethnic Minoritised communities.

A full list can be found in Appendix One.

Policies & Strategies

Over the past 12 months, despite the continuing limitations on community and stakeholder engagement, the council successfully drafted and published several new Welsh language related strategies and policies.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

This includes the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032, supported by the Welsh language officer and Welsh language promotion officer and engagement events with the Welsh Education Forum members. The plan has passed through relevant channels and has been approved by full council and is now with Welsh Government for approval.

Welsh Education Promotional Plan

The Welsh Language Promotion Officer has drafted a promotional plan that will help deliver the outcomes listed in the WESP as well as list activities the council and stakeholders will undertake to promote Welsh medium education across Newport. Input from stakeholders who are member of the promotional group has been considered.

Welsh Language Skills Policy

During the last year a new Welsh language skills policy has been drafted and agreed by senior managers and will become live at the start of the new financial year. Work in preparation for the policy has been delivered by the HR & OD Business Partner supported by the Welsh Language Officer. This will include the adoption of the ALTE framework as a means of assessing linguistic ability in Welsh, all posts being advertised as Welsh desirable as a minimum and a Cymraeg Clir policy to help support and develop confidence across all Welsh speakers across the council.

5 Year Promotional Strategy

Our vision for the Welsh language is: ***“See, Hear, Learn, Use, Love”*** and for everyone in Newport to use, see and hear Welsh as a living language in all parts of life across the city across all the diverse communities.

To ensure this was reflected in the Strategy, it has been informed by the people living in Newport, Welsh language stakeholders and feedback from internal and external partners. During 2021 we

launched a number of community surveys to find out more about what people in Newport thought about the Welsh language and inform the focus of our strategic themes. Around 600 responses were received. The Strategy has been structured around 3 strategic themes to deliver our vision, considering our consultation findings, the linguistic profile of the city, our existing Welsh language priorities, and our aspirations for Welsh language growth - Theme 1: Communities and Culture, Theme 2: Education and Theme 3: Employers and Skills.

Promoting Bilingual Education

Working with colleagues in the Connected Communities Team, we identified a number of community languages in Newport; we then arranged and facilitated the translation of the Council's "Becoming Bilingual" parents' booklet into 12 different languages.

Welsh Language Promotion

In addition to the work of our Promotion Officer, the council has also:

- Continued to promote key dates throughout the year to communities and staff, including St David's Day and Diwrnod Shwmae
- Sponsored and supported Gŵyl Newydd, the annual Welsh language festival, this year delivered over digital platforms and hosted on ap AM. It included videos of 4 bands at iconic Newport sites.
- Continued to provide representation on local forums including Mwy na Geiriau, Fforwm Iaith and Rhwydiath

Employment and Skills

The Right Skills Board, which reports to One Newport, is a partnership forum which aims to ensure that people can access skills and education programmes that support a life well-lived. This aligns with sustainable current and future local employment opportunities, enabling individuals and communities to achieve their potential.

This year, we have created a Task and Finish group that will review and scope the current position regarding Welsh language skills levels across OneNewport's partners, the third sector and others. This will consider recommendations on how we can work together to promote and support the development of Welsh language skills across the city. The group are currently developing a series of cross-cutting recommendations to be considered by the Board.

The Council has continued to work with Careers Wales to support the creation of a number of events to promote the use of Welsh in the workplace, Welsh language careers and events through the medium of Welsh.

We have presented the completed research aimed at better understanding the gaps in Welsh language skills across childcare and early years education to the Welsh Language Implementation Group. As a result, the education department have been working at meeting with Careers Wales to develop a programme and sessions to promote careers in this area. Over the next 12 months we will look to present the findings to other relevant groups.

Looking back on 2021/22

Following a year that necessitated a focus on the delivery of essential services to our communities, and limited some of our planned Welsh language work, we aimed to carry over several previously identified priorities. The year continued to present challenges, as opportunities to engage in the way we had planned were again impacted by the continued situation.

However, we did manage to continue:

- Working with our refugee, migrant, and minority ethnic communities to better embed Welsh language as part of a shared sense of identity across the city, particularly in the context of the development of our fourth Welsh medium primary school
- Improve, develop, and begin to deliver a new Welsh Language Skills Policy. Processes have now been implemented and put in place to allow delivery next year.
- Developed creative partnership arrangements outside of the public and voluntary sector to raise the profile of the Welsh language across Newport. This included working with the Dragons rugby region and Newport County AFC to promote the Welsh language.

We also continued to:

- Engage and consult with key stakeholders and our communities to inform the development of our new 5-year Welsh Language Strategy which has been passed with the full support of Council.
- Adopting several Clear Cymraeg principles to better encourage staff to use Welsh in the workplace as part of our Welsh Language Skills policy.
- Deliver a cohesive approach to Welsh language skills development across our partners through the Right Skills Board

4. Monitoring

A. Welsh Competency requirements on new posts (all posts)

The Council's Human Resources (HR) team undertake a Welsh Language Assessment for all new or vacant positions advertised via our normal recruitment process using our HR system, iTrent.

Positions reviewed as part of restructuring are not subject to a Welsh language assessment as they fall outside of this standard process.

No. of new posts 2017/18	No. of new posts 2018/19	No. of new posts 2019/20	No. of new posts 2020/21	No. of new posts 2021/22
577	175	72	291	392

2017/18		
Welsh Competency Requirement	Number	Percentage of Total
Essential	26	4.5%
Desirable	51	8.8%
Not necessary	499	86.5%
To be learnt in post	1	0.2%
Total	577	

2018/19		
Welsh Competency Requirement	Number	Percentage of Total
Essential	5	2.9%
Desirable	18	10.3%
Not necessary	151	86.3%
To be learnt in post	1	0.1%
Total	175	
2019/20		
Welsh Competency Requirement	Number	Percentage of Total
Essential	4	5.56%
Desirable	6	8.33%
Not necessary	62	86.11%
To be learnt in post	0	
Total	72	
2020/21		
Welsh Competency Requirement	Number	Percentage of Total
Essential	6	2.06
Desirable	17	5.84
Not necessary	268	92.10
To be learnt in post	0	
Total	291	
2021/22		
Welsh Competency Requirement	Number	Percentage of Total
Essential	11	2.8
Desirable	43	11
Not necessary	338	86.2
To be learnt in post	0	0
Total	392	

B. Complaints

Welsh language complaints received from the public are recorded by our Contact Centre via the Council's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, meaning that all Welsh language complaints are accurately recorded and shared with appropriate officers to action. Complaints are also a standing agenda item at the council's Welsh Language Implementation Group where restorative actions and learning are discussed. This includes complaints received from the public, or through the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office.

In 2021/2022 the Council received 4 complaints in total: 2 direct to the Council and 2 via the Welsh Language Commissioner's office.

Direct Complaints

In relation to the complaints received direct to the Council, one is ongoing and will be reported as part of the 2022/2023 report. The second complaint had also been received via the Welsh Language Commissioner and is currently subject to their complaint's procedure, this will also be reported upon in next year's report.

Welsh Language Commissioner

As noted, the Council received 2 complaints from the Welsh Language Commissioner's office, one complaint is still open and will be reported upon next year.

The second complaint related to a new supplier form. It has been rectified and closed with the Council reminded that it needs to continue to promote Welsh language services. We revisited the process regarding offering a Welsh language service / forms via a soft-touch approach and trained those in the relevant department regarding our Welsh Language obligations and awareness.

Further to the cyberattack and ransomware incident at the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office, we continue to support and provide updates as requested in relation to historical data.

C. Training

Under Standard 128, the authority is mandated to offer training programmes through the medium of Welsh on the following courses:

- Health and safety for managers
- Corporate induction
- Performance management
- Corporate management induction

Of the courses offered in Welsh, none were requested by members of staff, as such attendance was 0% for staff completing these courses through the medium of Welsh.

D. Welsh Language Training

Due to the ongoing situation during the past year with the pandemic, working from home situation and additional work pressure, the group established by the Council to test the effectiveness of the 'Say Something in Welsh' app has still been unable to function fully. The group consisted of front-line staff and senior managers. Operational requirements and additional work pressures created by COVID-19 meant that this was not progressed as expected. We will be revisiting this group, when possible, with a view to adding the app to our training provision should it prove effective.

The on-going pandemic also had a significant impact on the delivery of classroom-based Welsh language training, as arrangements were made to deliver the courses virtually and working from home continued to impact classroom-based training. Internal Welsh language awareness training was also impacted, although as the Council adapted to working from home, elements of the course have been delivered virtually with an increase in attendances.

We hope to address this in 2022/23 with the rollout of our commissioned Welsh language videos, which will be mandatory for all staff and easily accessible whilst working remotely.

Course Title	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Improvers Course for Welsh Speakers	0	0	2	-
Welsh 2-day Introduction	8	0	0	-
Welsh at Work 90-minute Taster	16	10	7	-

Welsh Mynediad/Entry Level 30-week course (Year 1)	13	8	0	31
Welsh Mynediad/Entry Level 30-week course (Year 2)	6	11	0	11
Welsh Sylfaen/Foundation Level 30-week course (Year 1)	7	5	0	2
Welsh Sylfaen/Foundation Level 30-week course (Year 2)				7
Canolradd – Year 1				2
Canolradd – Year 2				6
Improvers Course for Welsh Speakers	8	8	0	-
Say Something in Welsh App			30	30

Course Title	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Welsh Language Awareness	6	38	9	28

E. Welsh Language Skills of Employees (as of 31/03/21)

Headcount 2016/17	Headcount 2017/18	Headcount 2018/19	Headcount 2019/20	Headcount 2020/21	Headcount 2021/2022
6,147	5,949	5842	5785	5865	5980

Establishment List

	No. of Employees by Score 2016/17				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record *
Reading	2,782	1,135	210	158	1,833
Spoken	2,574	1,324	210	183	1,856
Understanding	2,606	1,272	224	193	1,852
Written	2,830	1,079	198	171	1,869
Percentage of headcount	43.9%	19.6%	3.4%	2.9%	30.1%
	No. of Employees by Score 2017/18				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	2,710	1,154	220	193	1,672
Spoken	2,531	1,329	217	189	1,683
Understanding	2,546	1,290	233	198	1,682
Written	2,764	1,101	208	177	1,699
Percentage of headcount	44.3%	20.5%	3.7%	3.1%	28.4%
	No. of Employees by Score 2018/19				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	2702	1156	208	211	1565
Spoken	2507	1342	211	206	1576
Understanding	2523	1305	226	215	1573
Written	2750	1,106	198	195	1593

Percentage of headcount	44.9%	21.0%	3.6%	3.5%	27.0%
	No. of Employees by Score 2019/20				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	2694	1211	221	225	1434
Spoken	2500	1392	230	218	1445
Understanding	2513	1366	231	231	1444
Written	2763	1147	207	206	1452
Percentage of headcount	45.2%	22.1%	3.8%	3.8%	25%
	No. of Employees by Score 2020/21				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	2692	1253	234	240	1446
Spoken	2489	1449	236	235	1456
Understanding	2506	1421	240	248	1450
Written	2752	1197	213	222	1481
Percentage of headcount	42.73%	24.23%	4.09%	4.23%	24.72%
	No. of Employees by Score 2021/2022				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	2577	1273	241	234	1655
Spoken	2358	1460	243	232	1687
Understanding	2383	1437	248	242	1670
Written	2618	1214	220	213	1715
Percentage of headcount	39.85%	24.03%	4.15%	4.05%	27.93%

By Service Area:

Adult and Community Services

	No. of Adult and Community Services Employees by Score 2021/22				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	215	30	4	8	197
Spoken	207	34	5	8	200
Understanding	206	34	4	9	201
Written	219	20	3	8	204
	No. of Adult and Community Services Employees by Score 2020/21				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	244	21	6	11	207
Spoken	239	37	8	10	195
Understanding	238	37	5	13	196
Written	251	23	5	11	199
	No. of Adult and Community Services Employees by Score 2019/20				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	252	31	6	11	201

Spoken	244	39	7	10	201
Understanding	244	37	6	12	202
Written	258	23	5	11	204
	No. of Adult and Community Services Employees by Score 2018/19				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	280	30	3	9	268
Spoken	270	39	5	8	268
Understanding	270	37	5	9	269
Written	285	23	2	9	271

Children and Young People Services

	No. of Children and Young People Services Employees by Score 2021/22				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	207	52	8	13	159
Spoken	189	63	11	12	164
Understanding	187	69	8	15	160
Written	205	44	12	12	166
	No. of Children and Young People Services Employees by Score 2020/21				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	222	55	8	14	114
Spoken	209	67	12	13	112
Understanding	206	71	8	16	112
Written	228	43	12	13	117
	No. of Children and Young People Services Employees by Score 2019/20				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	217	54	7	11	109
Spoken	206	64	11	9	108
Understanding	203	67	7	12	109
Written	224	42	10	10	112
	No. of Children and Young People Services Employees by Score 2018/19				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	206	43	8	11	119
Spoken	202	47	11	9	117
Understanding	200	49	8	11	120
Written	211	32	11	10	122

People and Business Change

	No. of People and Business Change Employees by Score 2021/22				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	72	10	1	4	45

Spoken	66	12	1	4	49	
Understanding	66	14	1	4	47	
Written	68	9	2	3	50	
	No. of People and Business Change Employees by Score 2020/21					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record	
Reading	70	13	2	3	38	
Spoken	65	17	2	3	39	
Understanding	64	18	2	3	39	
Written	70	11	3	2	40	
	No. of People and Business Change Employees by Score 2019/20					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record	
Reading	76	13	3	3	38	
Spoken	71	18	3	3	38	
Understanding	72	16	3	4	38	
Written	76	12	4	2	39	
	No. of People and Business Change Employees by Score 2018/19					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record	
Reading	81	15	3	2	27	
Spoken	73	23	3	2	27	
Understanding	75	20	3	3	27	
Written	81	14	3	2	28	

Regeneration, Investment and Housing

	No. of Regeneration, Investment and Housing Employees by Score 2021/22					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record	
Reading	255	113	14	9	152	
Spoken	214	137	17	8	167	
Understanding	226	132	13	9	163	
Written	251	95	15	7	175	
	No. of Regeneration, Investment and Housing Employees by Score 2020/21					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record	
Reading	283	116	15	9	119	
Spoken	245	142	17	9	129	
Understanding	254	138	15	9	126	
Written	281	105	16	8	132	
	No. of Regeneration, Investment and Housing Employees by Score 2019/20					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record	
Reading	289	124	14	12	109	
Spoken	252	147	19	11	119	
Understanding	258	145	14	12	119	
Written	289	111	15	11	122	

	No. of Regeneration, Investment and Housing Employees by Score 2018/19				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	308	116	12	15	85
Spoken	269	142	16	15	95
Understanding	278	139	15	15	94
Written	299	116	14	14	131

Schools Employees

	No. of Schools Employees by Score 2021/22				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	1300	945	197	171	748
Spoken	1165	1078	194	171	753
Understanding	1186	1053	207	176	739
Written	1336	935	172	159	759
	No. of Schools Employees by Score 2020/21				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	1297	916	187	173	706
Spoken	1166	1053	181	171	708
Understanding	1179	1028	196	176	700
Written	1331	905	162	161	720
	No. of Schools Employees by Score 2019/20				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	1296	881	177	163	738
Spoken	1170	1008	178	160	739
Understanding	1182	987	189	165	732
Written	1335	862	159	151	748
	No. of Schools Employees by Score 2018/19				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	1269	851	166	155	773
Spoken	1146	977	163	152	776
Understanding	1156	953	182	157	766
Written	1293	841	154	143	783

Strategic Directors

	No. of Strategic Directors by Score 2021/22				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	3	1	-	-	-
Spoken	2	2	-	-	-
Understanding	3	1	-	-	-
Written	4	-	-	-	-
	No. of Strategic Directors by Score 2020/21				
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	1	0	1	1	0
Spoken	0	1	0	0	0
Understanding	0	0	0	0	0

Written	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Strategic Directors by Score 2019/20					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	1	1	0	0	1
Spoken	0	2	0	0	1
Understanding	1	1	0	0	1
Written	1	1	0	0	1
No. of Strategic Directors by Score 2018/19					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	1	1	0	0	1
Spoken	0	2	0	0	1
Understanding	1	1	0	0	1
Written	1	1	0	0	1

Law and Regulation

No. of Law and Regulation Employees by Score 2021/22					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	70	16	6	3	33
Spoken	67	17	6	3	35
Understanding	64	20	5	3	36
Written	69	15	5	3	36
No. of Law and Regulation Employees by Score 2020/21					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	192	37	11	7	73
Spoken	188	41	9	9	73
Understanding	185	44	11	7	73
Written	193	34	10	8	75
No. of Law and Regulation Employees by Score 2019/20					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	151	27	5	9	28
Spoken	149	29	6	8	28
Understanding	146	31	5	9	29
Written	154	24	6	8	28
No. of Law and Regulation Employees by Score 2018/19					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	159	26	5	8	28
Spoken	157	28	5	8	28
Understanding	154	31	5	8	28
Written	162	23	6	7	28

Education

No. of Education Employees by Score 2021/22					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	90	35	8	7	164
Spoken	82	45	8	5	164
Understanding	87	41	8	7	161

Written	97	30	7	6	164
No. of Education Employees by Score 2020/21					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	94	36	7	6	128
Spoken	86	46	7	4	128
Understanding	90	40	7	6	128
Written	101	31	7	4	128
No. of Education Employees by Score 2019/20					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	105	37	5	7	128
Spoken	98	46	3	7	128
Understanding	101	41	5	7	128
Written	113	31	4	6	128
No. of Education Employees by Score 2018/19					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	114	39	6	6	131
Spoken	106	50	4	6	130
Understanding	110	42	6	6	132
Written	123	32	5	5	131

Streetscene and City Services

No. of Streetscene and City Services Employees by Score 2020/22					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	169	25	2	6	114
Spoken	166	28	2	7	113
Understanding	168	26	0	7	115
Written	170	24	1	6	115
No. of Streetscene and City Services Employees by Score 2020/21					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	263	32	14	4	101
Spoken	259	35	15	4	101
Understanding	259	36	15	2	102
Written	269	29	12	4	100
No. of Streetscene and City Services Employees by Score 2019/20					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	275	32	5	10	102
Spoken	274	32	5	11	102
Understanding	272	35	3	11	103
Written	280	30	3	8	101
No. of Streetscene and City Services Employees by Score 2018/19					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	263	28	6	6	107
Spoken	262	29	5	7	107
Understanding	261	30	4	7	108

Written	267	27	4	6	106
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Finance

No. of Finance Employees by Score 2021/22					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	50	26	1	1	26
Spoken	52	25	1	1	25
Understanding	50	23	1	1	29
Written	52	24	1	1	26
No. of Finance Employees by Score 2019/20					
No. of Finance Employees by Score 2020/21					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	50	24	1	1	21
Spoken	51	23	1	1	21
Understanding	50	21	1	1	24
Written	62	22	1	1	11
No. of Finance Employees by Score 2019/20					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	50	23	1	1	22
Spoken	51	22	1	1	22
Understanding	50	20	1	1	25
Written	52	21	1	1	22
No. of Finance Employees by Score 2018/19					
Welsh Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	No Record
Reading	48	20	1	1	22
Spoken	49	19	1	1	22
Understanding	48	17	1	1	25
Written	50	18	1	1	22

*No record refers to those staff that have not indicated their Welsh language ability

F. Overview of work against Standards

Service Delivery Standards

Our planned review of our compliance with Service Delivery Standards was affected again this year due to the ongoing situation with the pandemic, but the authority continues to demonstrate positive progress, particularly through the positive attitude displayed towards the Welsh language by staff. Consistency of service delivery across the organisation still proves challenging, however, as Service Delivery Standards relate to frontline services for members of the public, these Standards will remain a priority for us, our Welsh Language Implementation Group, and within our corporate action plan. Staffing and recruitment continues to be difficult and presents the authority with significant challenges in a continuation of service delivery.

Policy Making Standards

The updated Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment process has been published and training delivered to key staff members involved in the decision-making process across a variety of service areas. Staff training focused on the effective use of FEIA to improve decision making and has aligned Cabinet, Scrutiny and Council Report templates to ensure decision makers are aware of their responsibilities. Welsh Language continues to sit within the Council's Policy, Partnership and Involvement Team, a placement that fosters positive links between the creation of corporate policy and promotion of Welsh Language.

Operational Standards

Our HR department continues to work to ensure compliance with Operational Standards across several business areas. A subgroup of the Welsh Language Implementation Group drafted a new Welsh Language Skills Policy that included a series of recommendations around internal Welsh language skills. Presented to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) it included a review of our recruitment processes, our internal Welsh language policy, and the way that we measure and monitor the Welsh language skills of our staff. Recommendations were made to the Group, and our Corporate Management Team early in 2021. Our HR team have put in place the infrastructure to deliver the new policy from April 2022.

Promotion Standards

Our new [5 year Promotion Strategy](#) has been passed by Cabinet and Full Council, and was positively received in terms of the direction of travel and drive to ensure Welsh is inclusive and accessible to all of Newport's diverse communities. It aims to bring together the work with stakeholders, other council services areas and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032. It also drives the inclusion of the Welsh language with the Right Skills Board and our OneNewport partners to ensure consistency in the way Welsh is monitored as a workplace skill. Within the Strategy we also aim to ensure the people of Newport can, "**see, hear, learn, use and love**" the Welsh language. The Council also continues to have a Welsh Language Elected Member Champion (Councillor Jason Hughes for the year 2021-2022) who supports the promotion of Welsh language both across the city and Council. The Council is a member of the Fforwm Iaith, co-ordinated by Menter Iaith Casnewydd, and attended by key Welsh language stakeholders.

Record Keeping

The Council has a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, which has improved the way that we record complaints relating to Welsh language and customer information about language choice. The Council use the HR system, iTrent, to monitor and keep records on the Welsh language skills of employees, attendance at relevant training courses and Welsh language assessment of vacant posts.

Performance Monitoring

The Council continues to review the way in which it monitors the implementation of Standards across the organisation. An Implementation Plan, Organisational Plan and Individual Service Plans for specific Welsh Language Standards owned by an identifiable service area have been developed. The delivery of these plans is monitored by our Welsh Language Implementation Group and key performance indicators included in our corporate performance management system. This will allow for organisational and service area level data to be easily accessed and monitored. Welsh language performance measures are already included within the Council's performance and risk management framework which is reported on quarterly and within our corporate annual report.

G. Looking Forward to 2022/2023

Following another year which necessitated a focus on the delivery of essential services to our communities, and staff continuing to work from home with limited scope to undertake engagement projects with Newport communities, we aim to carry over several priorities which were identified last year and include new ones to build on the foundations that have been laid, including:

- Working with our refugee, migrant, and Minoritised Ethnic communities to better embed Welsh language as part of a shared sense of identity across the city, particularly in the context of the development of our fourth Welsh medium primary school
- Implementing our new Welsh Language Skills Policy, which has been agreed by senior management and includes adopting the, Cymraeg Clir principles, noting roles as Welsh desirable as a minimum and ALTE skills framework to record and monitor Welsh language skills in the workplace, and better using this data to inform strategic planning
- Build on the creative partnership arrangements developed outside the public and voluntary sector to better raise the profile of the Welsh language across Newport with opportunities at the Dragons rugby region and Newport County AFC
- Working with our neighbourhood hubs in each area of the city to promote better engagement with Council services through the medium of Welsh
- Delivering a cohesive approach to Welsh language skills development across our OneNewport partners through the Right Skills Board

We have also identified several new priorities, including:

- Working with stakeholders and partner to deliver the new 5-year Welsh Language Strategy and embedding a performance monitoring framework to assess delivery of objectives
- Engaging with all of Newport's diverse communities to promote the Welsh language, raise awareness and visibility of the language and continue to develop Welsh medium education and the inclusivity of the language
- Embedding our new performance management structure across the council
- Rolling out our newly developed Welsh language training videos to all staff
- Scope and consider Welsh language courses for lapsed speakers, or those that need a confidence boost

For further information about our Welsh language work, please contact nccequality@newport.gov.uk

Appendix One

Overview of Projects

1Miliwn Ltd

To build and launch an exhibition style Welsh language fair with pop-up stands and a list of other high-profile businesses/organizations, initially aimed at school pupils to promote Welsh as a skill.

Grant will be used for: Each student's general admission, Equipment/Goods/Giveaways/Prizes, Stands/Stalls, 1Miliwn staff, 1Miliwn camera crew/production, Covid/Sanitary stations, and general expenses.

Welsh Roman Legion Museum

A project to create a new Welsh language learning resource for the museum created alongside the Welsh Language Centre to ensure all levels of learners are supported and to deliver an event for families, including activities to support children in Welsh-medium schools and to promote the language to non-Welsh speaking children.

Grant will be used for: Writing a Learning Welsh resource for adults, planning, printing, event for families, staff time.

Cylch Meithrin Caerllion

The project is to host an open day which intends to raise awareness of the new Cylch Meithrin, promote Welsh medium nursery provisions, create a fun day for families, and support families towards Welsh medium education.

Grant will be used for: Room hire & refreshments, hiring entertainment/personalities/characters, staffing, session vouchers, goodie bags, operational costs, advertisement, Welsh language resources.

Y Groes Goch Brydeinig/The British Red Cross

To support and increase the use, awareness, and visibility of the Welsh language by specifically targeting refugees/asylum seekers and wider BAME community by hosting a family friend day of events. With events such as: Welsh taster sessions, Welsh language performances, community entertainers, talks and workshops by high profile Welsh speaking BAME community members to showcase the use of the language from a multicultural perspective.

Grant will be used for: Sound and lighting technician, ushers, studios, resources for families, officer time, artists/speakers, food.

Eglwys Mynydd Seion

Project aims to increase the Welsh speaking community's digital competence to create their own broadcast quality podcasts/radio programs in Welsh, through the church community. They will source training and purchase equipment to create Welsh medium digital material and broadcasts.

Grant will be used for: Equipment & software (audio mixer, mic, speakers, headphones, iMac, studio table/chairs), training, travel costs.

Hungarian Cultural Community in Newport

The project objective is to celebrate and preserve the Hungarian and Welsh language in Newport and build links between the communities, teaching the community's roots and traditions so that it can be passed onto future generations and to bridge the Hungarian and Welsh communities.

Grant will be used for: Rent, board-games/toys/shipping, food, cleaning products, travel costs, Welsh-English interpreter.

Gaer Community Family Learning Organization

To run interactive and inclusive workshops for the Gaer Families and Community to learn about Welsh culture whilst learning incidental and conversational Welsh and create a social environment for people to naturally develop Welsh language skills.

They will also have a 'Taste of Wales' project for local families linked to Gaer Primary School to learn and practice the basics of the language in a relaxed environment. Offering Welsh through activities allows the Gaer's diverse cultures to get involved and learn about the culture and language.

Grant will be used for: Resources, transport, accompanist, studio recording, venue hire, cooking ingredients, bilingual documentary, consumables.

Gŵyl Newydd

Funds to host an arts competition open to all Newport citizens under the Gŵyl Newydd and #EinCasnewydd brand to celebrate the Welsh language. They aim to work with other stakeholders and the Council to raise awareness of the city's contemporary Welsh culture, inspire people to consider their identity and relationship with the Welsh language, develop creativity in the context of the language, and increase the visibility of the Welsh language in Newport.

Grant will be used for: Consulting partners, designing a web page, appoint judges, liaise with stakeholders, collect competition entries, arrange winners' expedition, showcasing Gŵyl Newydd winner's work.

Menter Iaith Casnewydd

To create and run Welsh language awareness sessions, by hosting community awareness sessions online and face-to-face specifically targeting the Pillgwenlly area of Newport. The project will see a series of short drop-in sessions during the week and at the weekend ensuring that people with children are welcome. We provide activities for the children.

The aim of the project is to raise the interest in Welsh medium education in the region and promote the benefits of using Welsh to parents of children in English-medium schools. Menter Iaith Casnewydd also intend to host people from all backgrounds and parts of society who have not had the opportunity to learn Welsh due to historical trends.

Grant will be used for: Consult with partners, develop awareness materials, provide knowledge questionnaires, install/promote awareness resource on website, organize face-to-face awareness sessions, rent, sessions, play materials, data analysis.

Newport Live

Each Newport Live employee will be provided with Welsh language flashcards to learn useful words/phrases to be used in the working environment and accompanied by online training videos.

The project will also trial 2 musical projects. The first being a Welsh language music night at the Riverfront with local artists and schools performing, with a mix of Welsh and non-Welsh speaking audience. The second would be a Welsh medium choir on St Dwynwen's Day, consisting of 6 weekly choir practice sessions, thus providing an opportunity for local people to develop their knowledge of Welsh culture.

Grant will be used for: Welsh language flashcards, choir project, music night, young people's holiday workshops.

Meithrin Brynglas

The project aims to improve the Welsh language resources available for use at this local Cylch Meithrin. By doing this, the organization hopes to attract more families to attend Cylchoedd Meithrin. Meithrin Brynglas hopes the grant will provide families with motivation to try Welsh language nursery provisions. This will be done by giving families vouchers for 3 sessions as part of a goodie bag, which also includes familiar Welsh language resources to use at home.

Grant will be used for: Various Welsh language toys/resources/games, session costs, goodie bags.

Meithrin Y Delyn

The project aims to improve the Welsh language resources available for use at this local Cylch Meithrin. By doing this, the organization hopes to attract more families to attend Cylchoedd Meithrin. Meithrin Y Delyn hopes the grant will provide families with motivation to try Welsh language nursery provisions. This will be done by giving families vouchers for 3 sessions as part of a goodie bag, which also includes familiar Welsh language resources to use at home.

Grant will be used for: Various Welsh language toys/resources/games, session costs, goodie bags.

Mudiad Meithrin

To improve the Welsh language resources available for use at this local Cylch Meithrin. By doing this, the organization hopes to attract more families to attend Cylchoedd Meithrin. Meithrin Meithrin hopes the grant will provide families with motivation to try Welsh language nursery provisions. This will be done by giving families vouchers for 3 sessions as part of a goodie bag, which also includes familiar Welsh language resources to use at home. ***Grant will be used for:*** Various Welsh language toys/resources/games, session costs, goodie bags.

DRAFT

Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 5 July 2022

Subject Welsh Government Bus White Paper Consultation – One network, one timetable, one ticket: planning buses as a public service for Wales

Purpose To update the Leader and Cabinet Members on our proposed response to the proposed Legislative changes to bus planning and procurement, which have potential implications for the council and bus service provision, to seek approval to submit the response as attached as Appendix A and to seek further approval to allow amendments to the response should any further information become available subject to approval from the Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Assets.

Author Stephen Jarrett – Head of City Services

Ward All

Summary Bus services play a vital role in facilitating social inclusion and addressing climate change. Historic declines in patronage have been accelerated following the Covid Pandemic. The Welsh Government is proposing changes to the legislation governing planning and procuring Bus Services, with a move from commercially led provision to centrally planned services through a franchising arrangement.

Whilst the aspirations for service enhancements are strongly supported, there are considerable risks associated with the proposals, including significant implications for the council in respect of funding and staff resources. Proposals will also dilute the Authorities powers of intervention, with a move to centralised planning and procurement, which are subject to the approval of the Minister.

The Welsh Government proposals will also introduce additional business risks for the viability of Newport Bus in its current form.

There is limited detail within the White Paper and supporting Regulatory Impact Assessment to evaluate the financial implications and potential impact on other budget streams. This is a particular concern and Officers are engaged in ongoing discussions with Welsh Government to seek clarity.

In view of these issues, the council is preparing a robust response highlighting our concerns.

We are working closely with the Cardiff Capital Region Transport Authority (CCRTA) who have commissioned technical consultancy support to provide an independent review of the Regulatory Impact Assessment. This work is due to be completed on the 13th July and is intended to be incorporated in our response.

The consultation commenced during the Local Elections, despite a formal request from the WLGA to defer. Welsh Government have granted Newport City Council a limited extension until the 20th July 2022.

Proposal Members note the issues identified and progress to date in preparing Newport Council's response and delegate Authority to the Leader and Cabinet Member to amend and approve the final consultation submission once supporting information is available

Action by Head of City Services

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Leader
- Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Assets
- Shareholder representative
- Chief executive
- Strategic Director
- Head of City Services

Signed

Background

Bus service planning and delivery has been the primary responsibility of the commercial sector since deregulation in 1985, with the public sector role reduced to support where socially necessary services cannot be provided commercially. Whilst there have been some benefits of this approach, there has been a general lack of consistency and coordination, particularly in respect of timetable planning, service levels, information, ticketing and fares.

The declaration of a Climate Emergency places greater emphasis on travel choices, with modal shift to bus a key component of Llwybr Newydd, the Wales Transport Strategy.

The Welsh Government is proposing to introduce a system of franchising, where the public sector would centrally plan services to provide greater coordination of services and set common fares/ticketing. The aspirations are strongly supported; however, Officers have reviewed the proposed delivery mechanism and identified a number of risks, with unintended consequences for the council, the supply market (particularly municipal bus operators and SMEs) and most importantly disruption to users during the transition.

Officer review of the White Paper has identified key risks and unintended consequences of the Welsh Government proposals. These include:

- Long term impact on supply, with risk of reduced competition increasing tender costs
- Financial risk wholly transferred to the public sector, with no clarity of risk mitigation measures
- Lack of clarity of funding implications for wider Local Authority budgets (including Mandatory Concessionary Fares contributions, home to school transport and Revenue Support Grant)
- Transfer of existing council functions to regional provision, with transfer to Transport for Wales in the long term. This would also raise TUPE issues and potential loss of staff capacity and expertise.
- Transfer of transport planning decision making powers from Local Authorities to the Minister with potential loss of local input and accountability.
- Implementation timescales would result in a significant period of instability and potential disruption for users
- Risk that franchising would be detrimental to the commercial viability of Newport Bus and SMEs. Newport Bus provide the majority of public transport services within the City, and with the SME's, provide the majority of statutory mainstream home to school transport.

In view of these issues, the council is preparing a consultation response which notes our support for the aspiration for greater bus provision and coordination but highlights our concerns regarding the proposed approach. We are working closely with WLGA, CCRTA, ATCO and neighbouring authorities to understand mutual risks and benefits and inform our response.

The consultation includes a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), which should provide evidence to assess the proposals and inform the legislative changes. An initial review by Officers across the region identified concerns with the methodology and conclusions. Accordingly, the CCRTA have commissioned an independent review of the RIA, which is due to report initial findings on 13th July 2022. It is intended that this will be incorporated into our response.

Appendix A contains the draft response to date, noting amendments will be required to reflect the outcome of the independent RIA review. The tight timescales set by Welsh Government do not enable the final paper to be presented at the August Cabinet Meeting; therefore, delegation is sought to enable the Leader and Cabinet Member to sign off the revised report once they are content.

Financial Summary (Capital and Revenue)

- The Welsh Government and associated Regulatory Impact assessment do not provide sufficient detail to identify the financial implications for the Authority at this stage. There are no changes to current budget allocations arising from the consultation.

Risks

Our response highlights a number of potential risks of the proposed approach for consideration by the Welsh Government as part of the consultation process; therefore, it is not appropriate to develop a risk register at this stage.

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The provision of bus transport is key in supporting cross cutting council services and social inclusion. Increasing Bus use will support the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no financial implications arising from this report. However, as outlined in the report, there is currently insufficient detail to be able to review the potential financial impact upon the Council and other stakeholders. There is a lack of clarity regarding the resource requirements upon the public sector in their proposed central coordination role, as well as insufficient information regarding the future of certain grant funding streams. It is anticipated that further detail will be provided when the independent review of the RIA is complete. At that point, any specific financial implications will need to be evaluated and reflected in the Council's consultation response.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal implications at this stage as the Cabinet is simply being asked to endorse the proposed Council response to the Welsh Government consultation White Paper and the proposed legislative changes to Bus Transport services in Wales. The proposed improvements to bus transport and the transition from de-regulation to a franchised bus service is broadly supported, but there are significant concerns about the detailed implementation of these proposals. In particular, the proposed franchising and tendering model would have significant financial and resource implications for the Council while, at the same time, diluting its powers of local intervention by centralising the planning and procurement of bus services nationally through Transport for Wales. There would also be significant consequences for existing municipal bus companies such as Newport Transport. Further detail and information will be required to properly assess the implications of the proposals. The deadline for the consultation response has been extended to 20th July, to take account of the intervening election period and the Council's response will need to be submitted before this closing date. Therefore, Cabinet are also asked to authorise the Leader and Cabinet Member to agree any amendments to the proposed response to reflect the outcome of the ongoing review of the Regulatory Impact Assessment which accompanies the White paper, commissioned by CCRTA.

Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation

There are no staffing implications in this report.

The consultation document recognises the importance of sustainability and regional/national coordination in bus strategy, both of which support the aims of the WFG Act.

Scrutiny Committees

None undertaken to date

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

At this stage the council is commenting on Welsh Government proposals for revisions to existing legislation. There is no change to existing council policies or service delivery; therefore, the completion of a Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) is not applicable.

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the Leader, Cabinet Member and Shareholder representative in the preparation of this draft.

Background Papers

Appendix A Draft Response

Dated: 6 July 2022

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One network, one timetable, one ticket: planning buses as a public service for Wales

Your name: Stephen Jarrett

Organisation (if applicable): Newport City Council

Email / telephone number: Stephen.Jarrett@newport.gov.uk 07773 657426

Your address: Civic Centre
Godfrey Road
Newport
NP20 4UR

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

Q1: Do you agree that change is required in how we deliver bus services to meet the needs of Wales' citizens and respond to the climate emergency? Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

It is welcomed that the vital role of bus in supporting the climate change agenda and facilitating social inclusion is recognised, with support for the aspiration to enhance provision.

It is noted that bus patronage across Wales and the UK was in decline prior to the pandemic (including London since peaking in 2013/14), with the long term impact of post-covid societal change unclear; therefore a courageous approach will be required to make buses the mode of choice rather than the mode of last resort.

Whilst legislation sets the framework for bus services and standards, delivery of change is intrinsically linked to factors outside the scope of the white paper.

The current system provides primacy for commercial determination of the network and fares, with the powers for the public sector limited to procurement where socially necessary services cannot be provided commercially. The lack of effective coordination can be a barrier to use – especially for new users, visitors and those transferring from other modes.

Whilst powers currently exist under Section 63 of the Transport Act to procure bus services that could meet many of the service level aspirations within the White Paper, these are superseded where a commercial is registered, with a risk of fragmentation and a lack of coordination.

The ambition of the plan is welcomed. It is evident that a significant increase in the level of public subsidy will be required (particularly at the start to pump prime services). There has been a historic reduction in both the level and real term value due to inflation (Local Transport Services Grant and Bus Services Operating Grant had a combined budget of £33m; however their successor scheme Bus Service Support Grant was reduced to £25m and has remained at that level since introduction in 2012/13). It is also accepted that Local Authority contributions to supported Bus services across Wales have also reduced to reflect funding pressures.

Funding horizons are a further barrier, with annual settlements that do not support long-term strategic decision making and effectively prevent development of Statutory Bus Quality Partnerships given the requirement for a 5 year funding commitment but LAs only have a 1-year funding horizon.

Delivery of the aspirations will also depend on the ability of suppliers to meet the contract specification. At present there is a limited, and indeed diminishing capacity in the market. It will be essential for any changes stimulate investment in service capability.

The ability of bus to meet transport needs is also linked to land use and planning. Whilst consolidation of health and education establishments can provide economies of scale, there is an increased requirement for travel, which is often difficult to service in an efficient and effective manner.

There is a wide range of survey data that notes users desire reliable bus services, which offer competitive journey times; therefore the delivery of attractive bus services also requires efficient highway infrastructure. Congestion increases operating costs and diminishes the value of the service to users.

It will therefore be necessary to address these issues in addition to any legislative changes.

Q2: Do you agree that franchising is required to deliver the depth and pace of change to the bus network that is required in the context of the climate emergency? Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

The ability to deliver bus services under a franchise arrangement offers opportunities to provide greater consistency for users by adopting common contractual obligations, such as branding, on-board information provision and vehicle specification. Depending on the contract form and risk strategy, common fares could also be delivered under a franchise arrangement.

The transfer of competition from the roadside to procurement of services can provide opportunities to maximise the efficiency of the network and wider integration (bus-to-bus and bus-to-rail). Franchising under a centrally, well planned network should reduce risks of 'wasteful competition' where there is over provision that could be utilised elsewhere, resulting in the most efficient network within the resources available.

It should be noted however, there is limited opportunity to realise such benefits in Wales, given historic market contraction and limited examples of real 'head to head' competition. In Newport we have witnessed the virtual withdrawal of services directly competing on the same whole route length (the main exception being the Newport to Cwmbran Corridor). Where there is more than one operator on a given section of highway, it is generally where routes converge to access the bus station or key destination.

Whilst franchising could theoretically enable consideration of cross subsidy between more profitable routes to maintain commercially unsustainable routes, bus services in Wales are currently provided under a Public Service Obligation to address market disruption due to changing travel habits and increasing operating costs (fuel and wages). This suggests opportunities for cross-subsidy are limited, reducing the potential benefits of franchising.

There is recognition that cross border and long distance coach services may be operating under a different legislative system with a system of licencing required. The principle of higher Welsh specific quality standards may be beneficial; however, these may result in additional fleet complexity and costs that make bidding uncompetitive and / or reduce the potential supply market.

Whilst network stability is key in building trust with users, the events of the last 2 years highlight the need to maintain the ability to respond to evolving travel needs. The franchise system will need to balance agility and stability. Commercial pressures can provide a positive stimulus for innovation and efficiency and it is imperative franchising doesn't stifle such opportunities.

We note the proposed use of gross cost contracts to provide cost certainty for suppliers. This approach places the financial risk wholly with the public sector. This could result in services being cut and / or fares increasing if actual revenue is below forecast or operating costs increase unless additional subsidy is available. Transport for London utilise this type of contract and were left financially exposed as a result of declining bus patronage. The revenue reduction under their gross cost contract necessitated additional emergency treasury funding, with ongoing consideration of a combination of service cuts and fare increases that are counter-productive to modal shift objectives.

Gross contracts underwritten wholly by the public sector move revenue protection from operators to the contracting authority. It will be necessary to introduce robust processes and monitoring to ensure the appropriate revenue is collected on bus. Contract management functions will also need to be established to minimise the risk of fraudulent returns. These require additional staff resources and funding to protect the public purse, introducing new administration costs into the system. All public bodies will need bolstering to undertake this work effectively.

There is a lack of detail within the white paper to ascertain the wider funding implications, including the revenue for the Mandatory Concessionary Fare Scheme, to which Local Authorities collectively contribute £10.314m per annum. The current allowances in the Revenue Support Grant do not reflect the level of some authorities' contribution; therefore further details will be required to assess the impact for each Local Authority.

The length of contract will be key in attracting suitable bids. It is likely that a minimum of 5 years will be required to attract investment from bidders, with potential to extend subject to performance. We note that a period of 7 years being considered. It is likely that franchise contracts will span successive Senedd terms, with a risk that funding priorities may change over the course of the contract. It will therefore be necessary to provide funding safeguards.

The white paper notes there are circa 80 operators; however the Welsh market has become polarised, with the 6 largest operators accounting for over two-thirds of all vehicles operated on public services. Of the remaining companies, the majority of companies operate less than 20 vehicles. There is a risk that the move to a franchised system will result in the packaging of a significant number of routes to attract wider interest and achieve economies in the contracting phase. This could make it difficult for SMEs to submit competitive bids as they have limited capacity to meet a high Peak Vehicle Requirement. It will also be difficult for smaller fleet operators to achieve the economies of scale required to compete with larger groups. We are currently experiencing difficulties attracting bids for tendered services, with ATCO members reporting an increasing number of 'no bid' responses to tender invitations.

In order to provide value for the public purse and deliver the desired level of service, it is imperative there is a strong market for the supply of bus services to provide competitive tenders. There has been a decrease in the capacity of the industry, both in the number of suppliers and volume of km operated. This is illustrated in the former Gwent area, where the number of operators providing public bus services (including community transport operators) has decreased from 32 in 2004 to 13 in 2022.

Given the structure of the market, franchising could place some operators at risk of survival if they do not win sufficient work to cover overhead costs. Many SMEs provide schools services, as the economics of education transport limit the viability of exclusively providing school work; therefore contraction of the public transport supply market could have unintended consequences for schools provision, including lack of supply and increased tender costs. Home to school is a statutory duty for Local Authorities; therefore increases in this area could have unintended funding consequences for non-statutory council services.

Whilst it is likely that the first round of franchising will attract wide interest and generate competitive proposals (potentially from companies that don't currently operate in Wales), there is a concern that there will be a reduced level of competition in subsequent rounds as there will be limited – if any, opportunities for bus companies to maintain a viable business if they are unsuccessful in the first round. We note TfL tender circa one fifth of their network on an annual cycle to minimise the time period between tender exercises; however regulation of bus services in London was excluded from the 1985 Act and they did not have to develop a transition plan and could novate to this position by varying contract length. We don't have this luxury in Wales.

The biggest risk to successful delivery of a franchised network is the transition from the commercial led to a publically planned and funded network. Although the timescale for the Bills introduction has not been confirmed, it is anticipated that this would not occur before mid to late 2023 pending Royal Assent. It will also be necessary to prepare subordinate legislation and guidance. Once these have been agreed, the scope and network specification can be determined. It will be necessary to undertake a competitive procurement exercise, which, given the scale of bus services is greater than the number of services in the Rail Franchise is likely to take a considerable period. In view of these elements, there will be a considerable period where providers and most importantly, the public will undergo a period of instability.

The passing of the legislation itself could trigger unintended consequences as incumbent operators focus their businesses to compete for future franchise contracts (potentially focussing on the most profitable routes at the expense of others) or withdrawing from the Welsh Market. There was a significant period of disruption when the 1985 Act was implemented and there is a risk this level of disruption will be repeated with robust mitigation, including increased public funding to support withdrawn services until the franchise comes into force.

The market uncertainty will also influence investment decisions, as operators are less likely to renew vehicles given there isn't the opportunity to make a return on investment in the shortened period prior to franchise introduction. This could have an unintended consequence in delaying the achievement of the challenging transition to a Zero Emission Bus and Taxi fleet.

The experience of Manchester indicates the timescales necessary to develop franchising and the reliance on an increased level of public funding (£135m). The proposals have also been subject to ongoing legal challenge, with Rotala granted leave to appeal the original judgement that quashed their request for judicial review. Whilst the outcome cannot be predicted, it demonstrates there risks to the implementation timescales, with associated legal costs to the procuring body that need to be factored in.

In view of these considerations, the opportunity to franchise bus services should an option available to the public sector; however its application will be dependent on a number of factors and implementation carries significant risks.

Q3: Do you agree with the Welsh Government's preferred franchising model as described above? Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

The Benefits of franchising are understood and supported, particularly the opportunities for greater coordination of schedules and ticketing; however there are a considerable number of risks (outlined in our response to Q2) that could result in unintended consequences for the travelling public and the viability of indigenous SMEs.

Wales has significant variation in population density, demographics and land use; therefore a 'one size fits all' approach is unlikely to address all needs efficiently. Local knowledge is key in assessing all of the requirements of a given area.

There are circumstances where franchising is the most appropriate method of providing public bus services, indeed some rural authorities are in effect franchised already as the level of demand cannot (and is unlikely) to support commercial provision. In these cases, the Local Authority plans and procures services, defining the network and setting fares.

There is limited genuine head-to-head to competition in Wales where franchising could be a mechanism to introduce greater coordination along corridors. Where there are examples of uneven headways or lack of joint ticketing, quality partnerships could be developed if longer term funding horizons could be provided in the same way as envisaged for franchising.

Whilst there are elements of the current legislation that could be improved, the benefits of collaborative working are recognised and supported. These were demonstrated through the maintenance of a core bus network despite disruption resulting from the initial covid pandemic and later market disruption due to changes in travel patterns and increased operating costs. This was only achieved due to close partnership working between the Welsh Government, local Authorities and bus operators. The universal implementation of franchising will introduce a contractual working arrangement, where innovation and partnership will be more difficult to achieve due to competition considerations and risk of challenge if the contract terms are fundamentally changed from the bidding process.

We would be supportive of enhancing current partnership provisions, which the consultation itself notes has benefits if supported with longer term funding horizons.

Whilst franchising can deliver user benefits in the fullness of time, there are considerable risks that must be mitigated during the transition from commercial determined to centrally contracted networks.

Franchising is therefore should be considered a useful measure, where suitability is dependent on circumstance rather than the default position.

Q4: Do you agree that this model provides sufficient local input for designing local bus networks? Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

The franchising model provides the opportunity for local identification of need and the determination of an appropriate network, with the RIA predicated on local delivery. Local input will depend on the procurement model / structure,

It is noted the White paper proposes future potential powers for Ministers to delegate bus planning and procurement functions to statutory bodies. In the event

TfW is put on a statutory footing it could dilute local input and accountability depending on the form of delegation.

The chosen structure must ensure local input and accountability are maintained.

Q5: Do you agree that there is a need for regional consideration and coordination of bus network plans by Corporate Joint Committees, before combining them at a national level? Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

The bus network in Newport comprises a mix of local and regional services. These provide links to wider facilities and increases bus travel options. Many Authorities in South East Wales (including Newport) have a relatively compact geographic footprint, with many bus services crossing more than one LA boundary.

Therefore it is imperative that the regional dimension is considered as part of network planning process. Previous consultant led work to develop a centrally planned bus network had fundamental flaws that demonstrated the importance of local and regional input.

CJC legislation includes the requirement to develop regional transport plans, bus services will be a key element within these. Co-ordination of networks at a regional level is vitally important, with opportunities for integration of bus and rail services and, where possible, minimise duplication.

Bus Networks should be planned initially with LA's and stakeholders and feed into a Regional Network Plan, which incorporates national and long distance bus/coach services in the Region.

CJCs also have a statutory responsibility to produce Strategic Development Plans that need to dovetail with Regional Transport Plans to reflect the relationship between land use and transport. Co-development of plans is critical to facilitate an efficient and attractive public transport network that reduces unnecessary travel.

CJC's are in the early stages of development and the functions undertaken would be expected to evolve. These would be determined by each region.

Q6: Do you agree that letting and managing contracts at the national level by the Welsh Government through Transport for Wales offers the best opportunity to pool franchising expertise, deliver economies of scale? Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

On the surface, there may be opportunities to achieve economies of scale if bus procurement functions are undertaken on a national, centralised basis; however the white paper does not consider the wider consequences for procurement of transport services that are outside the scope of the White Papers – particularly Home-to-School transport, social services and any other bus services the local authority may deem necessary if they are not within the agreed franchise scope.

LAs have considerable experience of procuring public bus services. Centralising bus procurement into TfW would trigger a TUPE situation as there is a clear transfer of functions. This situation would reduce the capacity and experience within local authorities. It is also noted TfW has limited bus service procurement experience given their current lack of statutory powers.

Where possible, Newport City Council utilises the public bus network to meet its statutory obligations for mainstream home to school transport. Transferring public bus procurement from the council would reduce the efficiency of the current arrangement.

It is recognised that the delivery of franchising will require a step change in the capacity of the public sector to procure and manage services; however regional provision would provide opportunities to achieve economies of scale while maintaining mechanisms for local input and accountability.

It will be difficult to remotely manage contracts under a centralised procurement regime, in particular compliance and revenue protection. LAs are the relevant Highway Authority for the majority of bus services (with the exception of the Trunk Road Network). Contract centralisation will require establishment of robust consultation and communication process to deal with planned and emergency road closures that could affect remote management of contracts.

When considering these wider factors, perceived economies of centralising some functions may be outweighed by a decline in the efficiency of the whole system.

Q7: Do you agree with the need for a duty to ensure plans are designed to be affordable? Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

Affordability is a very subjective measure, as the level of subsidy required to realise the ambition of the plan will require a significant increase in current funding levels – especially given the aspirations to provide more services, to more places more often. Whilst there would be an expectation of overall patronage growth, aspirations to make fares more affordable for users whilst underwriting the contract costs will place a greater pressure on public funding.

The events of the last two years have also exposed the levels of risk should an unforeseen event occur. Plans that are affordable at the outset can quickly become unaffordable. The long term impacts of covid on travel habits including increased work from home, online shopping and the Wales Transport Strategy objective of reducing the need to travel, will make modal shift targets more challenging. The RIA assumption that franchising alone will generate a threefold increase in patronage are without significant infrastructure investment are considered very optimistic. The financial tension between TfL and the Treasury following reductions in patronage revenue clearly demonstrate the difficult decisions that could be required, including requirements to reduce services and increase fares in return for an emergency funding settlement.

The provision of an effective and efficient bus network will require significant investment in roadside infrastructure measures to assist bus flow. These will also incur significant construction and ongoing maintenance costs. Therefore affordability must be considered for the bus system as a whole and not just the services themselves. It is noted that the London bus network received significant infrastructure investment prior to the implementation of demand restraint measures such as congestion charging and Low Emission Zones.

It will be necessary to have robust financial risk mitigation measures, which could include reduction in network coverage, increased fares, contract renegotiation risk and increased public subsidy. It may be necessary for the Welsh Government to hold a financial risk pot, which if uncalled upon could have been utilised to deliver other policies (transport and / or other portfolios). This may reduce the value for money to the public purse.

Affordability will need to reflect the likelihood that contracts will span successive Senedd terms if they are to be commercially attractive and deliver best value

(shorter contract periods with limited opportunities to repay investment usually attract higher tender costs). How will the necessary protections be given to budgets that could impact the funding priorities of different administrations?

The principles of recognising and rewarding the role of bus drivers is supported. Given drivers wages have reduced as operators sought the lowest operating costs, it is likely that wage rates would need to increase. The proposal to set wages (subject to compliance with employment and competition legislation) would require additional funding to bring all drivers up to a minimum agreed level even if the existing network was maintained.

Affordability in successive franchise rounds will be influenced by the level of competition in the market place following the first franchise procurement, with a risk there will be less competition / capacity for these contracts and a corresponding increase in tender prices.

It is not clear on who / which organisation the duty would ultimately fall. Would responsibility lie with the 'guiding mind' who would be responsible for settling the strategic direction or with the relevant Minister / finance Minister? The funding for public bus services is currently provided by a number of organisations and unpicking this to determine affordability will be challenging. The Local Authority revenue Support Grant is not hypothecated; therefore the assessment of affordability will be linked to wider budgets not just Welsh Government bus funding.

Ultimately the cost of franchising will depend on the network design and service specification; therefore affordability and coverage is impossible to determine at the present time, as these elements have not been developed. It is not clear whether the statement of funds available will dictate the network or whether the needs of the network will determine the level of funding that will be made available.

Q8: Do you agree that the proposed powers to make regulations and guidance are suitable to ensure franchises are let successfully and sustainably? Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

The development of robust guidance will be essential to assist development of the contract and procure it in the most effective manner. Many the functions that were wholly undertaken by Local Authorities prior to de-regulation (such as network planning and setting of fares) were transferred to the private sector.

Whilst authorities maintain some capacity in these areas (especially those who procure Section 63 services on a Gross Cost contract basis), it is recognised that guidance will need to be accompanied by increased public sector staff capacity and skills base to reflect the scale of the transfer of key functions from the commercial sector.

The guidance should include the different strategic and contractual options for procuring services under a franchising arrangement and set out the benefits and risks of each to enable the most appropriate method to be utilised.

Ultimately the success of any franchise will depend on a number of factors, not least the capabilities of the procuring body and governance arrangements.

Q9: Do you agree with the proposed requirement to consider the impact on SME bus operators when franchising? Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

The maintenance of healthy and varied supply market is essential to deliver the full range of bus services; therefore any unintended consequences that undermine the stability of SMEs would be detrimental. Many home to school services are provided by SMEs, many of whom rely on a degree of public bus operation to maintain business viability and provide a suitable volume of work to attract drivers (deployment on school contracts only requires the use of split shifts or short hours working).

Many SMEs (particularly those in rural areas) provide a valuable source of local employment where there may be limited alternatives without re-location or travel.

Whilst the principle is strongly supported, clarification on the legal mechanism to achieve this would be required as measures to facilitate supplier diversity could contravene competition legislation. Assuming a compliant mechanism can be provided, there are practical and commercial limitations that will influence the success of this proposal.

We have noted our concerns in respect of the potentially detrimental impact of Franchising on SMEs given the economies of scale that larger national / international companies can bring to bear when bidding for contracts (refer Q2 response). These concerns also apply to incumbent municipal operators, as the two remaining municipal companies have relatively small fleets compared to national operators (for example Newport Bus have 100 vehicles compared to 7200 vehicles in the Stagecoach fleet¹). There are circa 2000 vehicles operating on public services in Wales; therefore even a single franchise contract for all current Welsh bus services could not achieve the same economies of scale as large national companies.

Larger fleet size will attract greater discounts for bulk replacement of vehicles, whilst fuel and parts will also be subject to economies of scale. There have been historic examples of large companies hedging fuel costs to insulate them from the effects of market shocks. These require upfront funding that may not be an option for SMEs due to high dependency on regular cash flow given the 'hand to mouth' business model of some operators.

Central overhead costs such as payroll, accounts, website maintenance, training and audit are often undertaken by a single depot for SMEs. Large companies can spread these functions over a number of depots to reduce the cost to an individual depot.

The delivery of higher quality standards, including the use of Ultra Low Emission Buses will improve the perception of the bus (particularly important to attract modal shift) but there is a risk improvements will exacerbate the difference in economies of scale SMEs must overcome to compete. The availability of funds to invest will also be a factor, as the lower financial turnovers for SMEs will reduce the capital available where profit margins are the same (or even higher) than large organisations with a turnover that is multiple times higher.

The White paper notes the challenges of maintaining diversity in the sector and includes consideration of TfW providing depot facilities and zero emission vehicles. There are concerns of how this could be achieved without contravening competition legislation and state aid requirements, which are not devolved. Such an opportunity would need to be open to all interested parties; therefore there will be a practical limit of how successful such a policy would be.

Discussions with Welsh Government Officials have also included consideration of a requirement for successful organisations to deliver their bid with an element of sub-contracting to SMEs. Without pre-empting the legality of this approach, it would be a very inefficient way of managing the contract.

The success of attracting SMEs will depend on the form and scale of contract, which introduces a paradox for funders who have a duty to protect the public purse – consolidation of contracts will offer economies of scale that could reduce the required level of subsidy, but may reduce the ability of SMEs to compete.

¹ [About Stagecoach | Stagecoach \(stagecoachbus.com\)](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)

Q10: Do you agree with the benefits of establishing a mechanism to allow a public service operator of last resort to ensure services keep running if a franchise fails? Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

Section 63 of the current legislation provides powers to procure socially necessary services; however these rely on the existence of a suitable provider.

Where there is no such provider there is limited provision to provide a service (some authorities provide services under a section 22 permit); therefore the ability to establish an operator of last resort should a franchise operator cease is supported.

The question is how this could be practically achieved. The process in the rail industry is well established in legislation and operationally is 'relatively' straightforward as the permanent way (track, depots signals, etc) are in public control, the rolling stock is usually leased and there is a clear TUPE situation. This was demonstrated by the recent transfer of the KeolisAmey franchise to Welsh Government under OLR powers.

In contrast, the assets required to operate public bus services are in the ownership of private entities and could not simply be 'requisitioned' in the event of operator withdrawal or financial collapse. In the event of the latter, any assets would subject to the appointment of an official receiver. It is likely that negotiation and purchase would be required, with competition from other interested parties as well as the public sector. The establishment of suitable depots and maintenance facilities will also be required.

The white paper includes the option for Municipally owned companies to act as an Operator of Last Resort. This approach assumes a given municipal company has maintained commercial viability following the first round of franchising.

Where a municipal operator is already established, expansion to fulfil the OLR function would, by definition, require an expansion of the fleet. It would be necessary to obtain the necessary licencing approvals from the Traffic Commissioner to increase the number of vehicles (licences are not simply transferrable from the outgoing operator).

It would not be financially viable for a municipal operator to maintain a fleet of spare vehicles in a constant state of operational readiness in case of the need to utilise OLR provisions. PSVs are subject to stringent inspection and maintenance regimes, with depreciation a considerable cost.

Depending on geographic location where the OLR function is required, there may be an increased amount of 'dead mileage' to position vehicles, as depots may not be located close to the area an OLR is required. This increases operating costs and the number of drivers required, with a detrimental impact on the Statement of Funds Available.

Transfer of drivers and other staff is not as clear cut as the rail OLR process, as drivers may transfer to other subsidiaries of the withdrawing operator or choose to leave the industry. It is likely additional driving staff will be required to address the geographical inefficiencies described above.

In view of these operational issues, there is a considerable lead time to achieve delivery of bus services through an OLR arrangement, during which time the public may have a reduced level of / no service.

It is also possible that a municipally owned company may themselves be the incumbent that withdraws or becomes financially unviable. It is noted the TfW are proposed as a potential OLR option; however they would be subject to the same constraints as outlined above and would need to have the necessary licence holders and assets to fulfil this function.

The appetite for local Authorities to establish new Municipals to undertake an OLR function is unknown. Newport City Council have maintained ownership of an arms-length company since 1985, which was already established and has the facilities and staff to operate services. Establishment of a new company from scratch is a very different proposition for an authority, with a considerable element of risk and / or lead time to undertake the OLR role.

Q11: Do you think further specific legislative provisions are needed for the transitional period until franchising is introduced?

Without question, the transition from commercially lead to centrally planned and procured services carries significant risks to the continuity of services (refer our response to question 2).

It may be necessary to invoke a 'network freeze' where the network is maintained until the franchise specification has been developed, tenders assessed and awarded and services commence. In such a scenario the public sector would need to underwrite the cost maintaining the network, potentially under a Public Service Obligations contract similar to the BES 2.0 scenario.

Q12: Do you agree that local authorities should be able to run bus services directly?
Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

The ability to run services directly may be more efficient in circumstances where there is no commercial provision to respond to tender invitations or no expressions of interest are received.

It is noted however that an entity cannot hold and operators' licence and run services under the Section 19 and 22 Permit provisions. Many Authorities utilise the Permit system to operate social services and education services. Legal clarification would be need to determine whether direct operation of public bus services would need the establishment of a Teckal company.

The white paper doesn't provide sufficient detail to ascertain whether direct award would be possible or whether an in-house bus company would be required to compete. Direct award could trigger competition issues, whilst uncertainty regarding the risk of winning competitive contracts against organisations with larger economies of scale may reduce the appetite to establish in-house provision.

The ability to operate directly would place a theoretical upper threshold on the tender price, as there will be a limit where it will be more economic to operate directly than procure commercially. This may provide a useful mechanism to reduce the risk of inflated contract returns where there is limited or no competition.

Q13: Do you agree that local authorities should be able to set up arms-length companies to operate local bus services? Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

Newport City Council is the sole shareholder of Newport Bus, which is operated at arms-length under the current legislation. The company has successfully delivered services in the city and was the first company in Wales to commence regular operation of services utilising zero tailpipe emission buses, with a further expansion of the EV fleet this financial year.

The company operates a mix of services across the day, which assists delivery of wider council and Welsh Government objectives. This demonstrates the potential of this ownership model to achieve mutual aspirations.

There are concerns that the proposed franchising model could result in unintended consequences that undermine the commercial viability of this model (refer our response to Q2) without some form of mitigation. It is difficult to ascertain how such mitigation could be provided without contravention of competition legislation. As an owner of one of the last remaining major municipal operators in Wales, we are acutely aware of our responsibilities to under existing legislation to ensure compliance and maintain transparency to minimise the risk of challenge. These add a layer of complexity for an authority intending to establish a new municipal.

At this stage there is a lack of detail of the franchising strategy, which makes it difficult to determine the potential impact on existing municipals. For example it may be prudent to limit the proportion of franchised services that a single company can operate in a given geographical area to reduce the risk of total cancellation of services if they cease trading at short notice (examples include GHA and Edwards Brothers). If that procurement strategy were to be adopted, it could have a material impact on the viability of municipals that currently operate a high proportion of services. Even if successful in the franchise process, they made be required to 'surrender' some routes, increasing the operating cost per vehicle.

Q14: Do you agree that local authorities should be able to invest in or acquire bus companies? Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

There are examples of Municipally owned companies elsewhere in the UK acquiring companies (e.g. Reading and Nottingham) to provide greater coverage. There are a number of legal considerations that make the process more difficult for municipals given the need to ensure compliance with state aid/competition requirements.

It is noted that the white paper includes the potential for municipals to merge. At present this Newport and Cardiff bus are the only sizeable companies where this proposal is likely to apply (a number of authorities provide a limited number of public bus services where there is no commercial provision). The potential to merge will primarily depend on economics and potential efficiency gains; however they would be subject to relevant CMA considerations given the significant proportion of services operated in their respective authority's area.

Q15: Do you agree that municipal bus companies should be able to raise fund by borrowing or selling shares? Please score from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

The ability to compete for tender contracts will require investment in the vehicles and facilities. The current legislation places some restrictions on the ability of municipal companies to raise capital compared to non-municipal companies.

There a risk however that despite investment, a municipal will not be successful in winning a sufficient volume of contracts to realise a return on shareholders' investment. This could place a financial risk of the local authority.

Q16: Are there any additional safeguards you would like to see applying to the use of these powers?

Where franchising is appropriate, there are potential benefits to the delivery of services. In view of the risks we advocate an independent review of network plans by a suitably experienced person (legally defined). The purpose of the review would be consideration of the risks and benefits.

In the event the franchising cannot be delivered, it will be important to retain other options for coordination of services. We would welcome the consideration of partnership arrangements, including potential for enhanced partnerships.

Q17: Are there any further comments you would like to provide on the content of this white paper?

The White paper has stimulated considerable debate on the most appropriate mechanism to deliver bus services. Throughout discussion the recurring theme has been the need to adequately fund the aspirations and provide suitable funding

horizons. The current system of annual funding is not conducive to long term planning and delivery due to the inherent uncertainty.

The proposed model places all financial risk with public sector, with no incentive for operators themselves to grow the market. Performance standards will be defined purely through a contractual arrangement, which needs a robust monitoring and capacity. This introduces significant administration cost to the system, which may achieve mutual aspiration if invested in actual services.

We would support consideration of a 'shared risk / shared reward' model that incentivises the expected behaviours and could reduce the burden on the public purse.

The implementation of 20 mph limits has potential benefits for more vulnerable road users; however there will be an impact on bus journey times that may reduce the attractiveness to users. It is likely that increases in journey time schedules will result in the need for more resources to maintain compliance with Work Hours legislation.

The delivery of increased service levels is contingent on the ability to recruit and retain drivers. The white paper notes the importance of salary; however other factors, such as the need to work shift and unsociable hours may be a barrier to some.

The provision of infrastructure to provide the efficient movement of buses is essential to achieve our mutual ambition. There is limited consideration of infrastructure in the White Paper. Replacement of Quality Partnership arrangements that are contingent of infrastructure provision will weaken this link.

Has an Equalities Impact Assessment been undertaken for the proposals.

Q18: Do you have any comments on the draft Regulatory Impact Assessment published alongside this paper?

To be completed following further review

Q19: We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

We have no specific comments on the propensity of people to use the Welsh Language. Any proposals would need to be consistent with Welsh language legislation.

The franchise contract would provide an opportunity to include Welsh Language requirements in the contract, e.g. opportunities for drivers to learn Welsh.

Q20: Please also explain how you believe the proposals could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

To be updated

Q21: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

To be updated



Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 13 July 2022

Subject Newport Council Covid Recovery and External Influences

Purpose To present to Cabinet a final update on the Covid Recovery position and an update on the Council's response to Post EU Transition work.

Author Chief Executive
Director of Transformation and Corporate
Head of People Policy and Transformation

Ward All

Summary In the last two years, Newport City Council has faced unprecedented challenges in responding to the Covid pandemic and the UK leaving the European Union. Recognising the impact that these have had on communities and businesses in Newport, the Council's Cabinet agreed four Strategic Recovery Aims supporting: Education and Skills, Economic and environmental recovery, Health and Wellbeing of citizens, and post Covid recovery. Newport Council also established a Brexit task and finish group to support the preparation of EU/EAA citizens, businesses, and residents to prepare for leaving the EU.

This report summarises the work the Council has undertaken alongside its partners and communities to respond and recover from these events across Newport's services, communities, and businesses.

This will be the final report of the Strategic Recovery Aims to Cabinet. However, ongoing opportunities, challenges and risks that the Council and the City are facing with the cost of living crisis, Ukrainian conflict, post EU transition and a range of local and global challenges, regular updates of progress will be reported to Cabinet against the Council's new Corporate Plan.

Proposal To consider and note the contents of the report and for Cabinet / Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.

Action by Corporate Management Team

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Gold Recovery Group
- Corporate Management Team

Signed

Background

Over the last two and half years Newport City Council and its partners have been responding to the Covid Pandemic and leaving the EU / single market. The last two years have brought significant challenges to the delivery of services, safeguarding our most vulnerable residents, and supporting our communities that have been impacted by the personal losses in their families and the wider economic, physical and mental wellbeing impacts.

The pandemic and wider Brexit impacts have also provided opportunities for the Council and the City to recover and to build on the strengths of closer partnership and community working which has refocused us to look at how we deliver sustainable services and support communities to thrive.

This report brings together previous Cabinet Reports - Covid Recovery and the Post EU Transition reports. It will also provide an overview of what the Council has delivered over the last two and half years, including an up-to-date position. The report will also outline future reporting to support the Council's response to local and national issues and how the Council's new Corporate Plan priorities support communities and businesses.

Wales and Welsh Government Covid Position

Over the last two and half years, Newport Council and its partners have been responding to several Covid waves which have resulted in restrictions being placed on residents, businesses, and the Council on how we deliver services and live our daily lives. In May, the Welsh Government announced the ending of all legal Covid requirements. Across the population cases have remained low, and majority of services are now operating business as usual as we are now learning to live with Covid. But there remain many vulnerable groups in our community who are more susceptible and therefore have to continue to remain cautious about who they come into contact with and how they access the services they need. The Welsh Government and the NHS will continue to offer the Covid vaccination to vulnerable groups and those who work with vulnerable people e.g. care home staff, NHS workers. It is important to consider those vulnerable groups and to consider that the risk of Covid will remain due to the variants and that many other countries across the world still have restrictions in place.

Newport City Council Overview of response to the Covid Pandemic since 2020

Following the initial outbreak in early 2020, Newport Council has responded, and supported communities and businesses throughout this period to protect the most vulnerable and to minimise the spread of Covid. Following the first outbreak Newport Council recognised that we needed to recover our services and build resilience to support future outbreaks. In July 2020, Cabinet agreed four Strategic Recovery Aims that were aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan 2017-22 that were focused on: Education and skills, Economy and Environment, health and wellbeing of citizens services, and post Covid recovery.

Over the last two years we have highlighted some of the work that the Council, our partners, and communities have delivered to recover services and support people throughout this time. Some of the highlights are outlined below with a more up to date position provided in table:

- Supporting over 1,000 office-based staff with ICT equipment, office furniture and support to work effectively from home. This has now resulted in the New Normal programme where we will look to develop hybrid working and support flexible working arrangements.
- Supporting Front-line service staff (Waste and Cleansing staff, social care workers, community support staff etc) throughout the last two years protecting and supporting vulnerable, elderly, children, and disadvantaged families to continue to receive services.
- Enabling and supporting community volunteers and organisations to support their most vulnerable residents with food parcels, medicines, and social support.
- Setting up the Test, Trace and Protect service through Regulatory services and staff redeploying to support this initiative. This service has enabled contact tracing and support to people that have been affected by Covid.

- Leading and supporting Welsh Government / NHS in issuing letters across Newport and Wales to the most vulnerable groups enabling them to offer support, advice, guidance to access services.
- Supporting the NHS alongside Newport Live with facilities and staffing with the vaccination programme and mobile contact tracing services throughout Newport.
- Regulatory services have supported businesses to become Covid compliant providing advice and guidance as necessary. The teams have also, as necessary issued necessary enforcement action where non-compliance has been identified.
- In collaboration with housing, ABUHB, Gwent Police, and other third sector support services, we supported homeless people into accommodation and provide the necessary physical / mental health support to find long-term solutions and accommodation. This work has continued through new legislation and additional funding to develop new housing and support service.
- Education Services, schools and community services supporting young learners, families to continue their education at home and providing technology to our most vulnerable learners. In total through the EdTech programme the Council has provided over 9,000 devices as well as devices to access the internet
- Education services and schools also supported Free School Meal pupils with vouchers, lunches, and meals throughout this period.
- The Council's Finance, Revenues and Benefits teams have administered Welsh Government financial support to residents and businesses throughout Covid and now through the cost of living crisis.
- The Council's Regeneration and Investment teams have supported existing and start-up businesses with grant support, advice and guidance enabling the recovery of the City's economy. Newport is also now seeing some of its most key regeneration projects being completed such as Newport Market, Chartist Tower, and Market Arcade.
- Participatory Budgeting with Health enabling community groups and organisations to access funding to support their work in communities and enabling the community to decide where the funding should be spent.

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 30th June 2022
Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment	<p>Schools are no longer operating under Covid restrictions.</p> <p>Welsh Government confirmed on 10th March 2022 that Free School Meal holiday provision would be extended up to the start of the 2022/23 academic year. As a result, the supermarket voucher scheme adopted by Newport was utilised for the recent May half-term and will cover the forthcoming summer holiday period. In addition, at the beginning of April 2022, Welsh Government confirmed that additional funding was available to make provision in lieu of free school meals to eligible pupils who are unable to attend school because guidance advises them to self-isolate as a result of COVID-19, and where schools have had to send pupils home including because of staff shortages related to COVID-19. This extension is in place until 30th June 2022 when it is anticipated that self-isolation payments will come to an end.</p> <p>In line with the end of the Covid hardship scheme, school meals services returned to pre-pandemic arrangements from 1st April 2022. Breakfast club services have also returned to pre-pandemic arrangements on the majority of sites, with the exceptions being those schools with specific staffing or supervision vacancies which have caused temporary capacity issues. As of June 2022, all but two pre-Covid Breakfast Clubs have resumed as normal.</p> <p>The Council continues to engage with partnerships to support residents accessing childcare, play and educational provision across the community hubs. With reparation activities now changed within Youth Justice to be meaningful, educational and of community benefit, the aim is to engage more children with volunteering or employment opportunities. As a result of this, one child has now been offered an apprenticeship with an organisation. This success will be built on as the service engages with more partners to source meaningful opportunities.</p>

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 30th June 2022
	<p>Consideration is being given to how we can support social work skills and abilities and offer progression for entry level candidates. We are also hoping to match Restart participants into roles required through Community Renewal Funding projects, particularly in the filming sector.</p> <p>We welcomed 300 attendees at the recent jobs fair and secured 42 employers to showcase their vacancies.</p> <p>We have supported the Celtic Manor in launching a Celtic Collection Job Shop in the City Centre which launched June 16th between 10-12 for partners and colleagues.</p> <p>We are also running a 'Get into the Security Industry Workshop' in Hubs:</p> <p>Mon 27TH June Maesglas Community Centre, Tue 28th June Pill Mill Millennium Centre, Wed 29th June Job Centre, Charles Street, Thur 30th June Ringland Hub Fri 1st July Bettws Community centre,</p> <p>We are also working with Newport Buses on a campaign to recruit new drivers.</p> <p>All employment support has now returned to face to face.</p> <p>An expanded Adult Community Learning (ACL) Programme has been developed for the 2022-23 academic year, which will offer 20% more classes than in 2018-19, the last full academic year before the pandemic. ACL has secured re-engagement funding from the Welsh Government and, working with the corporate PR team has devised a marketing campaign to run over the Summer. The campaign will include an enhanced brochure, billboards and social media to increase public perception of the service and attract new students.</p>
<p>Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy</p>	<p>We continue to process applications for the City of Newport Business Support grant and a further 39 grants have been awarded in 22/23. Cabinet have approved the additional funding required to commence with the Information Station Project and have also endorsed the submission of a bid for UK Government Levelling Up funding to deliver a National Technology Institute in the City Centre.</p> <p>We continue to work with Housing Association partners to facilitate the delivery of affordable housing via the Social Housing Grant Programme. Newport spent its full Social Housing Grant allocation of £12m in 2021/22 plus an additional £4m of slippage. For the financial year 2022/23 Newport has an allocation of £16.3m of Social Housing Grant which it is proposed will support 14 affordable housing developments including two highly energy efficient and low carbon schemes.</p> <p>Officers across Licensing and Trading Standards are now actively assessing compliance of businesses in the post-lockdown trading environment. Key activities in May 2022 include testing retailers on sales of vaping products to children and the safety of the vaping device itself; investigations and seizures of counterfeit tobacco; doorstep crime investigations; multi-agency days of action; festival licensing safety assessments; taxi licensing safety assessments; counterfeit goods investigations; and unlicensed dog breeding investigations. Officers continue to seek improvements in the rented accommodation sector relating to energy efficiency and fuel poverty agendas. Some landlords have responded positively, and others have been served compliance notices.</p> <p>Officers no longer provide advice regarding COVID regulations as the business restrictions have been removed. Managers across Licensing and Trading Standards are now actively returning to business-as-usual activities. While absences linked to COVID still need to be managed, Council services regarding waste and cleansing activities and environment and leisure are also being delivered as business as usual.</p>

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 30th June 2022
	<p>The revenues team have administered the WG Non Domestic Rates relief scheme for eligible retail/hospitality businesses, with 50% reduction in bills as well as the NCC local discretionary scheme within the city centre.</p>
<p>Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens</p>	<p>Adult services continue to operate under significant pressure due to workforce issues internally and externally with commissioned social care services. Statutory duties are covered by ensuring the limited resource is used smartly. Commissioned community resources are struggling to recruit and retain a resilient workforce. This impacts on our ability to support people with eligible needs within their own homes. We prioritise community needs to ensure citizens remain in their own homes and do not deteriorate and require hospital admission. Health pressures to focus on hospital discharges continue to impact on the community resource. Currently we need over 500 hours (49 packages of Care) in the community. We are using block contracts and working with individual providers to ensure maximum services are available.</p> <p>Newport Council's Benefit team is administering the Unpaid Carer's Support scheme from the Welsh Government. A one off £500 payment is available for unpaid carers receiving Carer's Allowance from 16th May. Residents receiving Carer's Allowance need to submit their registration to the Council to access the funding here.</p> <p>Newport Council is still following Welsh Government guidance for staff to work from home unless required by their role. There is ongoing work as part of the New Normal project for staff to work hybrid from their homes, Council offices and other suitable locations. We will continue to work closely with managers and trade union representatives as this work develops. Meeting rooms and other shared locations are now available for use, and we continue to develop hybrid meeting technology.</p> <p>Families First recommissioning continues to progress well. A successful providers day in April saw some interesting ideas being discussed. The new Prevention and Inclusion service area is making positive steps as more services are now being established within the service area. The service area is waiting for some key management posts to be filled and hope to be completed by August. This will then enable further progression with partners and teams on the model of service delivery, ensuring a SMART and integrated programme of support for families and individuals. Early Years has continued to facilitate emergency grants 180 in total allowing families to access fundamental items such as bed etc as a partnership with Save the Children, geographically targeted at Bettws</p> <p>Whilst supporting a blended approach, services are all operating face to face support and interventions across the City.</p> <p>Child Development Funding made available through the WG has continued to be targeted at providing activities that promote delayed development as a result of the pandemic across Newport. Additional resources have been targeted at children with Additional Learning Needs. The % of ALN children has increased</p> <p>Summer Of Fun – Applications from several agencies have been discussed at the CCG Board, with decisions made to support an even distribution of summer activities across the age ranges. Engagement with play, sporting and cultural activities enables children and young people to continue their recovery from the restrictions of the last two years, with the added benefit of supporting families with the costs of activities over the summer holidays.</p> <p>Play – enhanced services have been implemented to mitigate isolation and encourage play opportunities, play provision for children with complex needs has been offered every school holiday to support the negative effect of COVID. Applications are currently being received for summer holiday provisions.</p>

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 30th June 2022
	<p>Flying Start expansion work is progressing well with a clear plan identified. 4 additional areas will receive added FS provision with over 180 additional places for children</p> <p>Families will be supported via a WG cost of living discretionary grant. This will assist in some way to manage the increasing cost of living crisis.</p>
<p>Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19</p>	<p>In 2021/22 the Social Housing Grant Programme funded the development of over 55 new affordable homes. Developments at Coverack Road and Treberth are due to complete shortly with developments at Emlyn Street, Tredegar Court and Hubert Road completing later this year.</p> <p>We have worked with RSL partners to access the newly established Welsh Government Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme funding. This funding supports the return to use of empty housing association properties and the development of housing association owned land and sites. Welsh Government is in the process of confirming successful funding allocations with our RSL partners. We continue to work in partnership with Registered Social Landlords to provide suitable, affordable move on accommodation, although supply remains a challenge. Work with key stakeholders is ongoing which will help support vulnerable homeless households to ensure they receive the right support and accommodation. Phase 2 capital funded projects at Hill Street and Central Chambers will provide 24 units of accommodation and a housing support hub. Both are due to complete in June/July 22.</p> <p>The guidance issued by Welsh Government during the pandemic which required all local authorities to house an increased number of homeless households remains and the supply of suitable temporary and move-on accommodation remains much lower than demand.</p> <p>Disabled Facilities Grant. The Team Manager is engaging with wider colleagues that sit within the new service area (Prevention and Inclusion) to build on reaching families/individuals earlier to sustain independent living and help to avoid escalation of need, resulting in higher tiers of support. The team have also put a plan together to address the backlog of cases arising from the pandemic, and a presentation was made to CMT at the end of May.</p> <p>Families First teams continue to engage with schools and families to support children returning to education. A high level of referrals have been received following the pandemic with parental/carer mental health issues, impacting on their parenting/caring abilities. This is being discussed with health colleagues to identify a planned and co-ordinated response to support parents/carers.</p> <p>NCC is working in partnership with GAVO funding a fixed term Food Sustainability Co-ordinator to consider preventative work in relation to food poverty. The postholder will work closely with third sector partners and managing a grant programme which will further boost the capacity of food related projects</p> <p>The rapid increase in the cost of living is already proving to be challenging for a number of households many of which are still 'catching up' with arrears accrued during the pandemic. The Council will continue to support those struggling to pay and will be implementing the WG 'cost of Living grant scheme' from April – September which pays £150 to all households in Council Tax Bands A-D and those receiving Council Tax Reduction relief, this also includes a discretionary element of £1.2m which the Council will design and implement over the same period.</p> <p>To date NCC has administered the following grant schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpaid Carers Support Scheme – position on 13.6.22 - 2559 applications received, 1754 approved, 537 declined, 1470 payments made. • Self-Isolation payment scheme – 646 applications still outstanding. Applications for the scheme is due to close on 28 June 2022. • Winter Fuel scheme for 22/23 in the early stages of communication with a proposed start date of 1 September 2022.

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 30 th June 2022
	<p>Preparations are underway for the WG expansion of Flying Start from Sept 23. Successful providers day was held with interested agencies as we progress with the recommissioning of Families First.</p> <p>Disabled Facilities Grant now sits in the new Prevention and Inclusion service area. We have identified ways to have a greater and earlier reach to support independent living post Covid.</p>

Post EU Transition and Cost of Living Crisis

Since the UK left the European Union and Single Market on 31st December 2020, there has continued to be positive and negative impacts on the economy, and EU / EEA citizens. There are continuing to be national issues relating to the Trade arrangements with the EU that are predominantly focused on the trading routes between the UK and Northern Ireland. The Welsh Government's position is that Wales will continue to seek positive relationships with the EU across economic, trade, cultural, research and education.

Over the last two years, there have been several global economic impacts due to Covid, increasing consumer demand (technology, food) and disruptive supply chains. In the last six months, the Ukrainian conflict has also impacted global supply of food, energy (gas and electric) and fuel. These issues are now impacting residents and businesses seeing the cost of living (inflation) increasing with costs rising to over 9% and expecting to increase further to 11%, with wages unable to meet these costs. For low to middle income households these costs are forcing households to choose between meals, travelling and heating. In June, the Bank of England also increased interest rates to 1.25% to try to tackle inflation making borrowing more expensive.

On top of the increase to food and general costs of living, current estimates suggest up to 45% of all households in Wales could be in fuel poverty following increases to the energy price cap in April. It is suggested that the situation is set to become worse following the indication from Energy Regulator, Ofgem that the fuel cap will rise in October.

Welsh Government and Newport City Council Response.

The Welsh Government's latest announcement of the [Fuel Voucher Scheme](#) is aimed at providing support to households that have to pay in advance for their energy and are unable to do so. In Wales, households on prepayment meters have been particularly affected by the rise in fuel prices as they pay a higher tariff in comparison to standard credit meters.

The Fuel Voucher Scheme will provide top-up vouchers for customers on prepayment meters and will see the launch of a new crisis service for households which are off the gas grid, and unable to afford to buy gas bottles or fill their oil tank, log store or coal burner. For eligibility of this scheme, households will be referred for support by one of a network of referral partners. Households must be experiencing financial hardship and at immediate risk of self-disconnection. The scheme will be managed by the [Fuel Bank Foundation](#), a national charity that has delivered support to people in Wales since 2015.

Earlier this year, Welsh Government also announced a £150 cost of living payment on [Council Tax](#) costs for households living in bands A to D. Newport Council is encouraging as many households as possible to claim the payment. This also includes a discretionary element of £1.2m which the Council will design and implement over the same period. The unpaid carers financial support scheme is being administered by the Council enabling residents who look after someone for 35 hours or more and have low incomes to receive £500 payment. Further information can be found [here](#).

Additionally, via the Welsh Government a further £15m is available in the form of a [Discretionary Assistance Fund](#) to provide financial support for individuals who are experiencing extreme financial pressures. The fund for additional support will be extended until the end of March 2023. For businesses,

Newport Council announced it will be using its [discretionary powers](#) to support businesses in the city centre in addition to the rate relief from [Welsh Government](#).

Further guidance for households who are struggling as a result of the cost of living crisis can access help through [Advice Link Cymru](#) or the [Claim What's Yours](#) campaign for households and individuals to access benefits to assist them with the help they need.

Newport Council continues to support the city's food banks charities and groups. Earlier in the year £100k was allocated to support food banks and groups to access additional support. NCC is working in partnership with GAVO funding a fixed term Food Sustainability Co-ordinator to consider preventative work in relation to food poverty. GAVO are also enabling food community groups to access £3,000 to support their work. Further information can be found [here](#).

The UK Government recently launched details on the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) that is replacing the EU funding that Wales received prior to leaving the EU. In Wales, the regional groups such as Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) Corporate Joint Committee) will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of SPF. Each local authority in CCR including Newport, will be developing local investment plans involving local and regional stakeholders to identify interventions that will support the delivery of local priorities across Newport.

EU / EAA Communities living in Newport and Wales

Newport Council recognises the contributions of all our residents and are proud that Newport is a multi-cultural city with a rich, diverse heritage. All our migrant communities continue to play a vital role in our economic and cultural growth. The latest Home Office statistics show that 5.8 million EU and EAA citizens have been granted settled and pre-settled status.

The council's Connected Communities team continue to support and signpost EU/EAA citizens and their family members to specialist support services that can make late applications to the EUSS, challenge negative decisions and provide advice around rights and entitlements. The team co-ordinate a weekly multi-agency drop in at Community House, Eton Road, and over the coming months plan to deliver Rights and Entitlements sessions to communities, using local schools as a base and develop an online information session for professionals.

Ukrainian Refugee Support

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has caused the displacement of many tens of thousands of Ukrainian people from their homes. The UK Government has encouraged Ukrainian nationals to utilise the Family Visa Scheme which allows individuals to safely join family members or extend their stay in the UK. Newport has seen a rise in the number of families arriving in the city through this scheme. The Homes for Ukraine scheme will see further arrivals being placed in local homes as part of the UK Government's sponsorship scheme, whilst the Welsh Government are supporting around 1,000 refugees as a 'super sponsor' working alongside local authorities to place people around Wales.

Following the people of Wales' incredible response to the Welsh Government's Super Sponsor Scheme, which has seen over 2,000 visas issued to date, a temporary operational pause on new applications will commence on the 10th of June 2022. The temporary pause is to ensure Ukrainians who are arriving, and those already here in Wales continue to receive an exceptional level of support. The temporary pause will allow the Welsh Government and partners time to refine arrangements in place to support people and ensure all public services, especially local authorities can continue to deliver a high standard of support. This temporary pause will not affect any current applications. Further information can be found [here](#).

To date through the Homes for Ukraine scheme, 6,572 confirmed applications have been submitted with a sponsor in Wales. Of those 3,613 have confirmed applications have Welsh Government as super sponsor and 2,965 visas have also been issued where Welsh Government is the super sponsor. In total 2,501 people with sponsors in Wales have arrived in the UK. Through the Homes for Ukraine scheme,

Newport currently has 100 approved visa applications issued with 73 active Ukrainian placements across 33 sponsors.

People arriving in the UK and Wales will be granted access to Universal Credit and jobs support immediately; however local authorities will play a vital role in supporting both new arrivals and hosts. The guidance set under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme places a range of expectations on local councils to complete DBS, property and safeguarding checks on host placements, administering the £350 ‘thank you’ payment per month payment to hosts, £200 payment to each Ukrainian individual, integration support and in person visits to check suitability.

The council’s established Operational Response Group who meet on a weekly basis, co-ordinate Newport Council’s approach to welcoming and supporting people arriving in Newport. This group is currently mapping capacity and potential demand across a range of key areas including social care, housing, education, and integration support. The council is working closely with partners and other Gwent authorities to ensure a joined up, cohesive approach to Ukrainian resettlement, taking a regional approach wherever possible to maximise efficiency.

Future Cabinet Reporting

The long-term impacts of Covid pandemic and leaving the EU are expected affect communities and business over the next 5 to 10 years. There remain many challenges and risks that Newport Council and its partners will need to support and prevent. Many of these impacts have yet to be fully realised but we are already seeing impacts in the backlog of health and social care support, cost of living crisis, supporting young learners and improving school attendance, climate change, community cohesion and support for EU/EAA citizens, refugees and Ukrainian families. There will also be emerging challenges and risks that the Council will have to respond and mitigate impact over next five years.

This will be the final report on the Strategic Recovery Aims and the Council will be publishing its annual Wellbeing Self-Assessment report 2021/22 in the Autumn covering what the Council has delivered against the Corporate Plan and Strategic Recovery Aims.

Newport Council will also be publishing its new Corporate Plan 2022-27 in the autumn that will outline the Council’s strategic priorities to support Wales’ Wellbeing Goals, Cabinet’s Manifesto pledges, and prevent long term impacts of the challenges and risks faced by Newport.

With the ongoing opportunities, challenges and risks that the Council and the City are facing with the cost of living crisis, Ukrainian conflict, post EU transition and a range of local and global challenges, regular updates of progress will be reported to Cabinet against the Council’s new Corporate Plan.

Financial Summary (Capital and Revenue)

The Council’s financial (revenue and capital) update is reported separately as part of the Council’s regular budget reports to Cabinet. The Covid-19 and Post EU Transition impact(s) are considered in the finance reports and are closely monitored as part of the Council’s financial management processes.

Risks

Through the Council’s Risk Management process, the Covid risk has been monitored every quarter to the Council’s Cabinet and Audit and Governance Committee. Below is the latest update taken from Quarter 4 (January to March) 2021/22 risk report update.

Risk Title / Description	Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (1-5)	Risk Probability of risk occurring (1-5)	Risk Mitigation Action(s) What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?	Risk Owner Officer(s) responsible for dealing with the risk?
Covid 19 Pandemic	4	4	See Report on action being undertaken by the Executive	Executive Board

			Board, CMT and Gold group to manage the Council's response.	
Post EU Transition	4	3	See Report.	Head of People, Policy and Transformation
Supporting Ukrainian refugees to settle in Newport.	4	2	See this Report on the Council's response to the Ukrainian refugee re-settlement programme.	Corporate Management Team.

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Corporate Plan 2017-22

Options Available and considered

1. To consider and note the contents of the report, and for Cabinet / Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.
2. To request further information or reject the contents of the report

Preferred Option and Why

1. To consider and note the contents of the report and for Cabinet / Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio briefings.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

Welsh Government have been supporting local authorities through the pandemic with a Hardship Fund intended to reimburse for all Covid related spend over and above existing budgets and within a set criteria. The fund also includes loss of income compensation; again, within a set criteria. The fund ran for the entire 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years. In addition, where relevant, Welsh Government have provided specific grant funding to fund particular costs arising. This means that, overall, the financial impact of the pandemic upon the Council has been largely mitigated and this remains the case while restrictions continue to be eased.

The 22/23 budget settlement for local authorities confirmed local authorities are now expected to manage the continuing financial impact of the pandemic from within existing resources, albeit with some continued assistance in certain areas. Therefore, as part of the budget setting and medium-term planning process, consideration was given to the potential ongoing financial impact, both in terms of additional expenditure and loss of income, beyond the 2021/22 financial year. The 2022/23 budget reflects the outcome of those discussions with resources allocated on both a one-off and recurring basis, to be reviewed on an annual basis as clarity regarding the permanent financial impact is achieved.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report, which provides an update on the actions taken to deliver the Council's Covid-19 Response and Strategic Recovery Aims and the Post EU Transition work. Any legal issues in relation to the recovery plan and the EU transition work will be picked up at the appropriate time as part of the operational delivery of the individual actions, within service areas

Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation

There are no HR related issues arising directly from this report, and we continue to work closely with managers and trade union representatives to develop policies for the workforce legislative measures are relaxed.

The Council recognises that many of the ongoing impacts of Covid and the Post EU transition will remain for the Council to respond and address over the next 5 years. The annual Wellbeing Self-Assessment

report will provide an overview of what the Council has delivered in response to the Strategic Recovery Aims in 2021/22 with any ongoing strategic priorities integrated into the new Corporate Plan.

Scrutiny Committees

Not Applicable

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

The areas covered in this report demonstrate the progress being made against the Strategic Recovery Aims which also support the Council's Corporate Plan 2017-22.

In consideration of the sustainable development principle, 5 ways of working:

Long Term – The progress reported against the Strategic Aims support the long term aims, challenges and risks to the Council to improve people's lives.

Preventative – The preventative work outlined in the report support the Council's approach to minimising future Covid 19 outbreaks and as necessary provide targeted support to those that need it. Re-establishing services in line with necessary legislation and regulation enables the Council to operate in the new normal.

Integration – The Strategic Recovery Aims have been integrated with the Council's Wellbeing Objectives set in the Corporate Plan as well as Service Plans. Recommendations from the Community Impact Assessment will also shape how the Council can improve the delivery of services across communities.

Involvement – Included in this report are actions to involve Newport's communities to provide assurance and shape the way in which services are being delivered by the Council. Their feedback and involvement in the process will enable the Council to consider how services are delivered in the long term.

Collaboration - The actions in the report are being undertaken in collaboration with partners from the Council's Public Services Board but also strategic partners within each service area. The collaborative work enables the Council to share resources and build expertise and knowledge.

Consultation

Not Applicable

Background Papers

Cabinet Report (Strategic Recovery Aims) – July 2020

[Corporate Plan 2017-22](#)

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

Dated: 6 July 2022

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Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 13 July 2022

Subject Cabinet Work Programme

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

Author Governance Team Leader

Ward All Wards

Summary The purpose of a work programme is to enable Cabinet to organise and prioritise the reports and decisions that are brought to each meeting. Effective forward planning by Cabinet also impacts positively upon the Council's other Committees, in particular Scrutiny, because work needs to be coordinated on certain reports to ensure proper consultation takes place before a decision is taken.

The current work programme runs to May 2023, but it is a working document. It is important that the work programme is owned and prioritised by Cabinet Members directly, so each month the Cabinet Office Manager brings a report updating Cabinet on any changes, so that the revised programme can be formally approved.

The updated work programme is attached at Appendix 1.

Proposal To agree the updated work programme for 2022/23

Action by Governance Team Leader

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Officers
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Finance
- Head of People and Business Change

Background

The purpose of a work programme is to enable Cabinet to organise and prioritise the reports and decisions that are brought to each meeting. Effective forward planning by Cabinet also impacts positively upon the Council's other Committees, in particular Scrutiny, because work needs to be coordinated on certain reports to ensure proper consultation takes place before a decision is taken.

The Wales Audit Office's Corporate Assessment of Newport City Council, published in September 2013, highlighted the need to "strengthen committee work programming arrangements to ensure they are timely, meaningful, informative, transparent, balanced, monitored, and joined up". Since that report was published, these monthly reports have been introduced to provide Cabinet with regular updates on its work programme, and the opportunity to comment upon and shape its priorities as an executive group. The Democratic Services team have also been working to improve the links between this and other work programmes under its management (e.g. Council, Scrutiny, Audit) to ensure the various programmes are properly coordinated.

The current work programme runs to May 2023, but it is a working document. It is important that the work programme is owned and prioritised by Cabinet Members directly, so each month the Cabinet Office Manager brings a report updating Cabinet on any changes, so that the revised programme can be formally approved.

The updated work programme is attached at Appendix 1.

Financial Summary

There is no direct cost to adopting a programme of work.

Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
No action taken	M	L	Work programming arrangements are in place to ensure they are timely, meaningful, informative, and transparent, balanced, monitored, and joined up.	Head of Democratic Services
The process is not embraced by report authors and members	M	M	If there is proliferation of unplanned or late items, the opportunity to ensure work programming is timely, meaningful, informative, and transparent, balanced, monitored, and joined up will diminish	Head of Democratic Services

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

These proposals will help the Council provide the best possible service to members and will provide information to the public and elected members.

Options Available and considered

- To adopt the process and adopt or amend the work programme
- To consider any alternative proposals raised by Cabinet members
- To take no action

Preferred Option and Why

To adopt the proposals which should help to ensure work programming arrangements are timely, meaningful, informative, and transparent, balanced, monitored, and joined up.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no financial implications in adopting a programme of work.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no legal implications in adopting a programme of work.

Staffing Implications: Comments of Head of People and Business Change

There are no specific staffing implications in adopting a programme of work.

Comments of Cabinet Member

The Chair has approved the report for consideration by cabinet.

Local issues

There are no local issues as this report relates to the Council's processes

Scrutiny Committees

Monthly update reports allow the Scrutiny and Cabinet work programmes to be better coordinated. The Scrutiny team and Members are currently developing new ways of working through the new Committees, and continually reviewing the work programmes to focus more on risk and ensure all scrutiny activity has a defined purpose and constructive outcome.

Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010

This does not apply to this procedural report.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

This procedural report does not impact on Children and Young People although certain reports contained in the programme may do and will need appropriate consultation and comment when they are presented to cabinet.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

This is a procedural report but reports contained within the programme will need to show how consideration has been given to the five things public bodies need to think about to show they have applied the sustainable development principle put into place by the Act.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

This does not apply to this procedural report

Consultation

As set out above

Background Papers

[Newport City Council Corporate Assessment](#), Wales Audit Office (September 2013)

[Newport City Council – Corporate Assessment Follow Up 2015](#), Wales Audit Office (May 2015)

Dated: 6 July 2022

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Cabinet

Work Programme: June 2022 to May 2023

Meeting	Agenda Items	Lead Officer
Cabinet 15/06/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corporate Risk Register Update (Q4) ▪ Local Area Energy Plan ▪ Information Station Project ▪ Levelling Up Fund ▪ 2021/22 Treasury Management Year End Report ▪ Covid Recovery ▪ Post EU Transition Position ▪ Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HPP&T ▪ HPP&T ▪ HR&ED ▪ HR&ED ▪ HoF ▪ CX/HPP&T ▪ CX/PP&T ▪ GTL
Cabinet 13/07/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2021/22 Revenue Budget Outturn ▪ 2021/22 Capital Outturn and Additions ▪ Responding to the New Normal Report ▪ Shared Prosperity Fund ▪ RDLP – Vision, Issues and Objectives ▪ Welsh Language Annual Report ▪ Welsh Government Consultation, One Network, One Timetable, One Ticket: Planning buses as a public service for Wales – NCC Response ▪ Post EU Transition and Key Issues ▪ Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HoF ▪ HoF ▪ HPP&T ▪ HPP&T ▪ HR&ED ▪ HPP&T ▪ HCS ▪ CX/HPP&T ▪ GTL
Council 19/07/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council Appointments ▪ 2021/22 Treasury Management Year End Report ▪ Welsh Language Annual Report ▪ PSPO: Dog Control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DSM ▪ HoF ▪ HPP&T ▪ SD: ES
Cabinet 14/09/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revenue Budget Monitor ▪ Capital Budget Monitor ▪ Corporate Risk Register Update (Quarter 1) ▪ Annual Safeguarding Report ▪ Replacement LDP – Growth Options ▪ Post EU Transition and Key Issues ▪ PSB Summary of Business ▪ Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HoF ▪ HoF ▪ HPP&T ▪ SD: People ▪ HR&ED ▪ CX/HPP&T ▪ HPP&T ▪ GTL
Council 27/09/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council Appointments ▪ Scrutiny Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DSM ▪ HL&S
Cabinet 12/10/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corporate Plan Annual Report ▪ Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report ▪ Climate Change Plan Annual Report ▪ Post EU Transition and Key Issues ▪ PSB Summary of Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HPP&T ▪ HPP&T ▪ HPP&T ▪ CX/HPP&T ▪ HPP&T

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GTL
Cabinet 16/11/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revenue Budget Monitor ▪ Capital Budget Monitor and Additions ▪ Annual Report on Compliments, Comments and Complaints Management 2021 ▪ Post EU Transition and Key Issues ▪ Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HoF ▪ HoF ▪ Customer Services Mgr ▪ CX/HPP&T ▪ GTL
Council 22/11/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council Appointments ▪ City Centre PSPO ▪ Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report ▪ Climate Change Plan Annual Report ▪ Replacement LDP – Preferred Strategy ▪ Democratic Services Annual Report ▪ Standards Committee Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DSM ▪ HE&PP ▪ HPP&T ▪ HPP&T ▪ HR&ED ▪ HL&S ▪ HL&S
Cabinet 14/12/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Treasury Management Report ▪ Corporate Risk Register Update (Quarter 2) ▪ AW Certificate of Compliance ▪ Director of Social Services Annual Report ▪ Post EU Transition and Key Issues ▪ Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HoF ▪ HPP&T ▪ HPP&T ▪ HPP&T ▪ CX/HPP&T ▪ GTL
Cabinet 11/01/23	<p><u>Budget:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2022/23 Revenue Draft Budget and MTFP: Final Proposals ▪ Revenue Budget Monitor ▪ Capital Budget Monitor ▪ Welsh National TOMs for Social Value ▪ Mid-Year Performance Analysis 2021/22 ▪ Post EU Transition and Key Issues ▪ Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HoF ▪ HoF ▪ HoF ▪ HoF ▪ HPP&T ▪ CX/HPP&T ▪ GTL
Council 24/01/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council Appointments ▪ 2022/23 Treasury Management 6 monthly report ▪ Council Tax Reduction Scheme ▪ Director of Social Services Annual Report ▪ Schedule of Meetings 2023/24 ▪ Mayoral Nomination 2023/24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DSM ▪ HoF ▪ HCS ▪ SD: People ▪ GTL ▪ GTL
Cabinet 15/02/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2023/24 Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy ▪ 2023/24 Revenue Final Budget and MTFP: Final Proposals ▪ Verified Key Stage 4 and 5 Pupil Outcomes ▪ Western Gateway ▪ Post EU Transition and Key Issues ▪ Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HoF ▪ HoF ▪ CEo ▪ HR&ED ▪ CX/HPP&T ▪ GTL
Cabinet 15/03/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EAS Business Plan 2021/22 ▪ Corporate Risk Register Update (Quarter 3) ▪ Pay and Reward Statement 2023/24 ▪ Post EU Transition and Key Issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CEo ▪ HPP&T ▪ HPP&T ▪ CX/HPP&T

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GTL
Council 21/03/23	<u>Budget:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council Appointments ▪ 2023/24 Council Tax and Budget ▪ 2023/24 Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy ▪ National Non-Domestic Rates: Discretionary Relief: High Street Relief Scheme 2023/24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DSM ▪ HoF ▪ HoF ▪ HoF
Cabinet 12/04/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report ▪ Post EU Transition and Key Issues ▪ PSB Summary Document (for information/ awareness) ▪ Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HC&YPS ▪ CX/HPP&T ▪ HPP&T ▪ GTL
Council 25/04/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council Appointments ▪ Pay and Reward Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DSM ▪ HPP&T
Cabinet 10/05/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Post EU Transition and Key Issues ▪ Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CX/HPP&T ▪ GTL
Council 17/05/22	<u>AGM:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council Appointments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DSM

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