Public Document Pack

Agenda

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Date: Friday, 2 June 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Hybrid Meeting / Committee Room 1

To: Councillors P Hourahine (Chair), M Al-Nuaimi, M Evans, L James, C Baker-Westhead, P Bright, B Davies, G Horton, Y Forsey, J Hughes and S Marshall

Item   **Wards Affected**

1   Apologies

2   Declarations of Interest

3   Minutes of the Previous Meeting   *(Pages 3 - 4)*

4   Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy   *(Pages 5 - 32)*

5   Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report   *(Pages 33 - 74)*

6   Consultation Update   *(Pages 75 - 152)*

7   Conclusion of Committee Reports
       Following the completion of the Committee reports, the Committee will
       be asked to formalise its conclusions, recommendations and
       comments on previous items for actioning.

8   Scrutiny Adviser Reports   *(Pages 153 - 170)*

           a)   Actions Arising (**Appendix 1**)

           b)   Forward Work Programme (**Appendix 2**)

           c)   Scrutiny Topic Referral (**Appendix 3**)

This document is available in welsh / Mae's ffurflen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

9   Live Event
       [Please click here to view the Live Event.](#)

Draft Minutes

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Date: 28th April 2022

Time: 10am

Venue: Microsoft Teams Meeting / Committee Room 1

Present: Councillors P Hourahine (Chair), M Al-Nuaimi, P Bright, C Baker-Westhead, Lauren James, M Evans, B Davies

Samantha Schanzer (Scrutiny Advisor), Taylor Strange (Governance Support Officer)

Rhys Cornwall (Strategic Director), Janice Dent (Policy and Partnership Manager), Tracy Mckim (Head of People, Policy and Transformation), Shaun Powell (Transformation and Intelligence Manager)
a

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declaration of interests

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Committee questioned whether the question regarding the University had been answered and whether the University would be asked to attend a Scrutiny committee.

- The Scrutiny Advisor confirmed that an Officer response had been shared with committee but that the invitation to the university would be chased up.

The minutes of the previous meeting held 3rd February 2022 were **accepted as a true and accurate record**.

4. Planning and Performance Policy Framework

The report was presented by the Head of People, Policy and Transformation.

Questions:

The Committee asked whether the RAG system was changing?

- The Head of People, Policy and Transformation highlighted that it is very difficult to move away from RAG, noting that this had been discussed by members but there has been no decision made to change it.

The Committee noted that in other Local Authorities the RAG system has more categories.

The Committee felt that the document was fairly complex and dry and were content to accept and note the policy but felt that they had no recommendations at this time.

The Committee felt that the use of "Planning" in the name of the policy could be confused with Planning matters.

The Committee were interested to see that the policy aimed to work with the Welsh Government and Data Cymru. The Committee asked how far along they were for benchmarking comparisons.

- The Head of People, Policy and Transformation informed committee they are working with other Local Authority's on a new report. Comparisons are made with other Councils and other cities based different data focuses but this hadn't been possible during the pandemic.

The Committee asked if there would be a breakdown of the comparisons in the next few years.

- The Head of People, Policy and Transformation informed committee that it's difficult to guess which areas would be compared until the data is available.

Comments and Recommendations:

The Committee were content with this report as it stood.

5. Consultation Update Report (Information Only)

Due to an issue accessing the report, the Committee agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

6. Conclusion of Committee Reports

The Committee asked that conclusions of reports be documented at the end of each report item.

7. Scrutiny Advisor Reports

The Scrutiny Advisor presented this item. The Scrutiny Advisor noted that there was one action outstanding, but this is being followed up.

The Scrutiny Advisor informed Committee that the Forward Work Programme is currently being developed and would be brought to the first meeting of the municipal year to be confirmed.

The date of next meeting was given as the **2nd June 2023**.

8. Live Event

Click here to watch the recording of this meeting.

Scrutiny Report

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Part 1

Date: May 2023

Subject   Public Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy

Author   Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer:	Area / Role / Subject
Paul Jones	**Strategic Director for Infrastructure**
Silvia Gonzales-Lopez	**Head of Environment and Public Protection**
Ross Cudlipp	**Service Manager for Climate Change**
Cllr Yvonne Forsey	**Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Bio-diversity**

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1   Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

(i)   Consider the Public Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy and it's aims.

(ii)   Consider how this strategy links and synergises with existing Newport City Council plans and priorities.

(iii)   Make comments and recommendations based on the strategy.

2   Context

Background

2.1 This is the first instance of an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy being presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. Once committee have made any comments and recommendations, this report will go to consultation, and following that, will be a Cabinet Member decision.

2.2 In 2021, [Newport City Council declared an Ecological and Climate Emergency](#). This specified a clear Organisational Climate Change Plan would be developed in consultation with Newport City residents.

2.3 A Climate Change Project Board was created to oversee the development of the plan and staff and managers from across the Council were involved in the writing of a consultation draft of the plan using the [Route Map for Decarbonisation](#) as a framework. The consultation took place during November and December 2021 and responses were reviewed and the plan amended accordingly.

2.4 In March 2022, [Cabinet agreed the Organisational Climate Change Plan](#) which sets out the themes, priorities, actions and milestones for the period. Newport City Council [Organisational Climate Change Plan](#) spans the period 2022-27.

2.5 In order to help meet these priorities, the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy was developed to be presented and monitored by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on an annual basis.

2.6 This Strategy has not yet been out to consultation with the public.

Previous Consideration of this item

2.6 This is the first time that the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy has come to a Scrutiny committee.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

3.1 The Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy is affixed as **Appendix 1**. The report includes:

- Background information, including a breakdown of trends as seen by the Future Trends report and Ernst & Young, other Newport City Council plans and priorities that have shaped this piece of work, and information regarding Newport's residents and their needs and interest in the Strategy
- An explanation of the Strategy itself, including how it would be financed.
- How the plan links to Council plans and priorities.
- An explanation of how the strategy could go forward and information regarding the consultation.

3.2 Attached at **Appendix 2** is a copy of the information that will be given to residents when the consultation goes out to residents.

3.3 Attached at **Appendix 3** is a copy of example questions that will form part of the public consultation.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

4.1 **Role of the Committee**

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Assess and make comment on

    o Whether information included is adequate in providing an understanding of the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy

    o Whether an annual reporting cycle would be adequate to measure progress and performance.

- Conclusions:

    o Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all the relevant information to base a conclusion on the inclusion of general information, data and specific technical information?

        ▪ Does committee feel that any further information needs to be included?

    o Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?

    o Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations?

4.2   **Suggested Lines of Enquiry**

- Has grant funding been secured already and if not, what is the contingency for funding sources?
- What is the scope of the strategy's aims e.g. will it provide funding for private home charging stations for residents, street charging, more charging units in carparks, dedicated charging facilities etc?
- How will residents be informed of the strategy?
- What data will be available to measure the progress and success of the strategy?

4.3   **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
Long-term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.	What consideration have you given to the long term trends that could affect your proposal or; how could your proposal impact these trends?
	How will the needs of your service users potentially change in the future?
Prevention Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.	What is the objective (or the desired outcome) of this proposal?
	How are you addressing these issues to prevent a future problem?
	How have the decisions, so far, come about? What alternatives were considered?

Integration	Are there any other organisations providing similar / complementary services?
Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.	Have you consulted with the health board, third sector, emergency services, businesses and anyone else you think might be impacted?
	What practical steps will you take to integrate your project with existing plans and strategies of other public organisations to help us all contribute fully to the seven national well-being goals?
Collaboration	Who have you been working with? Why? Who have you collaborated with in finding out more about this problem and potential solutions?
Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).	How are you co-working with other sectors?
	How are you using the knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Council's work?
Involvement	How have you involved the people who are being impacted by this decision?
The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.	How have you taken into account the diverse communities in your decision making?
	How have you used different / alternative methods to reach people and involve them?
	How will you communicate the outcome of your decision?

Section B – Supporting Information

5   Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
Aims:	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

5.1   The Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy has strong links with Wellbeing Objective 2.

5.2   The Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy also has links to the Climate Change Plan.

5.3   The Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy also feeds into the Local Area Energy Plan.

6   Background Papers

- [The Essentials – Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-2027](#)
- [Organisational Climate Change Plan](#) 2022-27
- [Local Area Energy Plan](#)
- [Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales](#)

Report Completed: May 2023

This page is intentionally left blank

Report

Scrutiny

Part 1

Date: 12 May 2023

Subject   **EV Charging Strategy**

Purpose   To invite comments on the draft EV Charging Strategy from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee before the strategy goes out to public consultation.

Author   Programme Manager – Climate Change

Ward   All wards

Summary   Newport

Proposal   **For Scrutiny Committee to review and provide feedback on the draft EV Charging Strategy**

Action by   Scrutiny

Timetable   Immediate

Signed

Background

Decreasing carbon emissions from vehicles is a key priority in order to be able to meet our commitments to reaching Net Zero by 2050.

The Future Trends report highlights the increase in popularity of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) and that this is likely to reduce transport emissions. In November 2022, over 27% of all new cars sold in the UK were battery electric vehicles or plug in hybrid electric vehicles. The equivalent figure for December 2019 was less than 2%. The uptake of plug-in vehicles in Newport was forecasted between 2020 until 2050. The data suggests that there will be in the region of 120,000 electric vehicles in the city early in the 2040s.

However, many residential streets in Newport do not have off-street parking in order to be able to charge an electric vehicle. Some residents may have front gardens that can be converted for this purpose, but this has implications for sustainable drainage and flooding, and many houses do not have this capacity. In addition, there is a lack of destination charging in areas like the City Centre.

An Ernst and Young study in 2022 found that a lack of charging stations is the biggest inhibitor to the uptake of ULEVs. If we do not invest in better charging infrastructure then this will slow the uptake of electric vehicles in Newport, which is already low, given that Wales has one of the lowest rates of ULEV ownership in the UK. This will have a knock-on effect on the ability of Newport to reduce its carbon emissions.

Since 2019, when Newport Council jointly delivered a Gwent-wide public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging network, Newport has worked to continue to deliver and support the delivery of public EV charging infrastructure for our residents, businesses and visitors. The city now has 27 rapid chargers and 64 public fast chargers. The usage on the public sector dragon charging network chargers in Newport has risen from 367kWh in January 2021 to 3712kWh in January 2023, a ten-fold increase in two years. A study that NCC commissioned last year predicted that if Newport was on a balanced net zero pathway, the city would need to have 408 public accessible charge points by the end of 2022 and 597 by the end of 2023, including 95 on street charge points and 91 rapid chargers with the remaining chargers being fast chargers. Although good progress has been made, the actual numbers are currently short of this target. Therefore, the planned work for the next three financial years must be ambitious.

Newport currently has a population of approximately 154,676 residents living in 67,058 households with a total of 76,200 cars registered. This equates to 1.14 cars per household.

Of these households, 21,909 (33%) do not have enough space to park a car off-street – therefore, for those residents that ultimately do not choose to (or are not able to) modal shift to solely active or public transport, reliable charge points within a 5-minute walk of peoples properties is going to be essential to support the transition to a zero tailpipe emission future within our city.

Using 2021/22 ULEV funding, NCC installed chargers in 9 on street locations – since commissioning these have collectively been used an average of 50 times per month with this figure increasing month-by-month.

NCC have set up an EVcharging@Newport.gov.uk inbox and have been collecting requests from residents for on-street charges close to their homes to either enable them to more to zero emission vehicles or support the proactive move they have already made. To date we have recorded 28 requests for chargers. In 2023/2024 (subject to grant support) we intend to carry out installations at 50 locations to meet the needs of these residents, additional residents who contact us and other pre-identified locations which are ideal for residential fast charging.

We will also be continuing to work with Cardiff Capital region and Connected Kerb to undertake their planned phase 2 and phase 3 installations which consist of 20 to 30 chargers across the city.

By the end of 2023 we are aiming for there to be over 150 publicly owned fast chargers in Newport.

The Strategy

This EV Charging Strategy allows us to provide a structured and considered rollout of EV charging infrastructure tailored to and built for the needs of our residents, businesses and visitors. Whilst we recognise that the private sector has an important role to play, we cannot rely on them to provide the coverage we need. As the responsible body for local highways, we should be leading on the installation of EV infrastructure in the public realm. The Strategy will allow us to set out the principles behind the future rollout of EV Charging Infrastructure within the City. Further to the overall strategy, we will be developing and issuing design guidance based on Welsh Government guidelines around accessibility and meeting the needs of residents. The Strategy also provides public confidence in our future EV Charging Network which is key to driving the behaviour change needed to move from petrol vehicles to electric ones. It also provides us with a framework to engage with funding providers, the private sector and other partners.

Financial Summary

Installation of public EV chargers is fully covered by grant funding from Welsh Government.

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The EV Charging Strategy will support the Council's corporate Plan, specifically Well-being Objective 2, Environment and Infrastructure.

It also supports the current Climate Change Plan's theme of Transport and Mobility, which has actions to increase public charging units across the city considering strategic sites to fit with the wider network and to increase the number of residents without off street parking that are in a 5-minute walk of a charging point.

It will also directly feed into the Local Area Energy Plan which has a target of there being at least 80 rapid and 1040 fast publicly accessible chargers by 2025.

Options Available and considered

1) To approve the draft EV Charging Strategy for public consultation

2) To provide feedback on the Strategy and suggest changes prior to public consultation

Recommendations.

Preferred Option and Why

Both options would be equally preferable

Consultation

Consultation with both the public and with partners such as Sustrans will begin once the draft Strategy is approved by this committee.

Background Papers

Newport Local Area Energy Plan

Dated: 12 May 2023

This page is intentionally left blank

Newport City Council Consultation Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2023-28

CLOSING DATE FOR CONSULTATION RESPONSES: **14th July**

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

NEWPORT
CITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR DINAS
CASNEWYDD

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION

This is the consultation draft of the Newport City Council Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Strategy that sets out the proposed aims, themes, actions, and performance measures that we need to take as a Council over the next five years to:

- *Reduce road transport carbon emissions and pollution by facilitating the provision of a network of charge points for residents, businesses, and visitors of the area.*

 The consultation seeks your views on the draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy which once finalised will shape charging infrastructure for the Newport area over the next five years.

The closing date for responses is 14th July.

To develop this strategy, we have considered Welsh Government and local policy alongside the current and future needs locally.

1.1 Background

Welsh Government has set out its legal commitment to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions (CO_2e) by 2050.[1]

1.1.1 Greenhouse Emissions in Newport

Greenhouse gas emissions in Newport have reduced by 53% from 2005 to 2020.
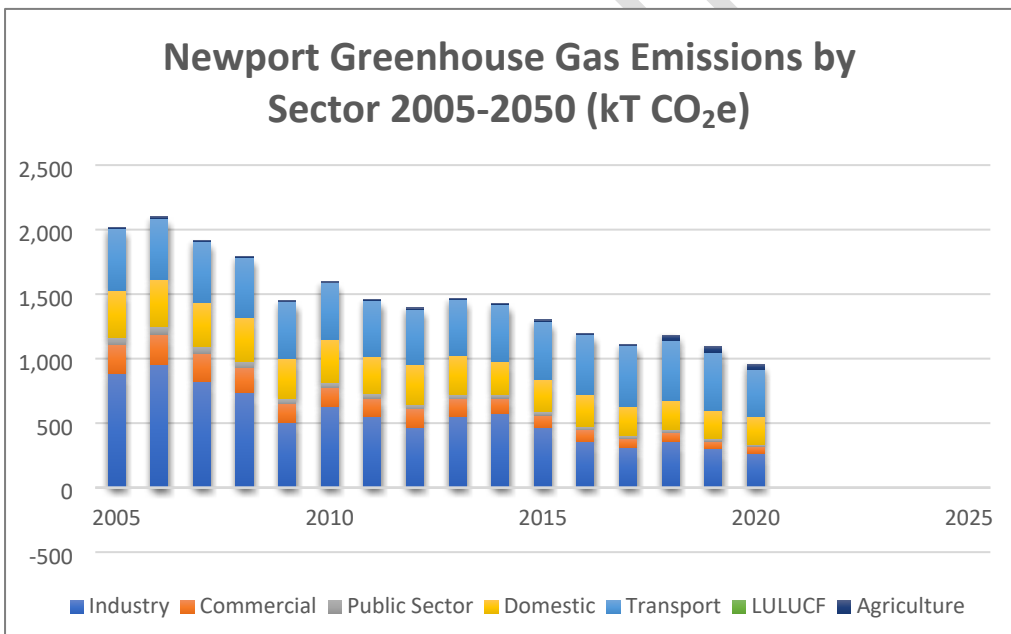

However, transport emissions have stayed relatively constant, and between 2005 and 2020 the proportion of total emissions from transport has increased from 24% to 38%, with 97% of these

---

[1] Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales

emissions deriving from road transport. This shows the need to reduce road emissions to meet the Welsh Government 2050 commitment.

1.1.2 Sustainable Travel Hierarchy
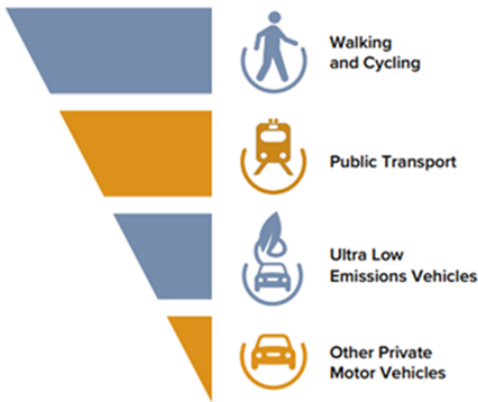
In the council's [Organisational Climate Change Plan](#), we have endorsed the sustainable travel hierarchy and have acknowledged the role we have to play working with partners across the city to plan and provide an integrated, frequent, low carbon and accessible transport network that is affordable in line with the sustainable travel hierarchy.

The hierarchy guides decisions about new infrastructure and gives priority to walking and cycling and public transport, followed by ultra-low emission vehicles.

This draft strategy aims to support and encourage the use of electric vehicles by ensuring that council policies support the adoption of different options for recharging. However, this cannot be at the detriment of active travel and public transport.

1.1.3 Electric Vehicles

In November 2022, over 27% of all new cars sold in the UK were battery electric vehicles or plug in hybrid electric vehicles.[2] The equivalent figure for December 2019 was less than 2%.[3] This shows a steep increase.

1.1.4 Current Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
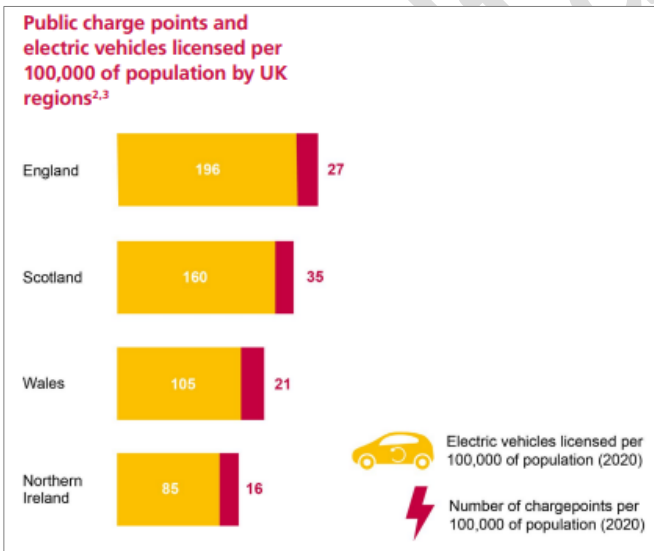
Wales currently has one of the lower levels of electric vehicle ownership in the UK[4]

---

[2] SMMT (2022). Available at: https://www.smmt.co.uk/vehicle-data/car-registrations/

[3] DfT (2022). Cars registered for the first time by propulsion and fuel type: Great Britain and United Kingdom (VEH0253). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1046011/veh0253.ods

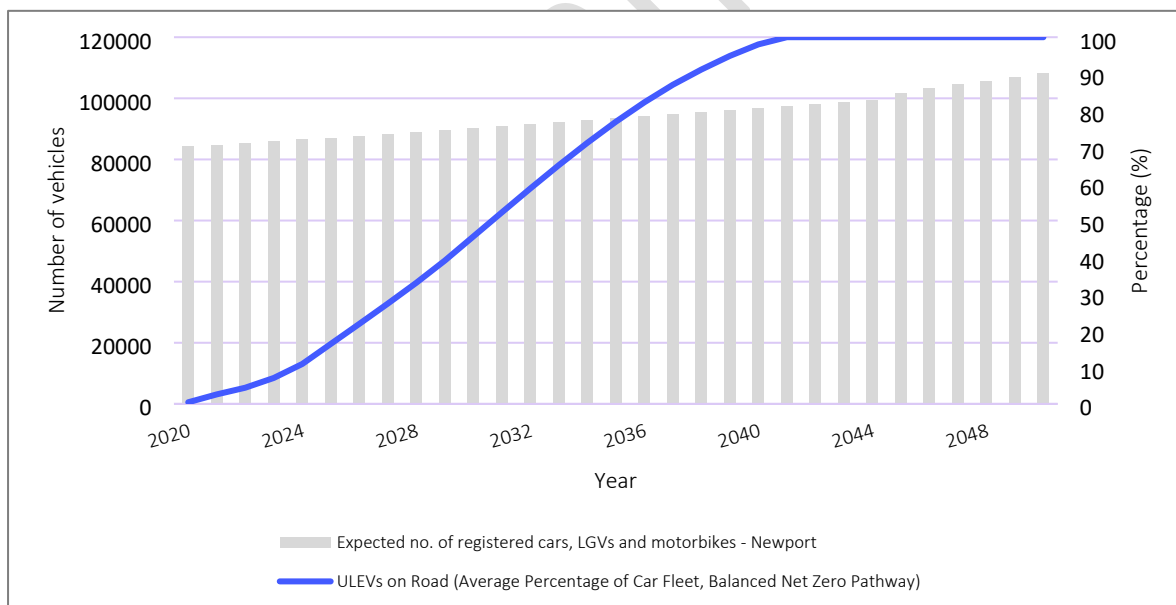[4] Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales

Analysis of the Department for Transport's quarterly vehicle statistics indicates the city of Newport is currently (as at 2021) ahead of the national and UK average for charging devices per number of ULEVs.

The table below shows the provision of infrastructure across South Wales and uses other local authorities and national levels as a benchmark.

Region	Population	No. of charging devices[5]	No. of Rapid Charging Devices	Devices per 10,000 of population
Cardiff City Council	362,400	61	21	1.68
Newport City Council	159,600	56	16	3.51
Torfaen Council	92,300	20	2	2.17
Wales	3,105,000	1,725	130	5.56
UK	67,026,292	40,150	7,647	5.99

1.1.5 Predicted Future Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastucture Requirements

The uptake of plug-in vehicles in Newport was forecasted between 2020 until 2050. The data suggests that there will be in the region of 90,000 electric vehicles in the city early in the 2040s when the percentage of EVs is predicted to be close to 100%.

The [Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales](#) predicts that Newport will require:

	Scenario	Date	Rapid	Fast	Slow	Total

---

[5] Department for Transport (2021) [Electric Vehicle Charging Statistics](#)

Fast Charging Dominant	**2025**	80	1740	8830	10650
	2030	145	3180	27470	30795
Rapid Charging Dominant	**2025**	135	1120	8830	10085
	2030	250	2060	27470	29780

This includes all home, business and public chargers.

The Newport Local Area Energy Plan sets out a series of targets for public chargers

Public Chargers	**Date**	**Rapid**	**Fast**	**Slow**	**Total**
Targets	**2025**	80	1040	n/a	1120
	2030	145	1980	n/a	2125

This data shows the urgency for developing the charging network across Newport.

1.2 Wales Context

1.2.1 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG Act) is comprehensive legislative approach to strengthening action on sustainable development in Wales, with a legal link to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Act sets out a well-being duty on the Council and other specified bodies to carry out sustainable development and improve the well-being of Wales in accordance with the sustainable development principles.

The Act puts in place seven well-being goals which encompass a vision to improve well-being, including striving to reduce the impacts of climate change for the future.

The sustainable development principle means that a body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

1.2.2 Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The Environment Act shows how the UN priorities can be implemented at a state and regional level including climate change targets, biodiversity duty and the sustainable management of natural resources. The Act provided the legal commitment that Wales reaches net Zero emissions by 2050.

In Wales, our nature, land, water, and air are our ultimate resource. However, demands on these natural resources are increasing and one of the greatest challenges we face is to find a way to secure healthy, resilient, and productive ecosystems for the future whilst still meeting the challenges of creating jobs, housing, and infrastructure. The Environment Act helps us to meet this challenge.

With the Transport Sector being one of the largest contributors to Greenhouse Gases, a move towards more sustainable modes of transport will help ensure Wales reaches these aspirations and targets of both the WFG Act and the Environment Act.

1.2.3 Llwybr Newydd: Wales Transport Strategy

Llwybr Newydd or New Path was published in 2021 and is the strategy for Wales that sets out a vision for how the transport system can help deliver in the priorities for Wales. The strategy emphasises the importance of local planning and how it can deliver a widespread electric vehicle charging network. Where new infrastructure is needed, the sustainable transport hierarchy will be used.

And to achieve Priority 3: *To encourage people to make the change to more sustainable transport.*

The strategy states:

- *We will develop a framework for fair and equitable road-user charging in Wales and explore other disincentives to car use, taking into account equality issues including the needs of people in rural areas, people who share protected characteristics and people on low incomes.*

In addition, as part of the *Roads, Streets and Parking Mini Plan* contained in the strategy there are a number of priorities that relate to charging infrastructure.

- *Deliver a strategy for fair road-user charging in Wales as part of a broader package of measures to improve travel choices.*
- *Upgrade, improve and future-proof our road network, addressing congestion pinch points and investing in schemes that support road safety, journey reliability, resilience, modal shift and electric bike, motorbike and vehicle charging.*
- *Deliver our Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy and encourage the use of motorbikes and powered light vehicles instead of cars where there are no other transport choices.*

and also a number of well-being ambitions:

- *Electric vehicle/bike charging facilities are readily available through Wales.*
- *Fair and equitable road charging has reduced emissions.*

1.2.4 Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales

The Welsh Government Electric Vehicle Strategy for Wales was published in March 2021. The strategy sets out a vision:

- *By 2025 all users of electric cars and vans in Wales are confident that they can have access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure when and where they need it.*

With six areas of focus:

- Home charging
- Workplace charging
- On-street charging
- Destination charging
- On-route charging
- Charging hubs

Key conclusions from the strategy are:

- The need for a substantial increase in the number of slow, fast and rapid/ultra-rapid chargers available in Wales. The total need for fast charging, alongside home charging will be a key area of focus to promote equality of access to charging.
- The need for better quality charging, to improve the user experience for electric cars and vans, including better accessibility and inclusivity
- Sustainable, integrated and cross-sectoral planning will facilitate the decarbonisation of energy and transport and create co-benefits. Welsh Government can create favourable conditions for economic and employment opportunities to be captured in Wales.
- The need for better networks will be kept under review by Welsh Government in the context of other measures that are needed to deliver net zero across Wales (for example better broadband connectivity and the electrification of home heating).

When developing the draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for the Newport area, we have considered in detail the context of both Llwybr Newydd and the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales.

1.3 Local Context

1.3.1 Corporate Plan 2022-27

The Newport City Council Corporate Plan which was agreed in November 2022 has four well-being objectives:

1) Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.
2) A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.
3) Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.
4) Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

The EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy for Newport will support all four of the well-being objectives of the Corporate Plan.

1.3.2 Climate Change Plan 2022-27

In November 2021 the Council proposed a political motion and declared an Ecological and Climate Emergency. As part of this declaration the council agreed to develop a clear Climate Change Organisational Plan.

The Newport City Council Organisational Climate Change Plan was agreed in March 2022 which is the council's plan to

- Reach net zero carbon as an organisation by 2030.
- Review the services we provide to ensure they support the city's journey to net zero and adaptation to climate change.

The plan has six themes including Theme 4: Transport and Mobility. This theme includes a charging point infrastructure priority to:

- Increase charging capacity across the city

And to achieve this we will:

i. Increase public charging units across the city considering strategic sites to fit with the wider network.
ii. Develop an on-street charging installation policy for Newport.
iii. Increase the number of residents without off street parking that are in a 5-minute walk of a charging point.
iv. Work in partnership with the region to develop a regional approach to EV charge point infrastructure.

1.3.3 Newport's Local Area Energy Plan

Newport's Local Area Energy Plan was agreed in June 2022 and presents our vision and route map to reach a net zero local energy system in Newport by 2050.

The route map contains seven priority intervention areas. Priority intervention area 2 is:

- Development of Public EV Charing Infrastructure

With an action to:

- Publish a council EV Strategy / Approach

1.3.4 Air Quality

The World Health Organisation (WHO) developed air quality standards for a range of pollutants to protect human health. Air quality standards have been written into UK and Welsh legislation, and makes the UK Government, the Welsh Government, and local authorities responsible for tackling air pollution. The responsibility of the local authority is to identify and monitor areas within its district that may exceed the air quality objectives. If an exceedance is found the area must be declared as an air quality management area (AQMA) and an action plan be developed to improve. Within the UK the main pollutants of concern covered under this legislation are nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulate material (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$). In Newport we currently have 11 AQMAs:

- Caerleon
- Malpas Road, south
- Chepstow Road / Clarence Place / Caerleon Road
- Cefn Road
- Caerphilly Road
- George Street

AQMAs along the M4:

- Royal Oak Hill
- Basseleg Road, Glasllwch
- St Julians
- Glasllwch Road, High Cross
- Malpas Road, Shaftesbury

Where a local authority has declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) it must produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) which must identify potential measures through the use of which can bring about compliance with air quality objectives in the shorted possible time. Welsh Government is piloting the approach of target setting with the NCC AQAP. EV charging infrastructure is embedded within the AQAP and is actively raised under the following pillars of the AQAP:

- Emissions from Transportation

- Emissions from new development

- Education and Awareness

1.3.5 Sustainable Travel Strategy

NCC has approved a Sustainable Travel Strategy (Air, Noise & Sustainability) in 2019 which includes within it specific sections relating to Hybrid/Electric vehicles and Taxis, and opportunities to encourage EV charging.

2 AIM

The Strategy sets out the delivery themes and actions, that we need to take as a Council over the next five years to:

> *To reduce road transport carbon emissions and pollution by facilitating the provision of a network of charge points for residents, businesses, and visitors of the area*

3 THEMES

To deliver on this strategy six delivery themes have been identified based on the Welsh Government Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales.

3.1 Theme 1: Home Charging

Home charging is the cheapest and most convenient form of charging, usually slow charging overnight for users with off-street parking. 6,555 domestic charging points in Wales received grants from the Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme (EVHS) as of October 2021, which equates to 486 chargers per 100,000 household which is one of the lower levels for the UK.

3.1.1 Outcome

All residential properties with off street parking to have access at home.

3.1.2 Actions

To achieve this outcome, we will:

- ❖ Signpost residents of existing domestic properties to appropriate grant funding and information for installation.

- ❖ Review supplementary planning guidance (SPG) (sustainable travel, air quality and parking SPG) to ensure that it meets current council aspirations for charging infrastructure for new residential developments so all new homes with an associated car parking space are ready for electric charging installation.

- ❖ Ensure the next Local Development Plan considers charging infrastructure for all new residential developments so all new homes with an associated car parking space are ready for electric charging installation.

3.2 Theme 2: On Street Charging

On street charging is typically provided via 'fast' dedicated kerbside charging points that avoid cables trailing across footways for users with no off-street parking such as terraced housing and visitors to a destination.

3.2.1 Outcome

All residential properties without off-street parking are within a 5-minute walk of a public charging point.

3.2.2 Actions

To achieve this outcome, we will:

- ❖ Undertake a feasibility study to identify suitable locations for on street chargers across Newport specifically for those residential properties without off street parking. (Already complete).

- ❖ Utilise the information gathered from the above feasibility study to roll out on-street charging hubs and infrastructure across Newport taking into consideration constraints such as:

  - Access to electrical connection,

  - Existing parking,

  - Space on the street,

  - Accessibility of the location,

  - Supportive road side safety assessment

- ❖ In line with the hierarchy of transport, ensure all installations of charge points do not have a detrimental effect on active travel routes or access to public transport.

- ❖ On an ongoing basis source funding from a range of sources to implement on-street charging infrastructure.

- ❖ Investigate the feasibility of partnering with a provider to roll out affordable on-street charging at the pace required.

- ❖ Investigate the feasibility of working with a partner to provide a city-wide Electric Vehicle Car Club.

- ❖ Develop a set of standards and guidelines for on-street charging infrastructure installation.

- ❖ Carry out a pilot of the Gul-e scheme developed by Oxford City Council (https://gul-e.co.uk/) which provides a durable gully/channel that is installed in the footway, to enable home EV charging for homes without driveways.

3.3 Theme 3: Workplace Charging

Workplace charging can be slow or fast and is provided in private workplace car parks for business fleet and employee vehicles. 732 workplace charging points in Wales received grants from the Workplace ChargePoint Scheme as of October 2021, which equates to 23 chargers per 100,000 household which is one of the lower levels for the UK.

3.3.1 Outcome

All workplaces have appropriate levels of charging infrastructure for fleet and staff needs.

3.3.2 Actions

To achieve this outcome, we will:

❖ Roll out charging at council workplaces (including schools) sites to support our fleet and also employee vehicles as the need increases.

❖ Where appropriate work with other public sector, third sector and private sector organisations to share charging infrastructure resources.

❖ Signpost and support businesses to source appropriate grant funding (such as the Workplace ChargePoint Scheme) and information for installation.

❖ Ensure the next Local Development Plan considers charging infrastructure for new business developments

3.4 Theme 4: Hub Charging

Hub-based charging is defined as centralised or out-of-town locations with a mix of charging types which could be used by taxis, buses, business fleet, park and ride, car rental companies, freight and logistics.

3.4.1 Outcome

Charging hubs are in appropriate locations where use will be maximised.

3.4.2 Actions

To achieve this outcome, we will:

❖ Work closely with Transport for Wales to install electric vehicle charging at locations that complement other modes of sustainable transport, including the use of public transport, walking, and cycling.

❖ Install charging hubs in council owned car parks.

❖ Increase taxi charging hubs as the number of EV taxi licences increases.

❖ Investigate the feasibility of including charging hubs in planning guidance for new residential developments for residents to share charging points as part of the development of the new Local Development Plan.

❖ Ensure the charging network makes full use of renewable energy generation where possible.

3.5 Theme 5: Destination Charging

Destination charging is defined as fast charging provided at destinations where the visitor may park for several hours such as the gym, the shops or leisure facilities. This would also include slow overnight hotel charging which is most cost effective.

3.5.1 Outcome

Charging points are located in appropriate locations where people visit.

3.5.2 Actions

To achieve this outcome, we will:

- ❖ Signpost and support businesses to source appropriate grant funding and information for installation.

- ❖ Ensure planning guidance for new business developments includes the requirements for destination charging infrastructure. Ensure the next Local Development Plan considers charging infrastructure for new business developments which would be suitable for the installation of destination charging infrastructure

3.6 Theme 6: On Route Charging

On route charging is defined as topping up midway through a journey.

3.6.1 Outcome

Charging will be available on main routes

3.6.2 Actions

To achieve this outcome, we will:

- ❖ Work closely with Welsh Government Strategic EV team to install rapid charging hubs on main routes.

4   HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

A progress report will be developed on an annual basis, describing progress against each of the actions in the strategy. It will also include the following trend data year on year to track progress:

- Total number of home charge points
- Total number of public charge points
- Total number of workplace charge points
- Percentage of residential properties without off-street parking that live within 5 minutes of the public charging point.
- Proportion of EV miles driven
- Road transport carbon emissions (CO_2) for Newport
- Air Quality - nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulate material (PM_{10} & $PM_{2.5}$)
- Air Quality Management Areas

5 NEXT STEPS

This consultation seeks your views on the draft Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Charging Strategy

The closing date for responses is 14th July.

Your responses will help inform the Strategy which will be published in 2023.

Once published this will shape Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure for the Newport area over the next five years.

5.1 Timescales

Nov 2022 – Apr 2023	Drafting Strategy
Early May 2023	Present to Cabinet member and Leader
2nd June 2023	Strategy presented to Scrutiny committee for feedback
19th Jun 2023	Public Consultation Period starts
14th Jul 2023	Public Consultation Period end
July 2023	Strategy redrafted in light of consultation
Mid Aug 2023	Final version agreed by Cabinet Member

6 GLOSSARY & DEFINITIONS

Climate Change

Climate Change includes global warming and the "side effects" of warming, e.g. melting glaciers, heavier rainstorms, more frequent drought.

Climate Emergency

The Climate Emergency is a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure is the equipment required to deliver energy to an Electric Vehicle, including all civil and electrical infrastructure or equipment located downstream of the Service Meter such as panel boards, switchboards, conductors, pathway, equipment foundations.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger types

Slow: A charger that's around 3kW will give a slow charge, averaging around 10-14 hours

Fast: 7kW – 22kW will give your EV a "fast" charge – usually in around 4-6 hours

Rapid: A 50kW – 120kW charger is classed as a rapid charger and will give you a full charge in about an hour.

Greenhouse gases (GHG)

Greenhouse gases are the thin layer of gases surrounding the Earth. These gases include both naturally occurring and human-derived greenhouse gas such as carbon dioxide, methane, water vapour and nitrous oxide.

Net zero

Nez zero is achieving a balance between the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced and the amount removed.

Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (tCO$_2$e)

Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent s a measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their global warming potential. For example, the global warming potential for methane over 100 years is 21. This means that one million metric tons of methane emissions is equivalent to 21 million metric tons of carbon dioxide.

Ultra-low emission vehicles

Ultra-low emission vehicles are vehicles that emit less than 75g of CO2 per km from the exhaust.

EV Charging Strategy Consultation Questions

1. Do you currently own an electric car?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Not yet, but planning to in next 12 months
2. [If answered no to question 1] What are the main factor(s) preventing you from owning an electric car. Please select up to 3
   a. Up-front cost of car
   b. Cost to charge
   c. Lack of ability to charge at home
   d. Lack of ability to charge at work
   e. Lack of ability to charge at destinations
   f. Lack of ability to charge on journeys
   g. Concerns over range
3. [If answered yes or not yet to question 1] Do you currently have access to charging at your home address?
   a. Yes, off-street
   b. Yes, on-street
   c. No
   d. Not yet, but planning to get a charger installed
4. Would you be interested in taking part in a trial for a Gul-E system that would allow you to safely run a charging cable from your house to the street?
   a. Yes
   b. No
5. Do you agree that providing better coverage for EV chargers should be a priority for the council?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Unsure
   d. Option to provide supporting text
6. Do you agree with the 6 themes in this strategy?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Option to provide supporting text
7. Do you agree with the 5-minute walk target for Theme 2?
   a. Yes
   b. No – too far
   c. No – other reason, please specify
8. A Fast charger delivers a full charge in approximately 3-6 hours. A Rapid charger can charge up to 80% in approximately an hour but costs much more to install than a Fast charger. Do you think that Newport City Council should be prioritising installing Fast chargers or Rapid chargers?
   a. Fast chargers
   b. Rapid chargers
   c. Equivalent numbers of each
9. If an electric car club existed in Newport, where you could rent electric cars by the hour, would you use it?

      a. Yes

      b. No

      c. Unsure

      d. Option to provide supporting text

10. Do you have any suggestions for locations for chargers – either on street or otherwise

      a. Text box

11. Do you agree with the Strategy?

      a. Yes

      b. No

      c. Unsure

      d. Option to provide supporting text

Scrutiny Report

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Part 1

Date: May 2023

Subject   Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report

Author   Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Finn Madell	**Head of Corporate Safeguarding**
Mary Ryan	**Head of Adult Services**
Natalie Poyner	**Head of Children's Services**
Sally Ann Jenkins	**Strategic Director for Social Services**
Cllr Stephen Marshall	**Cabinet Member for Social Services (Job Share)**
Cllr Jason Hughes	**Cabinet Member for Social Services (Job Share)**

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1   Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to

1. Consider the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Executive Summary report, to scrutinise and review the progress of the key priority work plans for both corporate safeguarding arrangements and the safeguarding self- assessment findings for the whole Council.

2. Determine if it wishes to make any comment / recommendations to Cabinet regarding the report and the how the Council is managing corporate safeguarding.

2   Context

Background

2.1   This is the sixth review of the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report.

2.2   In order for the authority to comply with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, change to culture and practice has been required. This has seen a move toward social care that 'promotes the wellbeing of people and carers who need care and/or support'.

2.3   Respecting the wishes of the committee to provide only streamlined and targeted information within the report (February 2021), revisions to the format and data presented have been made to this report. Therefore, the changes are as follows;

- Safeguarding team specific plans are no longer reported, only where key issues are identified will these be shared with members for their scrutiny.

- The following report structure will be presented:
    o Scrutiny Recommendations (from previous reporting year)
    o Safeguarding Training Data and outcomes
    o Developments this year, including a review of the Corporate Safeguarding Work Plan
    o Key data for Safeguarding
    o Annual Review of Newport City Council Corporate Safeguarding Self -Assessment Audit (New 2021)
    o Future Work, Areas of stress/ risk, and Recommendations
    o Corporate Safeguarding Work Plan (Current/ Future Year)
    o Resource Implications

2.5   Scrutiny have previously been advised of the new and increased number of Quality Standards (Key Performance Indicators) associated with 'Safeguarding' required to be reported to Welsh Government from April 2021 (from 3 to 26). As scrutiny of that data remains the responsibility of Scrutiny for the Annual Director's Report for Social Services, there is no expectation on members of this group to formally comment on the data however, where possible, a selection of this data has been shared for context purposes when considering how effective safeguarding performance is being achieved within Council services.

2.6   As Scrutiny is not a decision-making forum, the Scrutiny Committee's review and subsequent comments / recommendations on this matter will be reported to the Cabinet for consideration and action.

2.7   As Elected Members, and Scrutiny Members, the Committee has an important role in considering the arrangements that the Council has in place for Safeguarding, Corporately and for those in direct contact with vulnerable groups.

Previous Consideration of Corporate Safeguarding

2.6   At the last Scrutiny Committee review in September 2022 and it went to the November 2022 Cabinet. Comments as recorded in the minutes are:

- The Committee welcomed the report and thanked Officers for their hard work. Members wanted it recognised that they appreciate that this specific area of work is extremely difficult.

- The Committee were pleased to note that the Service Area listened to the comments and recommendations that were made in last year's meeting and made the appropriate amendments.

- The Committee felt that more specific data was needed throughout the report to contextualise information given, such as percentages so Members can have a clearer picture of comparison. Members also queried if it could be possible to find out in the percentages of how many children in the figures are the same child being safeguarded, and how many are single incident children.

- The Committee asked that the area of focus regarding whether "the structure for the Newport Safeguarding Unit Structure and Individual Teams Key Priority Plans is appropriate to meet the Council's responsibilities for safeguarding matters" be removed as it was outside of the Committee's expertise.

- The Committee asked for an update regarding training progress be given to committee including more specific data to contextualise any information given, such as percentages to how many staff members have completed the training. Members also queried if it would be possible to have update on figures such as training and referrals received, on a half yearly basis.

3   Information Submitted to the Committee

3.1   Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report. It includes information on:

- Legislation
- Previous Scrutiny Recommendations
- Safeguarding Training Data and Outcomes
- Developments this year
- The Reviewed Annual Corporate Safeguarding Workplan 2020-21
- The Annual Review of Newport City Council Corporate Safeguarding Self-Assessment Audit
- Future work, areas of stress/risk, and recommendations
- Corporate Safeguarding Workplan 2022-23
- A glossary of terms

4.   Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Establish whether associated key priorities and themes are appropriately addressed within the Action Plan (2022/2023) and planned actions are geared to meet the objectives within the timescale concerned.

- Determine whether there are any perceived areas of practice where objectives are not effectively addressed or met (both Corporate or within specific work plans of the Safeguarding Board)

- Consider whether an adequate monitoring and performance management framework and measures are in place to ensure an appropriate level of management on an ongoing basis and to consider possible arrangements for the Committee to implement.

- Work towards a parity of approach with corporate safeguarding colleagues across the region to implement joint Wales Audit Office recommendations and Welsh Government Corporate Safeguarding guidance to enable bench marking.

- Consider the level of planning and future provision of suitable training through a range of opportunities for Members in their roles as Councillors and Members of Scrutiny Committees.

4.2   **Suggested Lines of Enquiry**

- What are the main challenges that we face as an authority in Safeguarding and what are we doing to combat them?
- Has training data improved since the previous reporting cycle?
- What work has been completed to encourage training to be completed?

4.3   **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
Long-term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the5ability to also meet long-term needs.	Can the Officers provide actions to any of the Amber and Red
	Are there any long term trends developing that could affect how this plan is implemented to how the actions are prioritised?
Prevention Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.	How are you ensuring that the needs of the service users monitored and are taken into account when developing the long term strategy?
Integration Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.	How does the Council's implementation of the plan impact upon the services of other public bodies and their objectives?

Collaboration Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).	How are you using the knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Council's work?
Involvement The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.	How as a Council are we ensuring we are consistently seeking the views of those who are impacted through the implementation of the plan?
	While developing a long term strategy, how are you ensuring the diverse communities are involved in your decision making?

Section B – Supporting Information

5   Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
Aims:	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

7.   Background Papers

Include all additional documents that are referenced in the report, and those that you have used as background reading. Hyperlink to online versions of them if available.

- The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act (Wales)
- Corporate Plan 2022-27
- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
- Children (Wales) Act 2020
- Previous Consideration of the Annual Safeguarding Report by Scrutiny
- Previous Consideration of the Annual Safeguarding Report by Cabinet

Report Completed: May 2023

This page is intentionally left blank

Ank Briefing Report

Scrutiny

Part 1

Date:

Subject	**Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report**
Purpose	For Scrutiny and Cabinet Members to scrutinise, critique and comment on the Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report
Proposal	To, present an updated corporate safeguarding report, which monitors, scrutinises and objectively plans on the theme of "*safeguarding*" being fundamentally embedded within all aspects of council services, functions and duties. To provide Scrutiny with essential and key information to allow effective scrutiny of the Councils' safeguarding practice. To update Cabinet members on the work undertaken to improve arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children and adults who require specific Council services and to ensure that these arrangements are effective. To scrutinise and review the progress of "safeguarding" being embedded within Council services, and to scrutinise and review the effectiveness of the proposed work plan for corporate safeguarding arrangements.
Author	Finn Madell
Ward	City wide
Summary	This is the sixth review of the annual corporate safeguarding report. Further revisions to the format and data presented within this annual report have been made and it is anticipated that due to further work with partner agencies such as the Gwent Safeguarding Board and advice from Welsh Government, a final version of the report model presented for Scrutiny will be agreed within the next two years.

This portfolio now sits with Finn Madell who came into post in January 2022. Respecting the wishes of the committee to provide only streamlined and targeted information within the report (February 2021), revisions to the format and data presented have been made to this report. Therefore the changes are as follows;

➤ Safeguarding team specific plans are no longer reported, only where key issues are identified will these be shared with members for their scrutiny.
➤ The following report structure will be presented:

- Scrutiny Recommendations (from previous reporting year)
- Safeguarding Training Data and outcomes
- Developments this year, including a review of the Corporate Safeguarding Work Plan
- Key data for Safeguarding
- Annual Review of Newport City Council Corporate Safeguarding Self -Assessment Audit (New 2021)
- Future Work, Areas of stress/ risk, and Recommendations
- Corporate Safeguarding Work Plan (Current/ Future Year)
- Resource Implications

➤ Scrutiny have previously been advised of the new and increased number of Quality Standards (Key Performance Indicators) associated with 'Safeguarding' required to be reported to Welsh Government from April 2021 (from 3 to 26). As scrutiny of that data remains the responsibility of Scrutiny for the Annual Director's Report for Social Services, there is no expectation on members of this group to formally comment on the data however, where possible, a selection of this data has been shared for context purposes when considering how effective safeguarding performance is being achieved within Council services.

Action by   Head of Corporate Safeguarding

Timetable   Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Service Managers
- Heads of Service

Table of contents

1.

1.1 Legislation

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 offers a clear expectation that the child/young person/adult must be at the centre of any safeguarding response and remain as much in control of decision making as possible. The basic right of a child/young person/adult to be heard throughout the safeguarding process is a critical element in the drive to ensure more personalised support that can only be offered by staff who fully recognise their roles and responsibilities concerning safeguarding.

One of the most significant changes this year from a safeguarding perspective is the definition of an "adult at risk" and the legal duty to report where there are concerns identified for either a child or adult. This legal duty to report is of significance and clearly illustrates how safeguarding is everybody's business, hence the requirement for a corporate safeguarding report of this nature to assure members of the pro-active arrangements which the local authority are under taking in safeguarding provisions and service planning. The data within the report continues to evidence a rise in referrals to all front door pathways. The rise in part relates to better communication with and reporting from health partners, provider agencies and our own social work teams, therefore, the rise in referrals is suggestive of a more robust system which protects our citizens and again is a positive improvement in respect of safeguarding practices within Newport. However, the rise also reflects our improved knowledge and understanding of trauma and safeguarding, and increased complexity particularly for older children.

Newport City Council remains an active member of the "Gwent Safeguarding Board", which is an amalgamation of the two former age specific regional boards. Newport continues to host the regional Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) team and work closely with the regional Partnership Board (VAWDASVB).

Newport officers are involved at all levels of the work of the boards. Heads of Children and Adult services are members at both Boards, the Head of Corporate Safeguarding for Newport is deputy chair of the Business Planning meeting for both boards and chairs the local safeguarding network meetings in Newport. The local safeguarding practitioner network meet in Newport bimonthly and is attended by all partner agencies working across Newport for Adults, Children, and specialist services. The local safeguarding network arranges 2 practitioner events per year, which is open to all practitioners in Newport. The events update practitioners on all local and regional developments such as learning/messages from Child/Adult practice reviews, new services and local developments, as well as introducing updated policies and/or procedures. The National Independent Safeguarding Board works alongside the regional boards to secure improvements in safeguarding policy and practice throughout Wales. All regional boards have duties and responsibilities to submit information to the National Independent Safeguarding Board.

Members were advised in the previous report of the Children Wales Act (2020). The Act is to help protect children's rights by prohibiting the physical punishment of children by parents and those acting in loco parentis within Wales, including visitors to Wales. In doing so, children in Wales now have the same legal protection from physical punishment as adults. In practice this might typically involve a smack given as a telling-off to a child (whether on the child's bottom, legs or other part of the body). The definition is not limited to smacking. Shaking or poking a child in the chest or pulling their hair for example is also an offence. The change brought clear duties on local authorities to ensure that not only practice is in place to manage and support citizens in relation to these changes but also in relation to our recording/ reporting duties being in place. The NCC performance team ensured that the new reporting requirements are built into the WCCIS system to capture the required data in relation to this required data, e.g:

CH/ 005a Of those contacts received during the year: The number where physical punishment by a parent or care was a factor
CH/ 005b The number where physical punishment by a parent or carer was the only factor

We are undertaking a Gwent wide analysis of the impact of this legislation now that it has been in force for a year. Early indications show that this legislation has not led to an increase in criminal prosecutions or safeguarding interventions for parents but more an education and signposting intervention where this is deemed to be safe and appropriate. More data and analysis will be available over the coming year.

1.2 Scrutiny Recommendations (2021/2022)

The Committee felt that more specific data was needed throughout the report to contextualise information given, such as percentages so Members can have a clearer picture of comparison. Members also queried if it could be possible to find out in the percentages of how many children in the figures are the same child being safeguarded, and how many are single incident children.
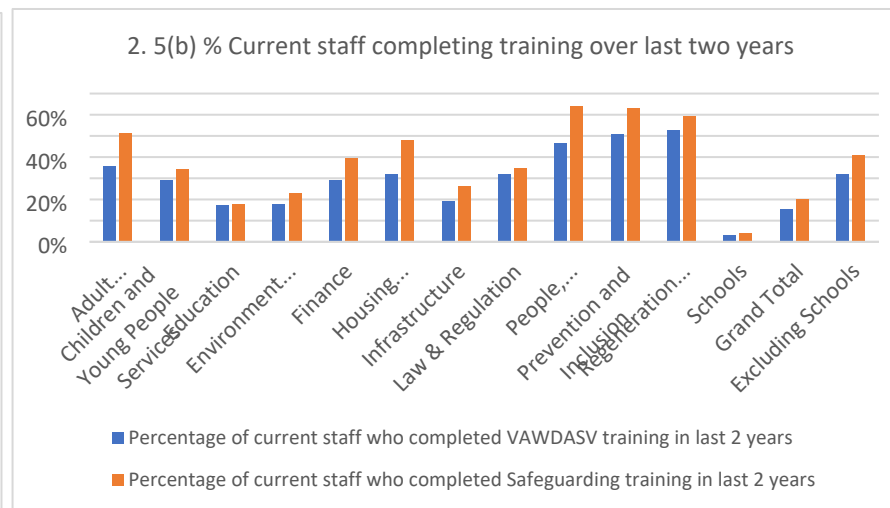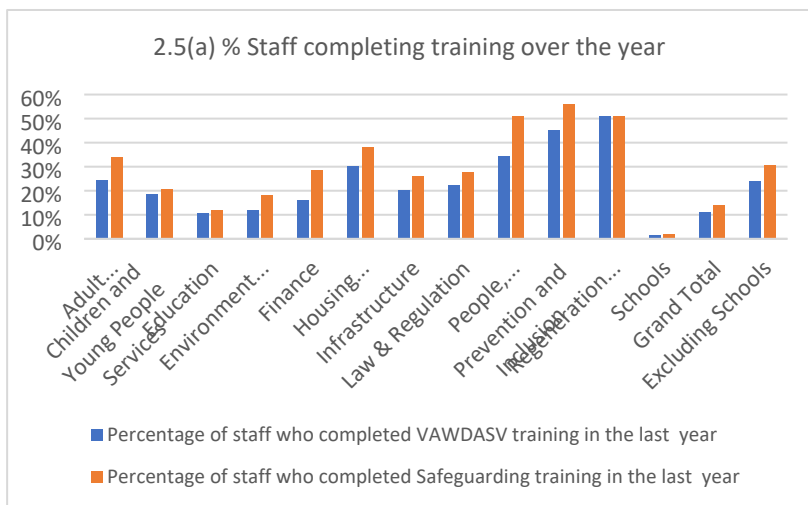
The Committee asked that the area of focus regarding whether "the structure for the Newport Safeguarding Unit Structure and Individual Teams Key Priority Plans is appropriate to meet the Council's responsibilities for safeguarding matters" be removed as it was outside of the Committee's expertise.

The Committee asked for an update regarding training progress be given to committee including more specific data to contextualise any information given, such as percentages to how many staff members have completed the training. Members also queried if it would be possible to have update on figures such as training and referrals received, on a half yearly basis

2. Safeguarding Training Data and Outcomes

2.1 Compliance rates with Mandatory Safeguarding Training for ALL employees, as well as elected members and volunteers, remains low this year. There are 3 specific mandatory courses with associated regulatory requirements for council employees to complete, these are the General Data Protection Regulations Training (GDPR); Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and "Safeguarding Involves Us All- Awareness Training".

2.2 It is important to continue to stress that there are ongoing mitigating factors for training figures being low in this period which must be taken into account. These factors have also been given due regard by regulatory bodies as they have not issued fines/ regulatory actions during this period, however, this continued acceptance will rightly not be continually extended. The ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on many of the workforce being affected in some way (directly with caring responsibilities; in shielding; family losses; illness and so on) resulting in their work patterns changing and reducing the number of staff physically working over the period. The pandemic has prevented the opportunity to provide face to face learning resulting with a number of service areas being unable to access the mandatory training as they have limited/ no e-learning opportunity. It is to be noted that the circumstances have prompted positive consideration to training delivery and how these can be more accessible and flexible. There has been a gradual return to face-to-face training as the workforce have been able to safely return to the workplace. There are continued developments in the training calendar and roll out as we begin to implement the National Safeguarding Training, Learning and Development Framework which was launched in National Safeguarding week in November 2022.

2.3 The "Safeguarding Involves Us All- Awareness Training" e-learning module was launched in May 2020. Face to face sessions have recommenced following the pandemic. National Safeguarding weeks in November 2021 and 2022 were used to promote the mandatory requirement by a campaign utilising staff communications such as newsletters, bulletins and announcements. The Safeguarding Champions have continued to provide targeted communications to their service area, including informing team managers of those who cannot access staff intranet facilities e.g. some school staff. We have lost a key member of staff this year, this has led to a reconfiguration of the Safeguarding team and some new responsibilities for staff.

2.4 It is respectfully acknowledged that Scrutiny Committee members requested half yearly updates in the training figures and that these were requested in percentage format. The reporting cycle for this report was brought forward at the request of the Strategic Director to better align with the Director's Report. This report therefore follows some 7 months from the last meeting with the Scrutiny Committee and the data is updated within.

2.5

2.5(a) % Staff completing training over the year

2. 5(b) % Current staff completing training over last two years

The data table at 2.5(a) shows the completion of the two of the mandatory courses over the year for e-learning as a % for the service area workforce. However, these figures do not reflect those who have had the training previously and therefore there would be no expectation that they would complete the training. To reflect this 2.5(b) gives the percentage of staff in post 31/3/23 who have had the training over the last two years. This period was chosen as after two years there is an expectation that the training will be refreshed. It should be born in mind that of the percentage not completing the training in the last two years a proportion will have done the training over two years ago but are in need of the training being refreshed. Figures in 2.5(a) and (b) are not exactly analogous as 2.5 a includes all staff trained in year, including leavers, while 2.5(b) contains only leavers. Following the review of this annual data capture, an action is to evaluate how to target those services areas with lowest completion rates, with quarterly reviews while continuing to seek the ambitious 90% completion rate across all services with campaigns.

```
+---------------------------------------------------+
|   2022/2023 E-Learning Information Security        |
|          Training (Via Teams) by staff number     |
|                                                   |
|   Adult & Community Services  28%                 |
|   Children and Young People Services 21%          |
|   Education      12%                              |
|   Environment and Public Protection    14%        |
|   Finance        22%                              |
|   Housing and Communities      33%                |
|   Infrastructure  28%                             |
|   Law & Regulation       22%                      |
|   People, Policy and Transformation    39%        |
|   Prevention and Inclusion       53%              |
|   Regeneration and Economic Development   44%     |
|   Schools        1%                               |
|   Grand Total    12%                              |
|   Excluding Schools      27%                      |
+---------------------------------------------------+
```

The Information Management Training benefited from the positive impact the launch made in 2020/21, however figures for the last year are broadly similar to VAWDASV and Safeguarding matters. The team deliver the training via several methods, have increased their face to face and teams training programme and participant numbers. This provides flexibility and availability for staff to complete their training. Information Management also recommends as part of policy that if a data breach is made, the staff members involved attend a Teams or face to face session within the next quarter, as part of constructive action. These steps initially increased take up and this learning may be helpful in promoting take up of all e-learning programs.

Overall compliance for the entire workforce for both courses is at 41% for Safeguarding training and 32% for VAWDASV excluding schools. This evidence from previous years shows that the campaign during National Safeguarding week, prompting VAWDASV and bulletin to Safeguarding Champions had impact. The evidence is that take up from schools is significantly less. Therefore the emphasis needs to be on utilising these champaigns, as well as concentrating on areas where take up is low, particularly schools, to look at those who had completed the training more than two years ago and encouraging staff members to refresh.

From the Safeguarding Champion's work, the Safeguarding team are aware of which service areas require in-person training and these sessions will be launched as part of the ongoing schedule. In lieu of the training, those team managers have been asked to remind their remote workers of their corporate responsibilities for safeguarding, where the safeguarding polices can be accessed and the name of their Safeguarding Champion if they have any questions. City Services have highlighted to the Safeguarding team that they require in person sessions to reach all remote workers and staff with limited access to IT equipment during their working day, this is an area addressed through the self-assessment audit feedback and work plan (2021/2022). Refresher training for the Safeguarding Champions was held over two virtual sessions in National Safeguarding Week in November 2022 and were very well attended. Identified Safeguarding Champions from each Directorate meet biannually and the next meeting is on the 18th May 2023.

2. 6 The VAWDASV team have stated that their specialist additional training has had a low update across 2022/23 period however there was attendance by Newport employees to all courses offered, with 26 people completing the Ask and Act Group 2 sessions.

> **Specialist Syllabus Training**
> Understanding Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control – 3
> Risk and MARAC – 7
> Domestic abuse and the Affect on Children and Young People – 8
> Understanding Sexual Violence – 6
> Understanding Perpetrators – 5
> Understanding HBA, FM and FGM – 4
> Understanding and Working With Male Victims – 2
> Vicarious Trauma and Wellbeing – 4
> Perpetrators in the Workplace – 1
> Trauma bonding – 1
> Sexuality and Gender Diversity Awareness – 1
> Neurodiversity and Trauma – 2

National Training Framework

Ask and Act Group 2 – 26

Ask and Act Group 3 – 3

Newport City Council NTF Response 5930

NTF Group		Year Total	Year Staff %	Live / Roll out Total	Total Staff %	Comments / Notes
eLearning	Group 1	824	13.9%	2702	45.6%	This number is the total number of current staff in NCC with Group 1 training. This is what WG have as a 100% Staff requirement under the NTF Statutory Guidance.
Ask and Act Awareness	Group 2	78	1.3%	510	8.6%	This training is recommended for anyone who has a public facing role. I would like to argue that as employees that interact with one another, this number should reflect also interactions with the public within the work environment moving forward. The rolling total here is a total of staff trained from September 2016 - April 2023.
Ask and Act Champions	Group 3	2	0.0%	81	1.4%	Much as the above needs to be noted. With the exception that the NTF guidance states that any Group 3 staff should be 10% of the number of Group 2 trained staff to function as a support service. That needs to be considered moving forward also. The rolling total here is a total of staff trained from September 2016 - April 2023.
Senior/Strategic Leaders	Group 6	30	0.5%	70	1.2%	This is solely aimed at the those in senior and strategic leadership positions. These numbers represent the number of leaders who have attending organised sessions by the Gwent VAWDASV Team. These is additional resources for this Group via online YouTube videos, but these cannot be tracked.

2.6 This continued trend in the low uptake in mandatory training across the workforce requires collective oversight by the council. Regulatory bodies have accepted mitigating factors to date and there have been improvements seen across the service areas for some courses, however, a step change is required across the Council to ensure that "Mandatory Safeguarding Training" is completed for all new starters and current employees which is formally tracked and appropriate review/ action taken when not complied with. Colleagues from within People and Business Change are able to reassure that the 'on boarding' process of completing all mandatory training for every new starter, including volunteers is now in place. A commitment is now in place across the Council to ensure the necessary step change is realised over the coming six months.

2.7 As part of the training schedule under construction for a September 2022 launch, a review of the Safeguarding Involves Us All e-learning module has been completed. This had included a revised version to prevent duplication with the Welsh Government module within the All Wales Basic Safeguarding Training pack, which is a single consistent safeguarding training module launched for public and voluntary sector staff across Wales in November 2022. Newport City Council's module will continue to include the specific policies and supporting documents to ensure employees are not only aware of their duty to be vigilant for the signs of abuse/ham but their corporate responsibilities including duty to report and the safeguarding expectations upon them when working for the council.

2.8 The Council now has mandatory 'safeguarding involves us all' provision. Managers of individual employees are responsible for ensuring staff undertake all mandatory training. The HR team will regularly provide managers with reports on those needing to undertake any mandatory training. These reports are to be shared with the Head of Corporate Safeguarding to further monitor compliance and look at any themes arising from non-compliance across the Local Authority.

3   Developments this year

3.1 Volunteers/ Chaperones Register for Newport City Council

A piece of work has been undertaken to create a central register of volunteers in our HR people management/payroll system – itrent. Managers across the Council were contacted to provide details of their current volunteers, where upon receipt of these details they were added to the central register. Our volunteer onboarding process has now been centralised and therefore once volunteers are engaged by a manager, they must complete an online form which adds their details to the central register and also ensures that they complete the mandatory training courses in Safeguarding, GDPR and VAWASV. For those volunteers requiring

DBS checks, these will also be identified via the onboarding process. Finally, our Volunteer policy has also been reviewed in-line with these new processes and is now live on our intranet.

In summary we have done the following:
- Created a central volunteer register in iTrent where all volunteer information will be stored
- Collated current volunteer details and added them to register
- Created an onboarding process for volunteers to complete their details online via our NCC jobs page once there placement has been agreed with a relevant manager
- Reviewed and published our Volunteers policy to reflect these changes

3.2 Newport Safeguarding Hub update

The Newport Safeguarding Hub is the authority's 'front door' process with the co-location of Police and Social Services personnel enabling sharing of immediate information and improved and timelier decision making for safeguarding children and adults. It remains clear that the safeguarding Hub, would be further enhanced with an improved interface between Health and Education representatives which goes beyond single points of contact (SPOC). There has been a particular challenge in resourcing a greater presence. Wider partnership co-location in the hub such as the Early Intervention Team responding to PPN's (police notifications) and joint agency decision making remains effective.

The Newport Safeguarding hub model and its successes has resulted in the model being adopted regionally. There are now 2 Safeguarding Hubs in Gwent split East and West, with the East covering Newport and Monmouthshire while the West covers Caerphilly, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent. Although the two areas have slight differences in terms of structure, the vision of the Safeguarding Hub is the same, and that is to have Police and Children's Services co-located at the Front door to allow for timely decision making, improved quality of referrals and improved early intervention.

The "adult at risk" safeguarding pathway process has been under review and will shortly launch as an 'Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA)' front door. The single pathway for all adults at risk (duty to enquire referrals) will to be managed through one point of access and determine the initial action requires further work and remains an outstanding area of stress/ risk. This means the reliability of data will come from one referral point. Having one streamlined process would alleviate any discrepancies. This is work in progress and an updated service proposal will be available in imminently.

The quality measures (performance indicators) for the Newport Safeguarding Hub are now clearly the reporting responsibility of the Annual Director's Report for Social Services. However, as discussed there are safeguarding performance measures captured at The Safeguarding Hub which will be presented for Member's awareness to assure them of the authority's performance in terms of statutory responsibilities; Children's safeguarding processes (contacts/strategy discussions/ initial conferences); Adults at Risk (duty to enquire); which will be presented here. Members are also directed to Section 5 for additional Key Data for Safeguarding

There was a significant downturn in referrals (Children's Services) in April 2020 due to the initial pandemic lockdown, this would be expected. However, since then the number of referrals that have progressed through the Hub has significantly grown.

Safeguard hub referrals

Monthly referrals 2 year tracking

Referral source 2022/23
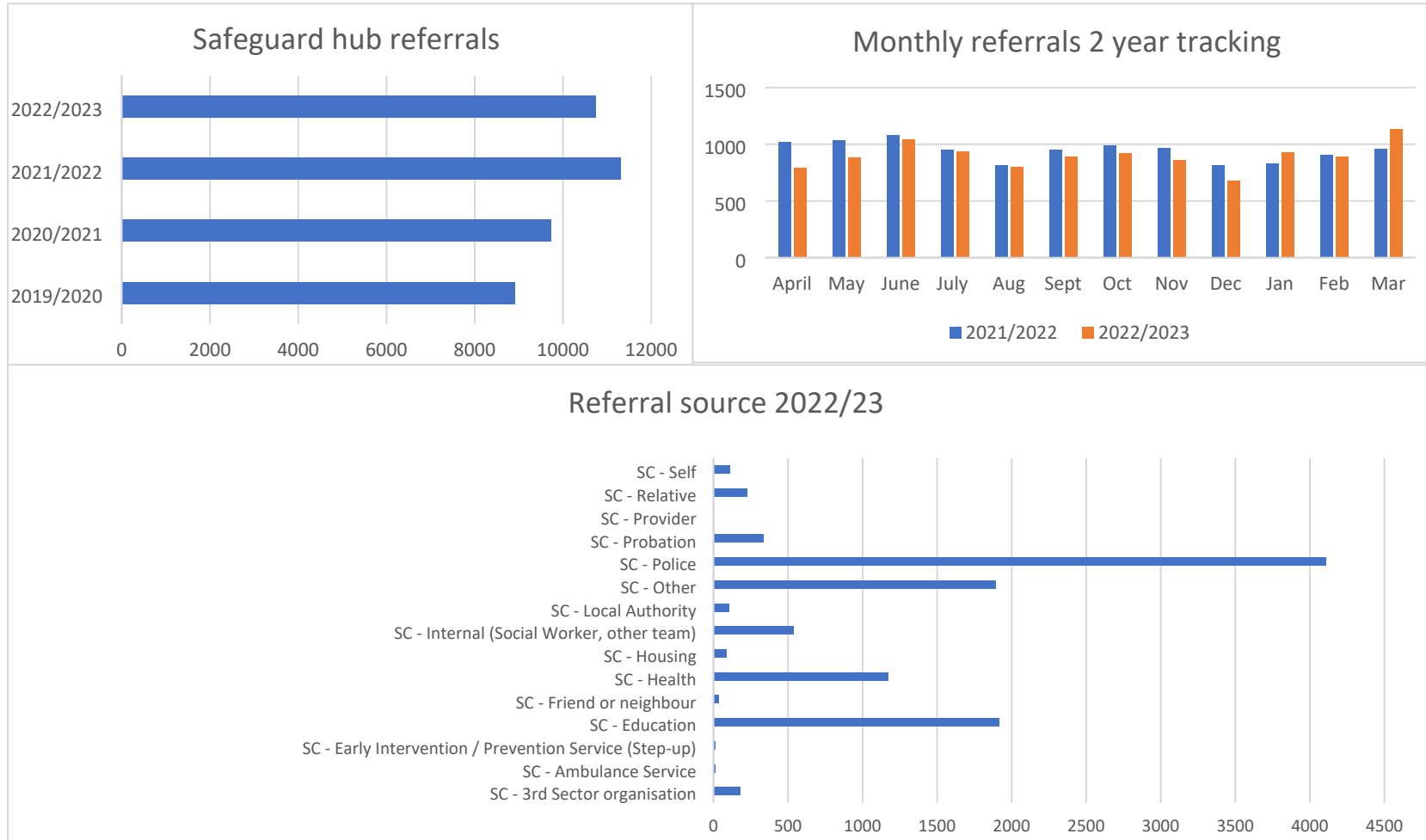
Referrals to the Safeguarding Hub (Children's Services) have overall increased by 13.9% compared to 2020/21. Police referrals are the most frequent referral source. The current resource provision of early intervention support with a step up- step down model via the prevention service and children's duty team is the correct practice model in place to address the needs of families in acute stress, responding to need and escalating only those families where thresholds are appropriate. The data suggests that there are effective controls within the safeguarding HUB, that there

is compliancy and effective safeguarding arrangements in terms of children's decision making and the statutory responsibilities for timely decision making.

The total number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received in 2021/22 was 997. This fell slightly to 957 in 2022/23. It is to be noted that 753 Adults were the "victims" reported via the 957 DTR's, hence some Adults reported more than once. Health professionals and care providers accounted for 54% of the referrals, evidencing strong multiagency working.

Adult Safeguarding Referrals Received

Year	Referrals
2018/19	~930
2019/20	~905
2020/21	~875
2021/22	~998
2021/23	~957
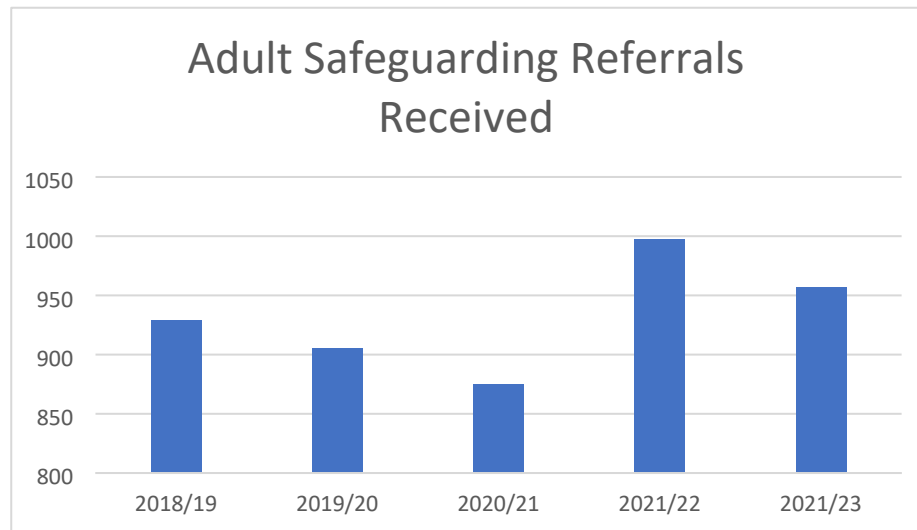
Total Adult Duty to Reports received	957
Total No. of Adults at risk	769
From which Adult suspected of being at risk (of the 997 DTR's 783 required enquires to be made)	725
Breakdown of non-criminal investigations	152
Breakdown of criminal investigations	91
Breakdown of ABUHB Adult Safeguarding cases **DTR cases owned by Health DLM	63

3.3 National Referral Mechanism pilot for young people.

Newport are piloting devolved decision making around the NRM referral process for children on behalf of The Home Office. Newport are leading on this for the Gwent region. This enables us to dovetail cases of modern slavery/trafficking/exploitation with safeguarding of children and young people at a local level. This is one of twenty UK pilots that will run until March 2024. It is highly likely that this devolved decision making will be a duty for all Local Authorities in the future as local responses to presenting local issues better safeguard children and young people. The national figure for referral breakdown is 78% UK nationals 22% Non UK nationals. Referrals are mostly young males and the primary reason for referral is criminal exploitation (2nd May 2022)

4 Reviewed Annual Corporate Safeguarding Work Plan 2020/2021

What outcomes do we want to achieve? (objectives to achieve)	How will we make this happen?	When will we achieve this?	How will we know it's making a difference? (performance measures)	RAG status	Reviewed Status
Mandatory safeguarding training compliance to be corporately addressed by People and Business	People and Business Change to ensure that Mandatory Safeguarding Training is	Proposed for PBC to progress as a	Compliancy rates for mandatory safeguarding training will improve across all service areas	RED	AMBER People and Business Change had Mandatory Safeguarding

Change urgently via new ways of working for both new starters to the authority (via on-boarding process) and for current employees (via I-Trent tracking and employee check ins and if necessary, capability procedures for non completion) in order to avoid fines/ regulatory action for continued non-compliance.	addressed as part of their priority planning for 2021/2022. New starters - via on-boarding process: Project currently being reviewed by Jane Westwood (PBC April 2021) Current Employees- via I-trent/ employee check-ins. Proposed by Rachael Davies (PBC April 2021)	matter of urgency	and the council will not receive fines or regulatory action. The council will be able to easily track compliance with mandatory training and address with service areas where there are issues with low up take and identify if barriers exist and address these swiftly. Completion of mandatory safeguarding training for all employees will result in a work force that is aware of its duties and responsibilities.		Training as part of their priority planning for 2021/2022. PBC are finalising the mandatory training booklet including safeguarding (to replace the employee version via NHS portal due to challenges of access/IT skills). The onboarding process is in place where the mandatory training is to be completed. Further structures need to be in place to review impact of onboarding process and regular re-training schedule monitoring. Work within I-Trent ongoing.
2. Re- Launch e-learning basic safeguarding training for ALL employees and members- ensure compliancy across all service areas within the first year for course completion is as close to target 90%	- E-learning side of module successfully launched; implementation of face to face (F2F) facilitation to be established as soon as pandemic relaxation will allow action	- F2F training date tbd in relation to endemic situation - On boarding process tbc by PBC by July 2021	All new employees will have completed basic safeguarding awareness training and know their council duties and responsibilities prior to commencing their position. Target completion rate of existing employees and members will be met and be up to date with basic safeguarding awareness and their council duties and responsibilities. This can be scrutinised and tracked through the data within	AMBER for Face to Face learning and on-boarding process for new starters	AMBER Face to face learning schedule to launch September 2022. Launch complete but staff cuts have left this less resourced. Onboarding process for new starters in place as for July 2022.

			the annual figures within Corporate SG report and where non-compliance is identified the service area can be challenged.		Overall completion rate since launch is 46%. Revisions of the package required to reflect All Wales Basic Safeguarding Training pack from Welsh Government
3. Develop a corporate register of volunteers/ chaperones/ mentors (paid/ unpaid) for all Council Service areas	Creation of a register where Volunteers, etc. may be used within service areas and what training/ checks would be required for their role- this requires to be linked to the Volunteers Policy and then publicised; cascaded to staff through varying forums. (to be completed in collaboration with POD & training).	- PBC to collate the details of the current list of volunteers/ chaperones across the organisation (May 2021) - PBC (with support of SG Unit) to update Volunteers Policy to ensure new processes reflect requirements and Corporate SG requirements regarding mandatory	There will be a centrally located register held by POD of all volunteers used across all council service areas. Should information be required about a volunteer (ie. their training/ safeguarding check status) then this information can be quickly accessed.	**AMBER**	**GREEN** The 'central register' has been set up in I-Trent (and we have populated volunteer details where they have been provided by service areas) Combined application form/on-boarding to capture details of any agreed volunteer (which will include sign-off that they've read and understood the mandatory training) in final stage. The volunteer will be issued with a 'contract' setting out principles/expectations of volunteering for NCC Update the final version of the Policy/Guidance for Volunteers to be completed July 2022, with a

		training (July 2021) - Campaign/ dissemination/ SG champ forum of revamped Volunteers Policy in August 2022			planned campaign of promotion across Council to ensure managers are signposting their volunteers to complete all our processes An item on the council jobs page to ask any speculative enquiry about volunteering for NCC so PBC can review and send to relevant service area for consideration
4. Develop a tiered safeguarding training framework for all roles across the organisation (including volunteers) to be clear on the level of safeguarding training and safeguarding check they must have in order to undertake their role	Early stages of the project with Social Services training department, identifying roles within services areas. Collaboration with POD is being arranged to develop this project.	Arrange project meeting with Safeguarding Unit; Training Department and PBC- lead officers Claire Broome (SS Training) and Lynsey Thomas (Safeguarding Unit) – July 2021	There will be a clear safeguarding training framework which staff/ managers from all council service areas can access to identify what level of safeguarding training is required for their employment role (including volunteers) to ensure compliancy in terms of safeguarding training. This tiered training framework could also be developed as a future project to be linked to the clear review and personal development plans of employees.	**AMBER due to roll over from previous work plan task**	**AMBER** Initial project meetings held with Safeguarding Unit; Training Department and PBC- lead officers. Due staff changes and circumstance this project has been paused. Within July and August 2022, this wider project will be discussed when creating a face to face training schedule for Safeguarding training.
5. Improve how "safeguarding" information is communicated	Review the current Newport.gov webpages to ensure that the information is up to date/ useful/ engaging	1) Content development of pages and ratification of	Citizens of Newport report that they can access information, advice and assistance and feel	**AMBER**	**AMBER** Content development undertaken however due to

| externally to the citizens of Newport in order to ensure that our citizens know who to contact if they need information, advice or assistance and to promote the Council's commitment to safeguarding by communicating essential information and highlighting where changes have or will be made (ie. legislation/ policy/ council procedures).

"Communicating Information to Citizens about the Children-Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment Law" in 2022 is promoted on Newport.gov website. | | content by CSMT by August 2021

2) Dissemination strategy to be agreed with Comms & Marketing department upon agreement of information content
IT web page content development and launch by September 2021) | that the information is communicated to them clearly. | | additional streamlined resources developed by the Welsh Government, how want a cross Wales approach, additional work has begun to reflect this requirement. Proposed pages will be submitted to CSMT by end of September 2022 with proposed launch of November 2022 to coincide with National Safeguarding week.

Meetings with Comms and Marketing team to be arranged for August 2022.

Work delayed do to staff cuts and reconfiguration and training of staff new to this responsibility. |
| 6. Child Protection Conference Process quality assurance review and audit | Audit and evaluation of the process changes and feedback from practitioners/ partners/ service users. | 1) Virtual conference change occurring early summer (June/ July 2021), therefore, 1st audit review | Child Protection Conferences in Newport are a collaborative process which engage all of those participants involved, promoting the voice of the child and central to the process. | **Green** | 1)Blended Case Conferences working well with 90% parents attending the meetings face to face. Blended meeting have also helped with meeting attendance and quoracy. |

		within 3 months approx. October 2021			2) This is ongoing. Case Conference forms were simplified. This has led to them being completed more fully. Parents understand the form.
		2) Case file audit of WCCIS form development for Child Protection Conference to assure quality to coincide with virtual conference changes at 1.			
		3) Practitioner/ child/ agency feedback on process changes to inform review and audit-findings to CSMT December 2021			3) Positive feedback on the form
7. Campaign Promoting the role of the **"Designated Safeguarding Lead/Officer"** (*ie. person responsible for making child/ adult at*	A clear need for a new campaign on identifying who the DSL/O is for every team in every service area is needed and ensuring that those people are adequately trained for the role/ supported and that they are known and promoted to their	- Individual service area feedback from self evaluations commencing June 2021	Within the 2022 annual corporate safeguarding self assessments there will be a more informed knowledge base and response across the entire service area that it is the role of the "DSL/O" as the person who	**GREEN**	**GREEN** **Safeguarding Champions to be addressed by directorates due to staffing changes**

risk referrals) and the differences with the "Safeguarding Champion" for the Service Area (*ie. person who disseminates information about Safeguarding and takes a corporate lead for information sharing*)- it is vital employees know who to report their concerns to and that those with DSL/O responsibilities and duties have the adequate training/ resources/support to fulfil these obligations.	teams/ service areas as the person responsible for making child/adult at risk referrals.	- SG Champions forum highlighting information (September 2021) - DSL/O Campaign September 2021	makes child/ adult at risk referrals. Improved knowledge across all service areas in safeguarding terminology/ language. Every employee knows who to report their concerns to if they have concerns for a child or adult at risk and the names of designated safeguarding leads/ officers are known/ displayed amongst teams/ departments.		**Refresh completed and meetings now set up**
8 Liberty Protection Safeguard training across Newport adult and children services prior to regulation changes in 2022		Regional consortium training calendar tbc	Adequately skilled workforce who have received the specialised regional training who are able to adapt to the transition from DoLs to LPS when it is applied in 2022. (No date set for implementation yet due to consultation of the new Code of Practice to be completed across the UK, possibly 2023)	**GREEN**	**GREEN** Completed within Adult Services, with new starters receiving the support for adaption from DoLs to LPS.

5 Key Data for Safeguarding

5.1 This section comprises the data required. Thus Members will be routinely provided with the performance data regarding referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer (DOS/LADO); the performance figures provided to Welsh Government relating to the number of children named on Newport's Child Protection Register as at 31st March each year; the number of children "looked after" as at 31st March and the number of children accommodated during the course of the year. The adults at risk (duty to enquire) statistics and reporting in relation to child assessment through to child protection processes will also be routinely provided.

5.2 Professional concerns

	Total PSM (Cases)	Substantiated	Un-substantiated	Unfounded	Deliberately invented or malicious	Threshold not met / Awaiting outcome
2019	93	33	22	5	0	40
2020	90	22	17	10	0	51
2021	81	31	11	5	1	52
2022	95	33	30	6	0	26

The table and graph at 5.2 provide data on the number of professional strategy meetings convened by the LADO, their outcomes, and over the past 3 years. Members are advised that there has been a change in the outcome category introduced by the Wales Safeguarding Procedures. Thus malicious and demonstrably false are no longer used and a new category, "deliberately invented or malicious", has been introduced from 2020. Referral reduced in 2020 and 21 (particularly in education, alongside an increase in health referrals) during the pandemic. However trends have now reverted to pre-pandemic levels.

5.3 The number of children named on Newport's Child Protection Register as at 18.4.23 was 137.

Members are advised this is a low/medium average with other Gwent Local Authorities. There is a continued commitment to collaborative working with families and risk reduction.

5.4 The number of children "looked after" as at 18.4.23 was 379. This has been a stable figure for the past 6 years.

There were 115 episodes of CLA that ceased in the period 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023 note there were 2 children who BLA and ceased twice so the 115 episodes relates to 113 children. Members are reminded that ceasing "Child Looked After" status can be favourable for a number of reasons including "Turned 18 years old and continuing to live with foster parent/s in a 'When I Am Ready arrangement'; Adoption; returned home to live with parents, relatives, or other person with parental responsibility (not under a residence order or special guardianship order); Special guardianship order made to former foster carers; Transferred To Care Of Adult Social Services).

As at 31 March 2023 there were 377 CLA compared to 370 on the 31.03.2022. Comparatively to last year's Child Looked After figures numbers have remained stable and not increased significantly. The per 10,000 rate of children who are looked after continues to be the lowest in Gwent and below the Wales average.

50 % of Unaccompanied Assylum Seeking Children last year arrived via the mandatory NTS (National Transfer scheme) – the Home Office's dispersal mechanism for under 18's. There have been 21 spontaneous arrivals in the last year. We receive funding from the Home Office for these young people. Welsh Government discounted CLA UASC numbers from mainstream CLA numbers when they are analysing CLA numbers nationally as they represent a different cohort of children. The Strategic Migration Partnership link for Wales regards Newport as leading the way in this work.

Very generally speaking this cohort of young people are receptive of help and support and compliant with attending education/training. There was some concern in the press about this cohort going missing. We are aware of one young person who is over 18 and believed to have gone to Cardiff. There is a very low rate of absconding. Nationally the figures are that 75% of UASCs get right to remain via The Home Office. This figure is likely do decrease significantly with the incoming Illegal Migration Bill.

Housing developments:

We continue to use private rented accommodation for many over 16's due to the lack of local foster placements. Young people are supported through Children's Services and co working with the third sector e.g., Gap Centre and Barnardos. The creation of a specialist UASC team in Newport has led to a step change in the amount of support that young people receive. We are looking to develop a specialist residential provision and looking to integrate this into how we are working. Other developments include investigating the development of supported accommodation that can operate within the cost envelope provided by the Home Office.

The Home office has been slow to process asylum applications over the last few years and this means that young people are unable to claim housing benefit or access services that are funded by the Housing Support Grant in Newport. This has placed the majority of costs for their accommodation in the Childrens Services budget.

A Gwent wide plan for UASC is being developed.

Children Looked After accommodation

Significant work with our early intervention and prevention services to support families to stay together anticipates a further drive in safely reducing the child looked after population and returning "out of authority" placements to in-house provisions. Newport continues to develop our in-house residential services working on at a Gwent level to increase emergency provision. Newport has a short breaks home for children with disabilities, 3 x four bed children's home which also have 1 emergency bed available for up to 6 weeks. There is also a smaller home which accommodates one young person. Newport has developed, in partnership with health, a 4 bed regional children's home which is short term provision to step down or prevention escalation for those children with high level emotional/behavioural needs. Newport is developing regional emergency accommodation, 4 annexes that can accommodate 1 or 2 children depending on need. Newport is working in partnership with Action for Children to develop a home for 4 children with disabilities on a regional basis. Newport is considering options to develop its own disabled children's home. Newport has approximately 130 foster carers. Newport's children placed with private/independent foster carers numbers continue to remain stable as the teams work hard to return children to Newport or prevent them from leaving the authority by providing alternative care. The Programme for Government elimination of profit agenda has had a significant impact on external private providers and will mean that Newport will need to continue to build in house provision and plan to return children from private provision.

6 Annual Review of Newport City Council Corporate Safeguarding Self -Assessment Audit

6.1 Review period

We are reviewing the self assessment tool following the issuing of the Welsh Government guidance on Corporate Safeguarding. We are working Gwent wide with Safeguarding Service Manager counterparts to merge existing forms to reflect the shared issues. This will enable benchmarking and commonality of approach. We are including the audit recommendations into this work. In Newport, we are keen to establish a reporting cycle for corporate Safeguarding to ensure that all colleagues are aware of the timescales for Case file audits, Safeguarding Self Assessments and the annual report.

6.2 Quality of returns

Service areas have a returned self assessments with various approaches. It has been useful to capture positive practices that are already fully embedded across the council. The process has highlighted to managers areas of improvement to refine safeguarding practices for their staff and the citizens who use their services. The method of completion was varied and resulted in different quality returns. Corporate Safeguarding will need to provide tailored support and guidance for the next completion of returns, to ensure there is deep level of scrutiny across all teams, to gain accurate insight and to help improve practices. Individual feedback with specific goals for each service area has been provided to colleagues leading on this. Corporate Safeguarding have plans to work in partnership with the Gwent Safeguarding Board and neighbouring local authorities to create a South East Wales regional self-assessment tool for safeguarding. This will enable common themes and gaps to be identified and tackled across the region as well as sharing good practice.

6.3 Themes per Standard

Standard 1 Policy & Practice (Robust) How robust are your safeguarding practices in your service area?
Strengths
All service areas report they utilise the suite of corporate safeguarding policies, including the Safer Recruitment process and recognise the responsibility for the associated training for all employees to be completed. Services were able to reference specific service area policies that relate to safeguarding, which further evidence a commitment to embedding these within their processes. Service areas were able to clearly respond to questions regarding checks and volunteers, demonstrating an understanding of each topic. 76% of service areas confident in this standard, with 10% amber and 5% red and needing attention/training
Actions
Training
All areas are aware of the mandatory requirement of the training packages for all employees. Service areas confirmed that the onboarding process for new starters ensured applicable staff completed the courses in the first stages of employment. Tracking training and refresher completion of existing colleagues is an improvement most service areas identify. Managers are keen to address training gaps during team meetings or supervisions, to ensure safeguarding is prioritised and monitored regularly. Suggestions included regular reports for each service area to be issued by the training host or integrating training records and reminders with iTrent.
Actions: Delivery of in person training to be arranged as a priority for employee's who have limited access to e-learning packages. Training tracking to be discussed with HR partners and implemented.

DBS Checks

Service areas reported DBS checks are completed for roles where regulated activity occurs.

Actions – refresher training for managers to ensure all are aware of what constitutes regulated activity and how frequency of activity requires different levels of checks.

Designated Safeguarding Lead/Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSL/DSO)

Although individuals are made aware of their Duty to Report, most service areas were unsure who their DSL/DSOs were. This lack of clarity has been addressed as a priority to ensure the Duty to Report process is clear, to prevent any referrals being missed or delayed.

Actions: A regularly updated list of DSL/DSO's needs to be accessible with each service areas shared spaces including electronic and physical locations.

The DSL/DSO needs to be displayed in spaces where the public attend and have sight.

Safeguarding Champions role

All areas were aware of the Safeguarding Champions, with some commenting on usefulness of cascaded information. Within some areas, the Champions role was confused with the DSL/DSO role. However, other areas were very keen to increase the number of Champions per area to ensure Safeguarding remained a priority within team meetings.

Actions: Relaunch of the Safeguarding Champion role with clear comparison between the DSL/DSO role made and recruit active, motivated participants. Bi annual meetings and rolling agenda items in place.

Volunteers

Areas were able to identify if they work with volunteers and in which sectors of their service area. All were unable to confirm if a register is kept and how this is monitored across the service.

Actions: Link in with People and Business Change to promote their work on the new centrally held Volunteers Register and remind all it is part of a commitment to safeguarding by following the associated policy and procedures.

Professional Concern referrals

No area holds data on how many referrals are made from that service area, in relation to concerns about professionals who work with children or adults at risk.

Actions: Corporate Safeguarding to work with WCCIS team to collate that data and share with service areas annually. This will evidence that the policies in place are effective and employee's are following the duty to report process. This work is ongoing and will require the Duty to Report form to be amended.

Audits

Adult Services and Children and Young People Services were the only teams who could identify audits where safeguarding had been a focus.

Actions: Work with Safeguarding Champions to identify areas within audits where safeguarding can be focussed on to ensure practices and procedures are regularly assessed for their robustness in terms of Safeguarding. Consideration to Safeguarding being a standing item on all team meeting agendas.

Standard 2 Environment (Safe)- How safe does your service area feel to citizens that access your services, and to your staff working in your service area?

<u>**Strengths**</u>

Service areas are confident that citizens and staff feel safe and informed when at sites and accessing services. It was reported that 71% felt that this was working well and that there was confidence in this. 21% of the returns raised this as Amber in their scoring and 8% considered this to be a red risk, Security measures are complied with in terms of those on premises as well as risk assessments. Staff who work directly with the public have additional and specific safeguarding training suitable to their role. Services areas were able to provide examples of how they have managed any concerns received by other citizens or professionals. Service areas were reflective of procedures in relation to contractors attending properties and identified areas of improvement.

<u>**Actions**</u>

Citizens awareness of safeguarding

Although areas can example that safeguarding concerns are raised by staff and citizens, there was still a lack of clarity about this.

Actions: DSL/DSO's identified and widely communicated, with timely reviews as a priority. The quality of public displays of across sites and online sources needs scrutiny to ensure best practice is established.

Other premises risk assessments

Service areas where staff visit other premises utilise logging and communication processes. However, the pandemic changed some practices with physical logbooks to digital or phone calls made post visit, ensuring new agreed practice is in place.

Actions: Champions to highlight the need for these new practices to be reviewed in a timely manner as the working practices continue to evolve due to blended working.

Standard 3 Culture (Effective) - How Effective is your service area approach to safeguarding?

Strengths

All areas stated that their strategic planning takes into account the need to safeguard citizens and to promote their welfare. Some were able to reflect on what has gone well and areas for improvement. 79% of responses said that they were competent in this, 19% rated themselves and amber and 2% as red. Most areas were able to demonstrate that new learning is embedded into practice and planning in relation to consent to share and safeguarding children and adults at risk. Gaps in service area approach to safeguarding were mainly identified, showing willingness to accept change will be required to improve and uphold safeguarding standards.

Actions
Training
All areas again commented on the need for better monitoring of training and will undertake snap audits to test the effectiveness.
Actions: Utilise Champions to provide prompts for regular training and testing of safeguarding understanding.

Commissioned services
Work in progress to ensure that safeguarding requirements are clearly stated in service specifications for commissioned services and that there is some assurance that Safeguarding training is undertaken routinely. Examples of work programmes in relation to this include the School Transport contracts. There has been considerable cross directorate work to ensure that services taking our most vulnerable learners to and from education are appropriately trained, wear ID at all times and are aware the specific need of some of the children. This is also work being looked at with the Home Adaptations team to ensure that all contracted maintenance staff are aware of safeguarding when entering homes of Adults deemed to be at risk . Service areas are aware of the LADO role and the Professional Concerns process
Actions: Further discussion and quality checks required with Service Areas to ascertain if a comparison tool for those assessing a commissioned service safeguarding practices is in line with Newport City Council's.

7   **Future Work, Areas of stress/ risk, and Recommendations**

7.1 The consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic is still impacting on developments and has resulted in further delays in actions from the previous year's work plan targets either being met or commenced for some work streams. The outstanding work has therefore been rolled over into this year's work plan (2022- 2023) and new target dates have been set. Members are respectfully asked to remember that given the ever-changing climate that we remain in that the service will always need to remain adaptable and reflexive, and the proposals stated will need to have a degree of flexibility to their completion.

7.2 The Safeguarding Unit, collaboratively with the Social Services Training Department and People and Business Change Department, will continue to progress on the secondary phase of "skill-scanning" of all job descriptions within the council (including volunteers) to ensure that every post is reviewed to ensure that the correct level of safeguarding training and checks required for that role is "assigned" and then can be reviewed by the responsible line manager at the correct intervals. This work is identified on the Work Plan (2022/ 2023).

7.3 As highlighted to Members, there is an area of risk to the Council in relation to poor performance for mandatory training where fines/ regulatory action may be taken regarding safeguarding training. Although there have been mitigating factors affecting performance (including the pandemic; access issues for specific service areas) which have been acknowledged by both the Senior Children/ Adult Management Team and Welsh Government to prevent action being taken currently, this on-going low performance and non-compliance requires to be formally addressed. It is therefore a strong recommendation to Members that Cabinet continues to endorse the work plan action at 1.To adopt new ways of working into their priority planning for current employees in completing mandatory Safeguarding training in order to improve compliance rates; meet the objectives of the Council's commitment to ensuring "Safeguarding Involves Us All"; and in ensuring fines or regulatory action are not taken by governing bodies against Newport City Council.

7.4 Safeguarding Champions. This role has been refreshed and bi annual meetings are in place. Consideration to be given to the creation of a LA Corporate Safeguarding Steering Group. The purpose of this group would be to allow senior members of the council to have an overview of their roles and responsibilities around safeguarding and to ratify plans at directorate level before being represented in reports such as this.

7.5 Audit cycle for children services. We are going to implement a case audit cycle in Children's Services from 1st September and have devised a process for all mangers, Team Manager and above to audit a case bi monthly. This will be managed by the Quality Assurance team. From this we will gain oversight into case themes and subsequent strengths as well as improvements.

7.6 Greater connectivity with Children's Services, Adults services and Prevention and Inclusion Services. Bi annual meetings with Heads of Services to look at pressing safeguarding issues and arising issues and to approach issues consistently and share knowledge across the social care directorate.

7.7 Developing and Improving work that is cross directorate with Education Safeguarding. This includes a quality assurance process in all Newport schools, training data, referral (DTR) monitoring and hearing the Child/Learner's voice.

7.8 The Head of Corporate Safeguarding is now the Deputy Chair of the Channel Panel. This is a Prevent led process and looks at cases of radicalisation and extremism within Newport. This has strengthened awareness of vulnerability and safeguarding within Community Safety and Communities.

7.9 We have been actively involved in the consultation work regarding changes to the Practice Review process and the incoming Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) This is an Welsh Government process but one that was initiated by Newport. This is simplify the Practice Review/Domestic Homicide/Mental Heath/Offensive Weapons review process. A multi agency workshop was facilities by The Head of Corporate Safeguarding in April 2023.

8 Corporate Safeguarding Work Plan (2022/ 2023)

What outcomes do we want to achieve? (objectives to achieve)	How will we make this happen?	When will we achieve this?	How will we know it's making a difference? (performance measures)	RAG status
Mandatory safeguarding training compliance to be corporately addressed across the Council via new ways of working for **current employees** (via I-Trent tracking and employee check ins and if necessary, capability procedures for non completion) in order to avoid fines/ regulatory action for continued non-compliance.	Corporate step change to ensure that Mandatory Safeguarding Training is addressed as part of their priority planning for 2022/2023. Current Employees- via I-Trent/ employee check-ins.	Proposed for CMT to progress as a matter of urgency	Compliancy rates for mandatory safeguarding training will improve across all service areas and the council will not receive fines or regulatory action. The council will be able to easily track compliance with mandatory training and address with service areas where there are issues with low up take and identify if barriers exist and address these swiftly. Completion of mandatory safeguarding training for all employees will result in a work force that is aware of its duties and responsibilities.	**Green - Complete** **AMBER** Processes in place for new starters and volunteers. Current employees have access to all the training and Safeguarding Champions and

				campaigns promote these. F2F sessions are being schedule to capture those without IT access.
2. Develop a tiered safeguarding training framework for all roles across the organisation (including volunteers) to be clear on the level of safeguarding training and safeguarding check they must have in order to undertake their role	Early stages of the project with Social Services training department, identifying roles within services areas. Collaboration with POD is being arranged to develop this project.	Arrange further project meeting with Safeguarding Unit; Training Department and PBC- lead officers	There will be a clear safeguarding training framework which staff/ managers from all council service areas can access to identify what level of safeguarding training is required for their employment role (including volunteers) to ensure compliancy in terms of safeguarding training. This tiered training framework could also be developed as a future project to be linked to the clear review and personal development plans of employees.	**AMBER due to roll over from previous work plan task (20/21) Awaiting final version of National Safeguarding training framework and guidance to shape this training**
5. Improve how "safeguarding" information is communicated externally to the citizens of Newport in order to ensure that our citizens know who to contact if they need information, advice or assistance and to promote the Council's commitment to	Review the current Newport.gov webpages to ensure that the information is up to date/ useful/ engaging	1) Content ratification of content by CSMT by August 2022 2) Dissemination strategy to be agreed with Comms & Marketing department upon agreement of information content	Citizens of Newport report that they can access information, advice and assistance and feel that the information is communicated to them clearly.	**AMBER due to roll over from previous work plan task (20/21)** Proposed development

safeguarding by communicating essential information and highlighting where changes have or will be made (ie. legislation/ policy/ council procedures).		IT web page content development and launch by November 2022)		pages being finalised

Communicating Information to Citizens about the Children-Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment Law was prompted by the council social media channels
Delayed due to staff changes |
| 6. Self assessment tool – regional work | Ongoing meetings with Gwent counterparts. Managed by Safeguarding Service Managers with help from the Safeguarding Board Business Unit | Spring 2023 for the new reporting cycle | More robust self assessment will mitigate N/A answers as well as allow for benchmarking against WAO recommendations and regionally agreed performance indicators. | **Amber – some agreed data collection to be implemented** |
| 7. Audit Cycles | Process is devised and ready to implement | Sept 2022 | Case themes, strengths and improvements | **Amber – process has begun.** |

9 Resource implications (employment and financial)

There are no resource implications currently other than corporate Safeguarding being a part of everyone's role. This is being managed without a budget.

Appendix 1 – Glossary of terms

Acronym	Term
ABUHB	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
CSMT	Children Services Management Team
DoL	Deprivation of Liberty
DSL/O	Designated Safeguarding Lead / Officer
DTR	Duty to refer
F2F	Face to face
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FM	Forced Marriage
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulations
HBA	Honour Based Abuse
LAC / CLA	Looked After Child / Child Looked After
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LPS	Liberty Protection Safeguards
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences

NCC	Newport City Council
PBC	People and Business Change
PPN	Police Protection Notification
PSM	Professional Strategy Meeting
SG	Safeguarding
SPOC	Single points of contact
VAWDASV	Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
WCCIS	Welsh Community Care Information System
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Appendix 2 – Welsh Government Corporate Safeguarding Good Practice Guidance

WG Corp
Safeguarding Policy

This page is intentionally left blank

Information Report

Scrutiny

Part 1

Date: 28th April 2023

Subject   **Budget Consultation**

Purpose   To respond to OSMC by providing follow-up information on the points requested in their February 2023 meeting in relation to the budget consultation.

Author   Head of People, Policy and Transformation, Policy and Partnership Manager

Ward   City wide

Summary   The most recent round of budget consultation received almost 1,900 responses from a range of stakeholders. This compares well with neighbouring Gwent local authorities and other Welsh cities. Several 'lessons learned' have been identified and are set out in the report, which are intended to make future budget consultation more accessible, engaging and better promoted

Proposal To inform Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Members on the budget consultation and lessons learned.

Action by Head of People, Policy and Transformation
Head of Finance

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

1   **Background**

The aim of the budget consultation is to create opportunities for extensive participation in the budget setting process and particularly to allow citizens potentially affected by decisions to "have their say". However, there is an important secondary consideration of minimising the costs of consultation within the context of making savings across the Council during a time of unprecedented financial pressures. This has meant we have looked to maximise the use of our existing resources and expertise, for instance using the Wi-Fi technology in local buses, whilst avoiding spend on consultation activities that might not be considered value for money.

The Finance and People, Policy and Transformation teams have now supported budget consultation work for a decade and working with our other service areas have developed insight and intelligence on the opinions and concerns of residents on a range of public service issues. We also want to serve the ambitions of the growing number of citizens who are taking part in new, more active forms of public engagement now being undertaken in Newport. For instance, the 1,200 plus people who have taken part in participatory budgeting events in the past 4 years, to allocate public funds to community projects. We would also emphasise that budget consultation runs alongside other forms of public engagement undertaken by the Council which amounted to over 40 activities in 2022/23 and more the 10,000 respondents, and which informs our intelligence and customer insight.

2   **Budget Engagement programme for 2023/24**

The budget consultation programme consists of a range of methods and forms of promotion:

- **Online Survey** – which included questions on all budget proposals. A new question format was used this year, which allows respondents to support the full saving / a smaller saving / no saving, rather than having to simply agree/disagree with the proposal. This provided richer data with the 'smaller saving' option being used extensively.

- **Bus Wi-Fi survey** – a supplementary budget consultation survey was run on bus Wi-Fi. This focused on asset rationalisation and the increase in Council Tax and encouraged respondents to complete the wider budget survey.

- **Social Media promotion** - the consultation was regularly promoted on Council social media, and this approach generated a high proportion of the responses. Partner organisations were also encouraged to promote the budget consultation in One Newport social media posts.

- **Newport Matters** – the January edition which went out to most Newport households and businesses carried a full-page article on the budget, including the context, the proposals, the budget setting process and links to the consultation web-pages and the freepost reply address.

- **School parents & teachers** – all schools were provided with budget consultation text to share with parents and teachers to promote participation.

- **Council staff** – employee communications promoted participation amongst staff.

- **Attendance at community events** – Council representatives attended Warm Welcome Centres across Newport including Ringland, Maesglas, Bettws and Gaer.

Representatives raised awareness to over 500 people at the Participatory Budgeting events

- **Service Area engagement** - Service Areas were supported to assess where additional engagement with service users and their families, directly, is needed. This has been undertaken by Adult Services and Children's services, based on the relatively high impact on vulnerable people. This was mainly face to face engagement.

- **Pre-budget engagement** – During the autumn pre-budget engagement on the relative importance of services was undertaken linked to the development of the corporate plan. In total over 850 responses were received, which contribute to our intention of budget engagement being an ongoing and cyclical process.

- **Fairness Commission response** – Finance and the Director's team supported the Fairness Commission to respond to the budget using their principles of fairness.

- **Trade Unions** – HR and finance liaised with the Trade Unions to facilitate their representations.

- **Newport Youth Council** – so that young people's voices were included in the consultation.

During the 2023/24 budget consultation just under 1,900 responses were received. This is a significant increase over the previous year, which was affected by the restrictions surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. In this year's consultation we were able to make wider use of Bus Wi-Fi Consultation technology as passenger numbers increased again. The availability of bus Wi-Fi consultation also enabled us to undertake pre-budget engagement on the prioritisation of council services.

Responses were as follows:

1. An online survey via the public Wi-Fi on Newport buses that received 653 responses.

2. An in-depth online survey, which received 820 responses.

3. In addition to completed surveys, around 400 representations have been received from organisations and were considered by Cabinet Members and Officers as part of the budget consultation

4. Of note, 865 responses to the pre-budget engagement exercise were received in September 2022. This takes total budget engagement for 2023/24 to 2,738.

A full demographic breakdown of survey responses is included in the following attachment which was appended to the budget report to Cabinet in February.

Public budget
consultation response

3   Comparisons with other Local Authorities

Local authority area	Number of responses to survey for 2023/24 Budget
Newport	1,873 completed surveys In addition, 865 pre-budget responses were received Total 2,738
Blaenau Gwent	3,736 completed surveys (note – Blaenau Gwent count responses differently to Newport, recording attendance at events as participation. In previous years their responses have not exceeded 600)
Caerphilly	278 completed surveys
Monmouthshire	244 completed surveys
Torfaen	Not available
Cardiff	A total of 5,932 responses were received for the main survey, with 115 responses to the Youth survey.
Swansea	440 people completed surveys

4   Other consultation

A range of other consultation has been supported through 22/23. This totals over 40 activities and more than 10,000 respondents engaged with. This includes a period which where activities were still limited following the COVID pandemic.

We consulted with residents on matters such as Transport for Wales proposals, perceptions of and safety in Newport, the Climate Change Plan, Corporate Plan and Digital Strategy development.

We also support the Youth Council, 50+ forum and Citizen's Panel as outlined in previous reports.

5   Lessons learned

Whilst it was generally thought that the 2023/24 budget was successful in terms of responses and cost effectiveness, the following points are being considered and may be helpful to the Committee in forming a view:

Pre-budget engagement was undertaken to gain a better understanding of the relative importance of Council services, to give people a chance to comment on this and to raise awareness of the challenging financial context and forthcoming consultation.

A total of 865 responses were received in September 2022. Pre-budget engagement could be repeated in the coming year and integrated with other consultation activity throughout the year.

Consultation Format - the budget consultation is still primarily online, as this seems to suit the majority of people, however responses in all forms are accepted e.g. hard copy. For instance, we received picture responses from people with learning disabilities. Around 400 letters/e-mails were received in addition to the online survey, these often focus on one or two proposals that directly affect the respondent/their family. We can look to encourage other formats for responses in the future to make the consultation as accessible and appealing as possible.

The new question approach (allowing respondents to suggest a smaller saving) worked well and the smaller saving option was used extensively. This richer question format will be used in future budget consultation rounds. Appendix 1 lists the new questions that were used.

Face to face consultation should be used more extensively and be better advertised.

Promotion of the consultation - in response to the OSMC recommendation the budget consultation should be advertised and promoted in advance of its launch so that citizens are aware of it and can prepare to respond.

Schools - in previous years Scrutiny had suggested that schools could play a greater part in promoting the budget consultation. Consultation messages were sent to all Newport schools in a format they could easily use to disseminate to parents. This should be continued in future budget consultation rounds.

Equalities - the Senior Equalities Officer is now involved in budget consultation planning and shared details of the consultation through relevant networks, along with the Community Cohesion Manager and the Welsh Language Policy Officer. Bus Wi-Fi surveys are used to reach younger and more diverse communities. 'One Newport' partner organisation contacts are used to disseminate the consultation across a wide range of community groups. We can also make further use of city centre and public-building Wi-Fi networks to engage with a more diverse audience in the next round of budget consultation. This will also contribute to the OSMC recommendation of expanding engagement to people who have limited interaction with the Council.

FEIAs - The Policy and Partnership Team are working with Newport Fairness Commission to inform opportunities for training and guidance for managers responsible for completing Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessments (FEIAs).

Background Papers

OSMC considered the budget consultation arrangements in their meeting on February 3rd 2023

Appendix 1 – Questions asked in the Budget Consultation Survey

Q1a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

- Make the full budget saving
- Make a smaller budget saving
- Avoid making any budget savings for this service
- Not sure

Q1b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

On a scale of 1-5   with 1 of most importance and 5 of least importance

Respondents were also able to give comments on all proposals in their own words

Council Tax question

Respondents were asked, is the proposed increase to Council Tax:

- Too much
- About right
- Not enough
- Don't know

Newport's Budget Challenge

Budget Saving Proposals for 2023-24

The following report summarises the results of the consultation surveys on the budget saving proposals for 2022-24. This process took two forms:

- An online public wide SNAP survey for all citizens; and
- A shortened survey involving users of the free bus Wi-Fi.

The consultation ran from the 15 December 2022 until the 02 February 2023.

A total of 1,473 responses were received including 820 through the online consultation survey and 653 through the bus Wi-Fi survey.

Regarding the online public survey respondent's were asked their opinions on each of the proposals being consulted on including:

- What they think we should do with this saving proposal;
- How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services; and
- Any other comments about the proposal.

Both the public wide survey and bus Wi-Fi survey also asked respondent's their views on the proposed increase in Council Tax; and in relation to asset rationalisation and using council buildings differently.

For each proposal we have included a selection of anonymous comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received.

In addition, during the consultation period we separately received feedback via emails and letters, with around 400 correspondences collected.

Children Services

Barnardo's Partnership

Q1a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

| Barnardos Partnership	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	201	31.96%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	151	24.01%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	226	35.93%
D: Not sure	51	8.11%

NB: There were 191 no responses.
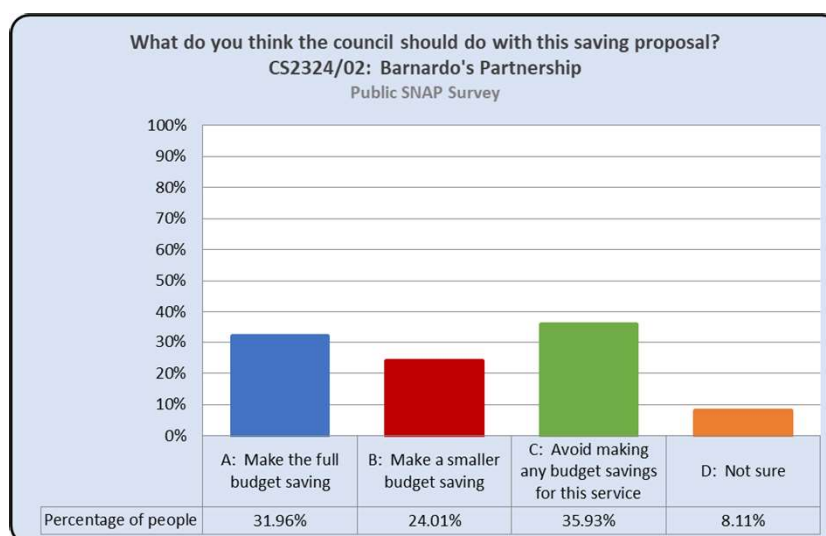
Q1b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	151	25.34%
2	147	24.66%
3	139	23.32%
4	78	13.09%
5 of least importance	81	13.59%

NB: There were 224 no responses.
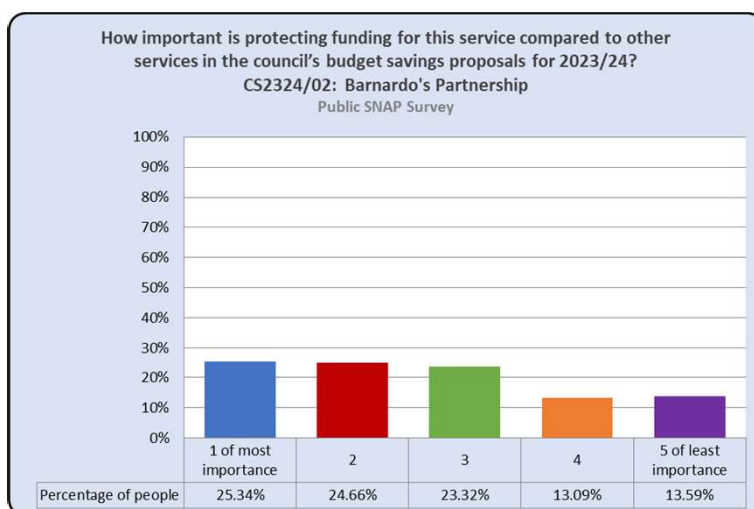
**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- There is strong evidence that diluting support services for social care is ineffective. This cut will result in more children going into care, costing more money in the long run.
- Plug the gap with reserves. Publish reserve levels and tell us why we need them. Now is the rainy day.
- Your social work teams are overwhelmed at present with the caseloads they are trying their very best to manage so where on earth do you think they are going to find the capacity to take on any additional work as a result of cuts to other services? The service provided by Barnardos appears to be essential for vulnerable children and if you don't want your Children Looked After figures to increase further then do not pull the rug from under this vital service.
- This service is vital to the most vulnerable families in Newport and is very needed. The changes in babies being removed at birth, children and young people going into care is huge because of this service.
- Other local authorities have ring fenced social care to prevent cuts to families and vulnerable people. Cutting services here will result in increased cost from children coming in to care and increased escalation of risk to families. Sadly, we will inevitably see more serious care reviews being required.

Family Time Contact Offer (Cwtch Centre)

Q2a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

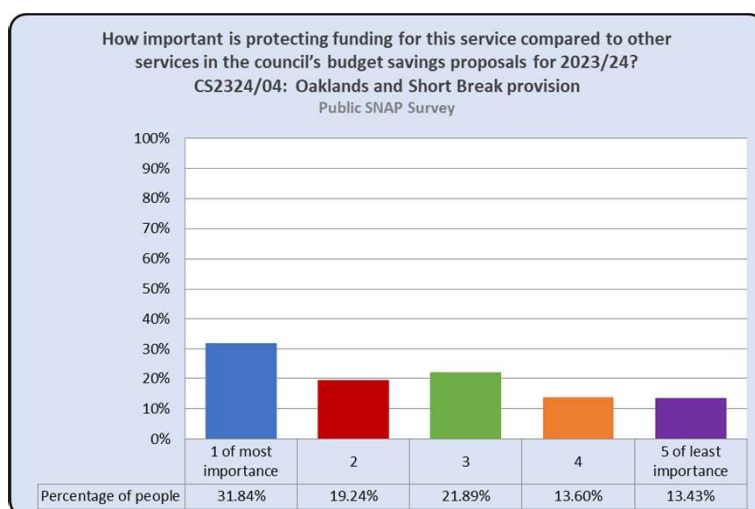| Cwtch Centre	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	251	40.55%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	156	25.20%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	166	26.82%
D: Not sure	46	7.43%

NB: There were 201 no responses.
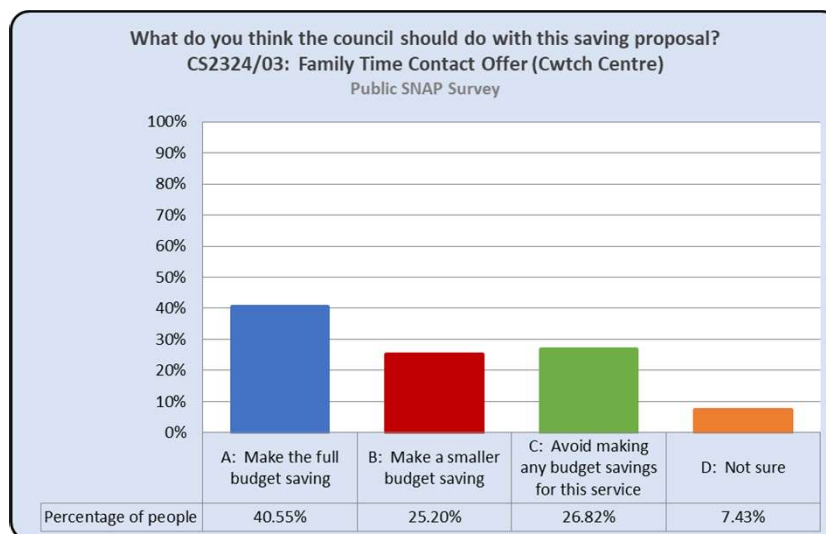
Q2b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	129	22.09%
2	128	21.92%
3	140	23.97%
4	96	16.44%
5 of least importance	91	15.58%

NB: There were 236 no responses.
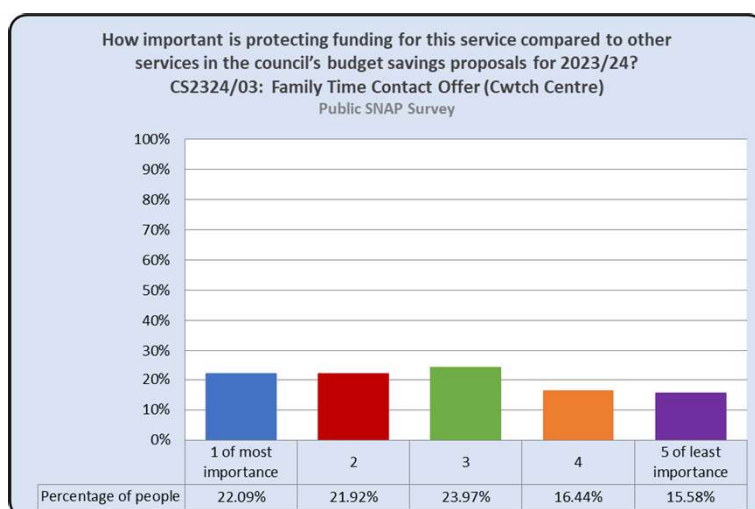
Page 84

**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- Surely services such as these are vital. I'm not sure how you can say that you expect the 'demand for support-based services to continue to rise' and then cut those services. Surely one of the main priorities of all Local Authorities going forward is to support the poorest and most vulnerable in the community. I would distinguish between proposed cuts such as these which affect vulnerable groups and looking again at the non-essential services that the Council provides that could be cut or put on hold until the current pressures concerning cost of living / inflation / energy crisis etc. have passed.

- Reducing this service will prevent family time going ahead because many of the families we support cannot be supported safely in the community.

- I don't think you should expect contacts in service users' homes, there is risk involved here to the supervisor, use more of the libraries etc that are having opening hours reduce, multi purposing existing buildings and the Cwtch centre could then be sold or rented out.

- The Cwtch centre needs to remain open even if less hours. Some contact that takes place would not work in public places and will just mean that Social Workers have to book spaces that will cost money in the long run.

- Providing no impact was had on the end users and this cut is purely accommodation, which was going to be accommodated elsewhere - it makes sense.

Oaklands and Short Break provision

Q3a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Oaklands & Short Break Provision	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	228	35.29%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	135	20.90%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	237	36.69%
D: Not sure	46	7.12%

NB: There were 174 no responses.

What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?
CS2324/04: Oaklands and Short Break provision
Public SNAP Survey

	A: Make the full budget saving	B: Make a smaller budget saving	C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	D: Not sure
Percentage of people	35.29%	20.90%	36.69%	7.12%
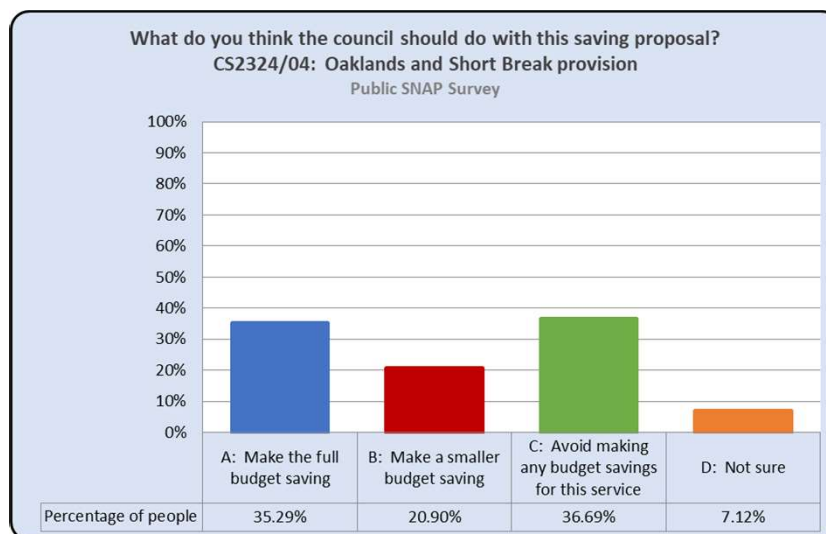
Q3b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

|	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	192	31.84%
2	116	19.24%
3	132	21.89%
4	82	13.60%
5 of least importance	81	13.43%

NB: There were 188 no responses.

How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?
CS2324/04: Oaklands and Short Break provision
Public SNAP Survey

	1 of most importance	2	3	4	5 of least importance
Percentage of people	31.84%	19.24%	21.89%	13.60%	13.43%

A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- This is vital and helps relieve some of the pressure of caring which is already a huge burden
- you would save here but then the real costs would be longer lasting – young people in care cost more overall than the essential respite care this provides. This would be a false economy saving.
- Take out some of the senior management layers and rent out some of the civic or move to somewhere cheaper and smaller.
- Any other area - the knock on costs of reducing this service will lead to greater mental health problems among carers, higher levels of marriage/ relationship breakdown, higher absenteeism from work by parents/ carers, all of which will put a huge burden on the Councils resources overall. Any savings made by closing Oaklands as proposed will be insignificant beside the wider costs.
- This service provides support to some of the most vulnerable families. If this service is reduced, family breakdowns will increase and there will likely be increased costs of children going into specialist care placements which would be much more expensive than the savings that you might make.
- Can income generation be considered? Could the local authority rent spare places to other local authorities or families who have purchasing powers as part of their funding.
- The service will still be available to provide relief for families so a reduction of days seems a fair compromise.

Staffing across Children Services

Q4a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

| Staffing across Children Services	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	235	37.78%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	147	23.63%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	198	31.83%
D: Not sure	42	6.75%

NB: There were 198 no responses.
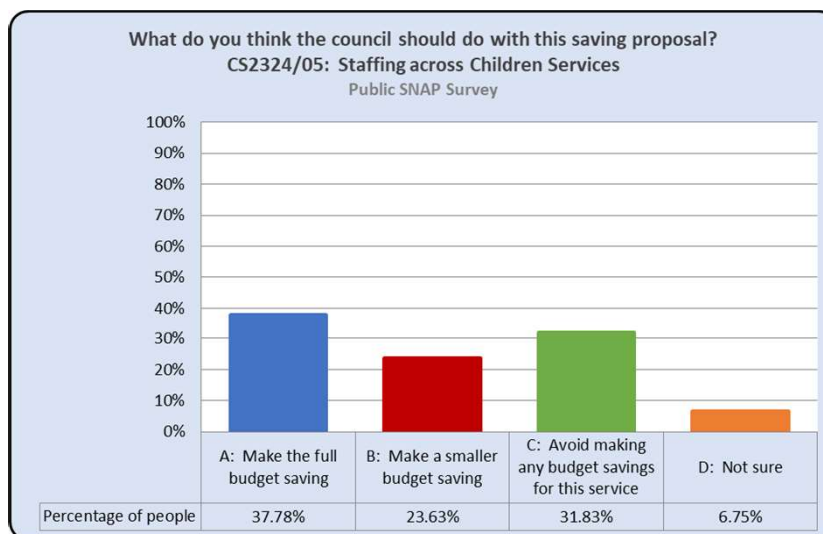
Q4b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	179	30.65%
2	120	20.55%
3	141	24.14%
4	61	10.45%
5 of least importance	83	14.21%

NB: There were 236 no responses.
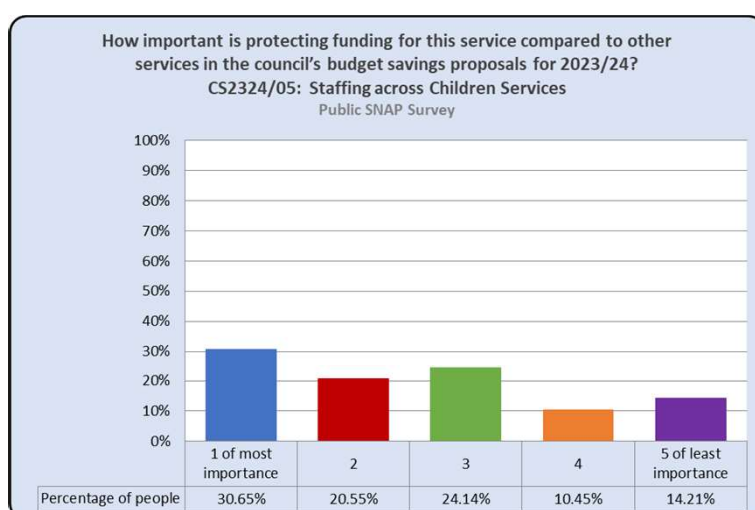
**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- Runs the risk of increased workloads on existing staff, results in losing staff which are hard to find and train, plus risks long term sick on stress which is either covered by agency workers at high cost or absorbed by already stretched staff which again ends up with either sickness absence or leaving the workforce.
- I feel that the most investment should be in preventative services that will, in the long term, reduce the cost and impact of the service user and the community at large. Spending on reactive issues, and cutting those services just creates issues for the long term.
- There are likely to be vacancies due to the recruitment crisis across health and social care in Wales. It feels unfair to penalise an already stretched service due to vacancies showing. Are these posts filled via agency? Could a better recruitment campaign be devised? Cardiff and Vale councils have changed their recruitment approach, perhaps Newport needs to look at this?
- Concern would be the additional stress on remaining staff may lead to people leaving the profession.
- The posts are vacant, so this seems sensible – so long as harm can be mitigated.
- Most of the other proposals increase the workload of existing staff. Surely these posts are required to absorb the additional workload and maintain a safe system?

Adult Services

Adult contracts: commissioned services

Q5a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

| Adult contracts: commissioned services	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	261	41.83%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	163	26.12%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	141	22.60%
D: Not sure	59	9.46%

NB: There were 196 no responses.
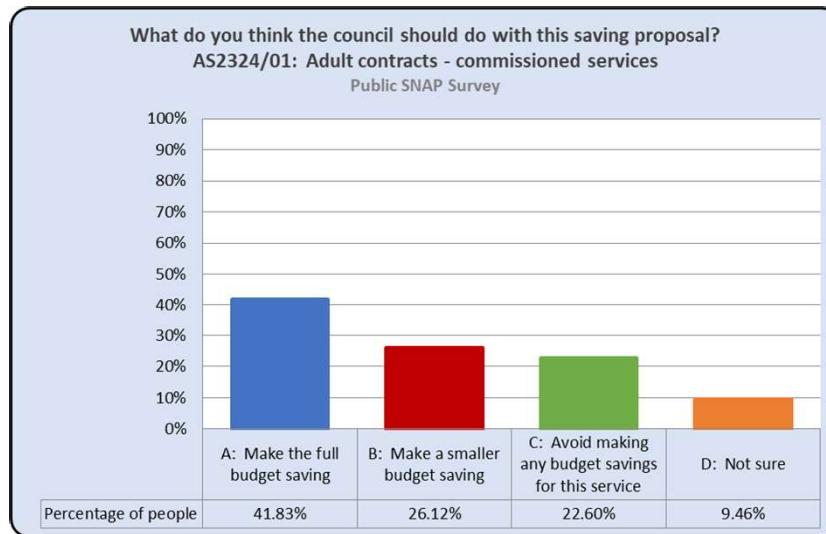
Q5b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	132	23.32%
2	111	19.61%
3	146	25.80%
4	94	16.61%
5 of least importance	83	14.66%

NB: There were 254 no responses.
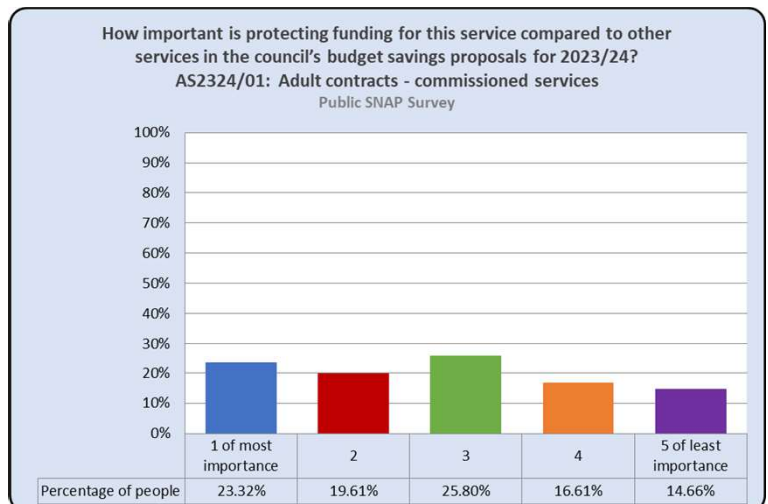
**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- Those service users will need to access support somewhere, pulling it just shifts the support to perhaps less suitable settings or pushes carers under. Opening the service to more fee paying users might help. A collaborative approach between service users and community members could be therapeutically beneficial.
- Mental health is such a current issue affecting people all over Wales – especially after the COVID pandemic. You should renegotiate with the Welsh Government on getting additional funds.
- Preventative services – you have to invest at the front end to prevent pressures being placed on services as a whole. It is also concerning for the general public when there are people with unmet health needs, particularly mental health, struggling in the community.
- Do not mess with mental health services at all they are needed more suicides are happening now than ever before due to the increases of living cost but no increase in wage.
- I suppose there are more people requiring this service than before Covid restrictions, however, is it up to the council to deliver this service?
- Hopefully Growing Space is now able to be or is an established not for profit / charity and can continue their good work or link to Newport Mind who seem to have some of the grant / contract funding from Newport City Council moving forward.

Eligible care and support needs budget

Q6a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

| Eligible care and support needs budget	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	143	24.11%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	135	22.77%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	253	42.66%
D: Not sure	62	10.46%

NB: There were 227 no responses.
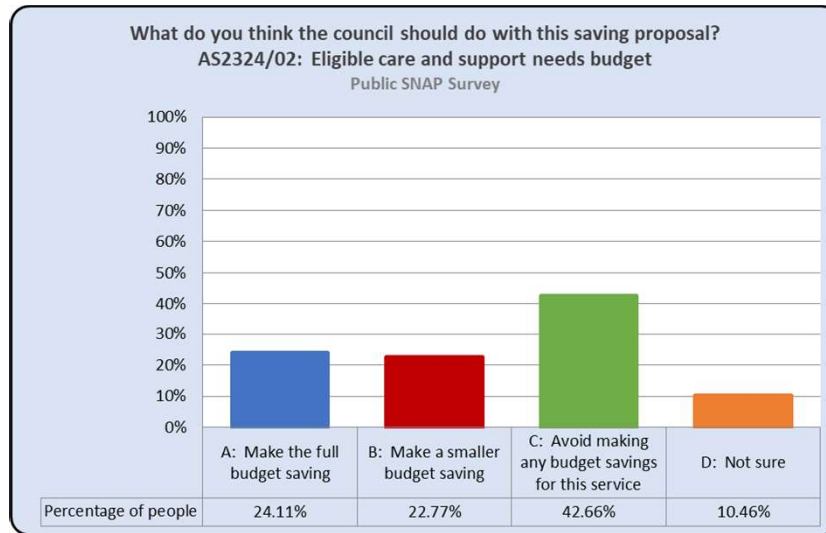
Q6b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	203	36.51%
2	132	23.74%
3	117	21.04%
4	56	10.07%
5 of least importance	48	8.63%

NB: There were 264 no responses.
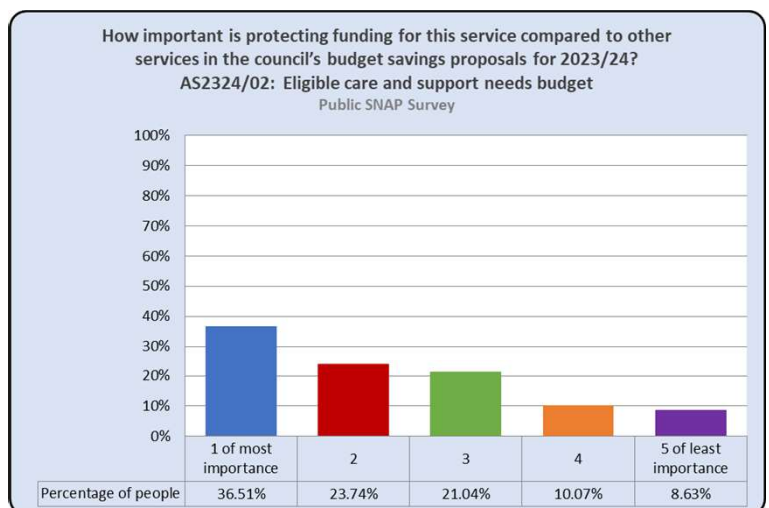
**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- This is the problem with the NHS currently. Implementing this proposal will bed block hospitals further. Just moves the problem to another part of the public sector.
- I am not able to support that. Care services are already strained, and the NHS is in crisis. Look at reserves or seek a more acceptable alternative.
- Older adults with appropriate means need to be directed to purchase their own care as much as possible.
- If the assessed needs will still be met, it is difficult to understand the basis for the current level of care packages in domiciliary care. Does this suggest, over 'prescription'?
- I don't see how this figure can be reduced as there is a growing need for care packages. My only suggestion would be for more of this to be taken on by the voluntary sector and e.g. Ffrind i mi / WRVS etc. and for specific needs to be very carefully looked at before allocating x number of home visits a day etc. This is clearly a UK – wide issue.

Provision of services to support residents with a learning disability

Q7a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

| Support of residents with a learning disability	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	202	33.72%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	188	31.39%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	157	26.21%
D: Not sure	52	8.68%

NB: There were 221 no responses.
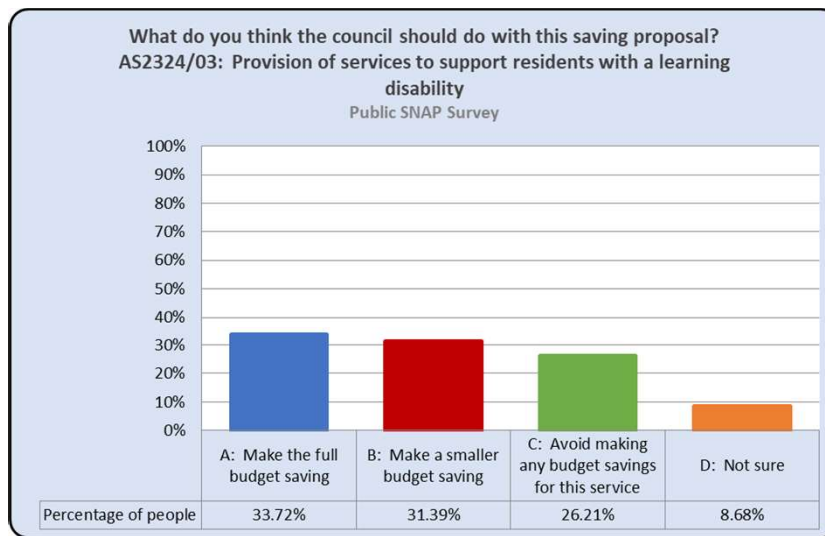
Q7b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	121	21.65%
2	142	25.40%
3	175	31.31%
4	62	11.09%
5 of least importance	59	10.55%

NB: There were 261 no responses.
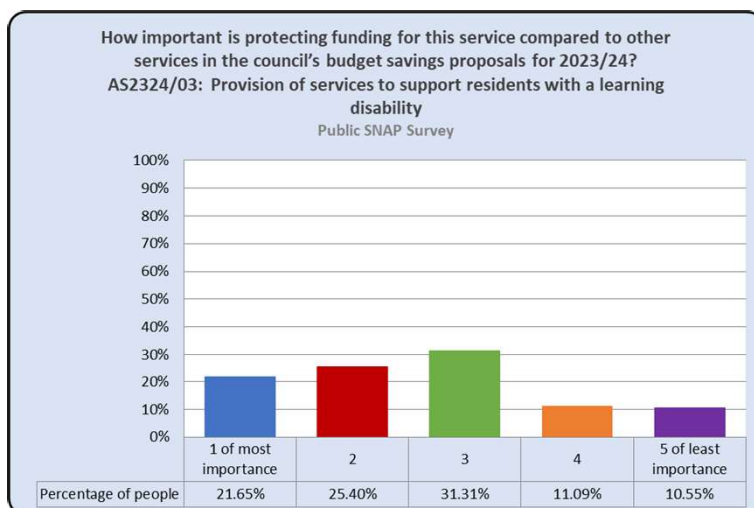
**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- Could you not offer more central support instead of offering many centres? This would stop hiring cost and the amount t of staff that need to be spread out around Newport. Again, this is where the hubs could be utilised instead of just opening them for staff to work from.
- The people concerned have a right to live the best they can, families of course will be responsible for them, but they do need some help with the worst cases – I agree that the most vulnerable should still be given 100% support.
- Can income generation be considered, providing services for other local authorities?
- It would be nice to do this but it funds are limited there are more urgent areas where the money could be spent.
- It's a lifeline for service users and their families! Carers of this cohort are aging themselves! And need the support!

Adult Day Opportunities (short break service)

Q8a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Adult Day Opportunities (short break service)	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	221	34.53%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	201	31.41%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	161	25.16%
D: Not sure	57	8.91%

NB: There were 180 no responses.
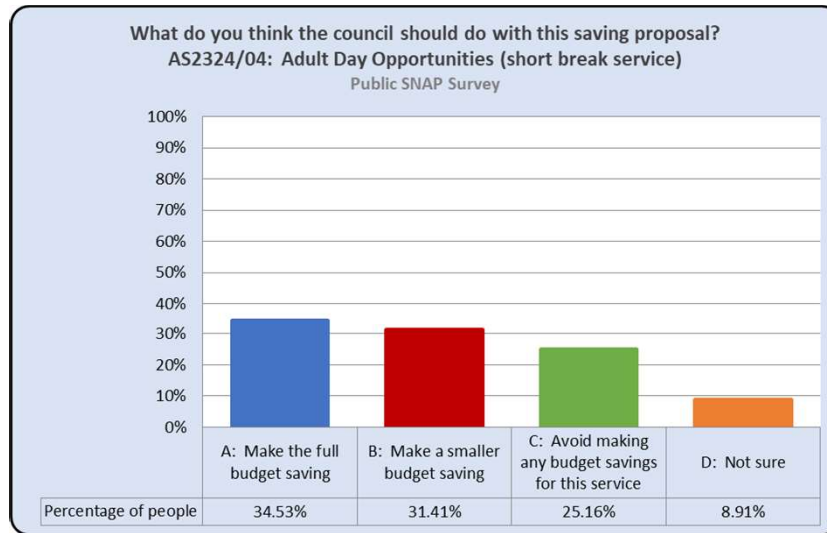
Q8b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	155	25.96%
2	124	20.77%
3	153	25.63%
4	78	13.07%
5 of least importance	87	14.57%

NB: There were 223 no responses.
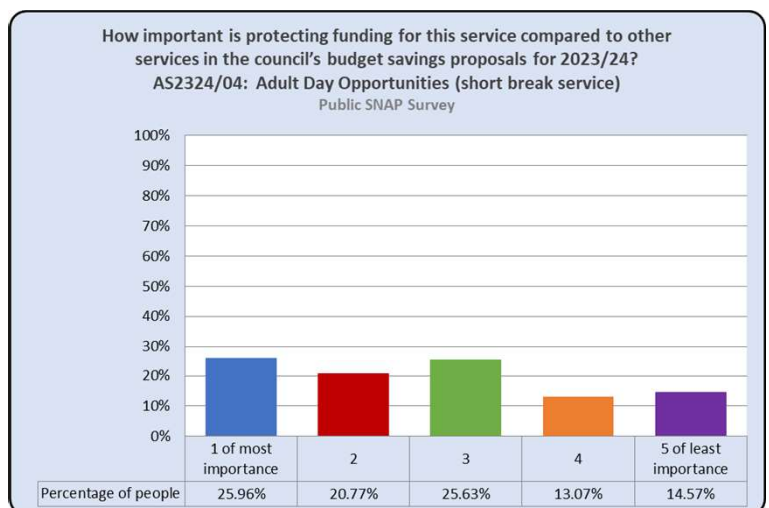
A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- These services are very important to people who need this support as it gets them out into the community and gives them a sense of purpose to their lives.
- A sensible and necessary cut during these difficult times.
- There is a big assumption 'other services' will pick up the slack but with ESF ending in March the voluntary sector is staring into a 'back-hole' of their funding ending. If this is not a statutory responsibility, then the cut is justified. If it is a statutory duty, then this service needs to be retained. Again – what about back-office? What about non-statutory services? What about leaner admin and management across the Council?
- Although day services are a lifeline for elderly people's families, to have that respite for a day or 2 a week, I believe EMI and children with additional needs services are more important and make a bigger difference to families.
- Respite services are so vital to those who need it. Without services like this, the cost will likely reappear in mental health services as the people who can no longer benefit from these services will be struggling mentally with a poorer quality of life.
- The carers employed by Newport Council have immense experience and are of immense value to the social care community that should not be lost. If this service is withdrawn it will put more pressure on the family carers and other services like the NHS and social care. I think it will result in more hospitalisations and have dire consequences for the health of family carers. The service offers a lifeline to those who use it.

Restructuring of adult social care

Q9a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Restructuring of adult social care	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	307	51.34%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	123	20.57%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	112	18.73%
D: Not sure	56	9.36%

NB: There were 222 no responses.
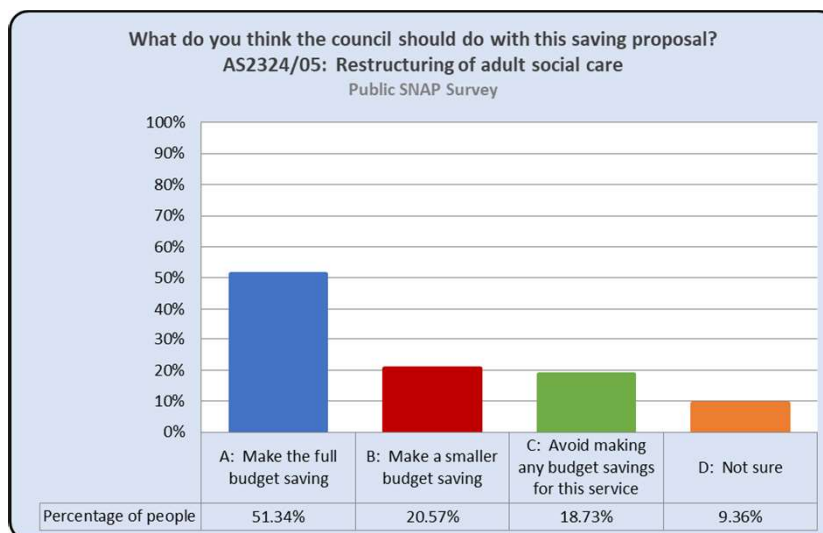
Q9b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

|	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	95	17.99%
2	125	23.67%
3	134	25.38%
4	89	16.86%
5 of least importance	85	16.10%

NB: There were 292 no responses.
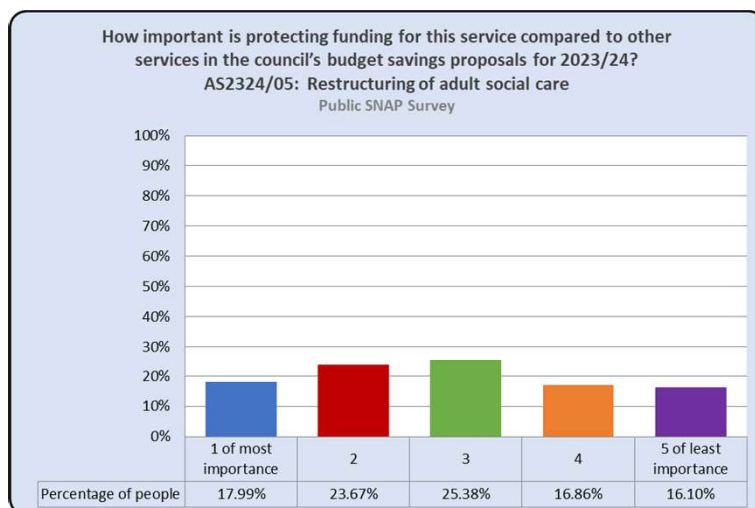
A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- Putting too much of a workload on remaining staff you will start seeing them going on sick with stress costing more in the long run. They are already over worked.
- Not sure that removing staff numbers from social care at a time when any vacancies are probably filled by agency staff that cost more than salaried staff is a sustainable way forward.
- A reduction in staffing of 3% is sensible during these times.
- There are not enough social service staff at present. Cut management positions across the council to make a saving.
- Many of the other proposals rely on social care workers to pick up the workload. We actually need more of these workers than administrative council staff. You may want to outsource some of the council service management to private organisations with clear SLAs and success outcomes.
- If the reduction will still equal a satisfactory service, then it should be clear what to do.

Education (non-schools)

To reduce Local Authority (LA) Core Contributions to the Educational Achievement Service (Regional School Improvement Service)

Q10a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Reduce core contributions to the EAS	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	302	51.10%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	110	18.61%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	111	18.78%
D: Not sure	68	11.51%

NB: There were 229 no responses.
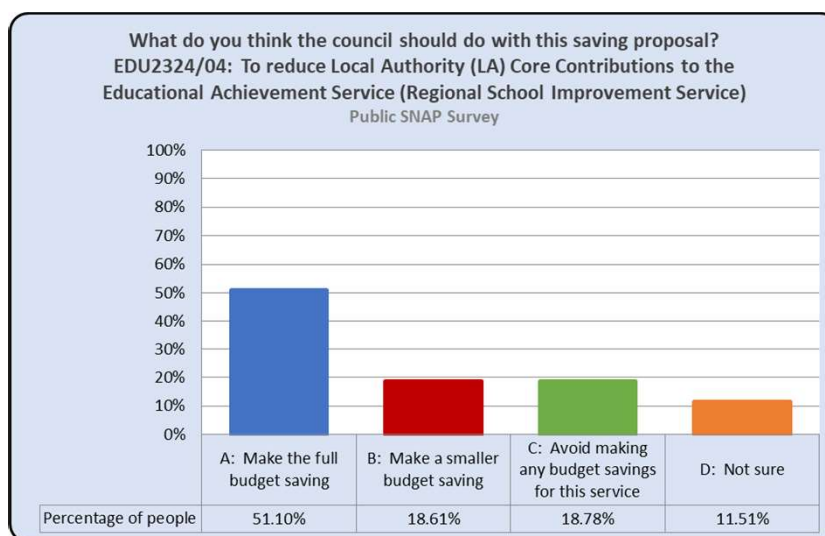
Q10b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	99	18.68%
2	102	19.25%
3	127	23.96%
4	80	15.09%
5 of least importance	122	23.02%

NB: There were 290 no responses.
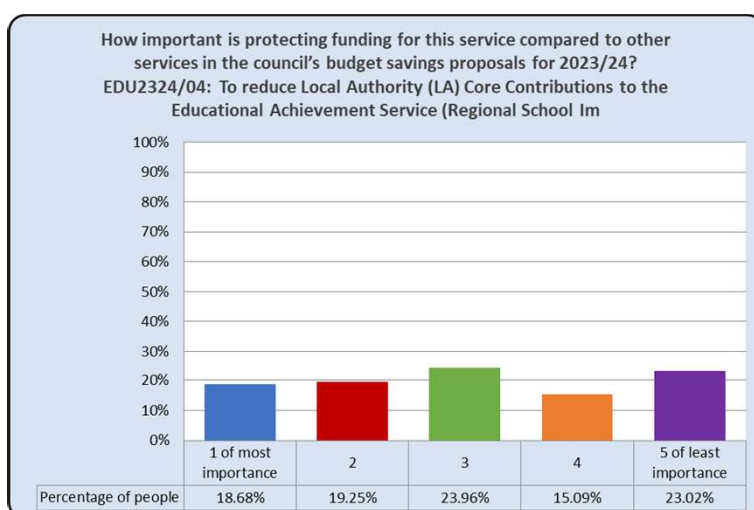
A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- All children should be able to access a good standard of education. Schools are already struggling with their budgets. We should be investing in the next generation as they are the future taxpayers if nothing else.
- Schools need help. Having worked in the system the EAS do the majority of the important school based work.
- The budget saving in this area could be more. Money needs to be allocated more directly to schools at the moment.
- Schools are run by highly paid professionals who should be able to manage using their own skills.
- The new curriculum in Wales allows schools to tailor their curriculum to the needs of the school. The school advisory system is not really needed for all schools.
- I think that a saving of £158k is too small compared to the £790k cost of this service and think there could be far greater savings made here.

Educational Psychology

Q11a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Education Psychology	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	249	42.64%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	98	16.78%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	193	33.05%
D: Not sure	44	7.53%

NB: There were 236 no responses.
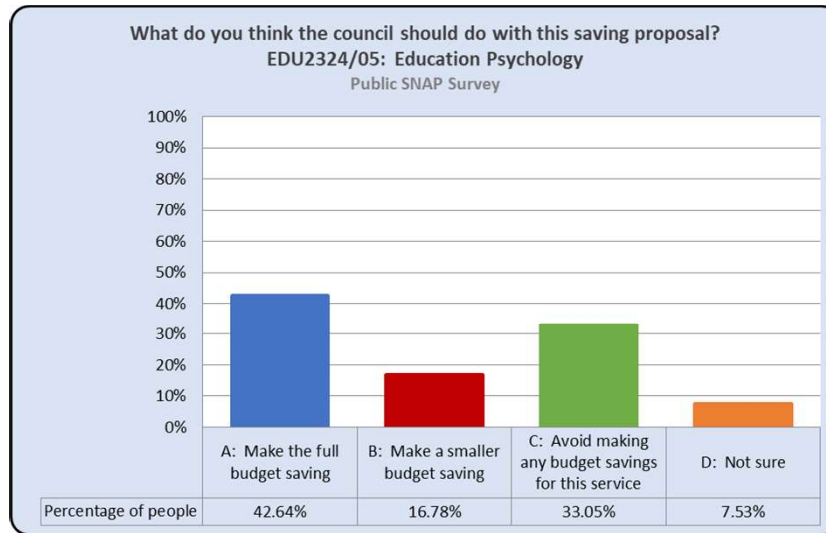
Q11b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	129	24.39%
2	119	22.50%
3	118	22.31%
4	63	11.91%
5 of least importance	100	18.90%

NB: There were 291 no responses.
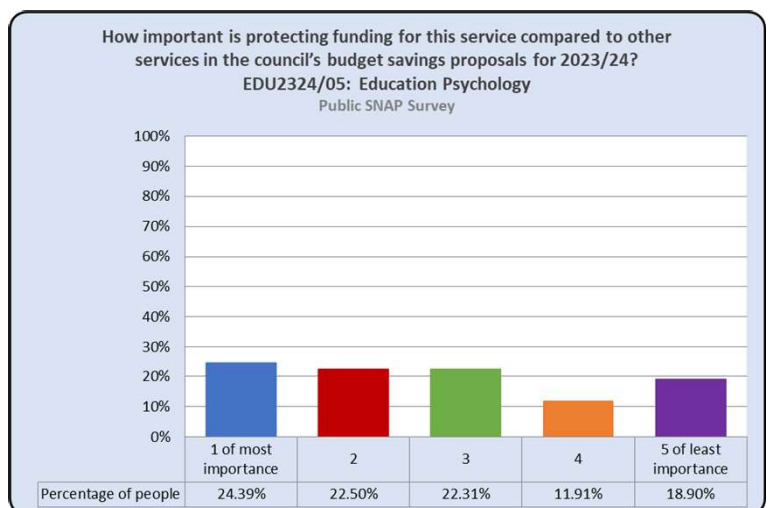
A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- This sounds like a short term gain, long term pain scenario. The overspill of work resulting from the deletion of this post will likely result in temporary resource being called in once the backlog gets too large.
- How can schools meet children's educational needs when there are waiting lists for their needs to be assessed? The pressure placed on schools due to this must be incredible when teachers are having to manage complex needs that often have not been assessed and the relevant support identified.
- As long as the council doesn't have to pay more for outside services going forward.
- Meeting pupil needs should be prioritised. Losing posts just puts pressure on already burdened existing staff.
- Schools will struggle to fully implement the new ALN processes with a further cut to EP services. Our most vulnerable children will not receive the support they require to meet the more complex needs young people are presenting with.
- If post is vacant already the effect will not be felt.

Reduction in core contributions to SenCom Regional Services (sensory & communication support services)

Q12a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Reduction in core contributions to SenCom	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	214	36.96%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	126	21.76%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	181	31.26%
D: Not sure	58	10.02%

NB: There were 241 no responses.
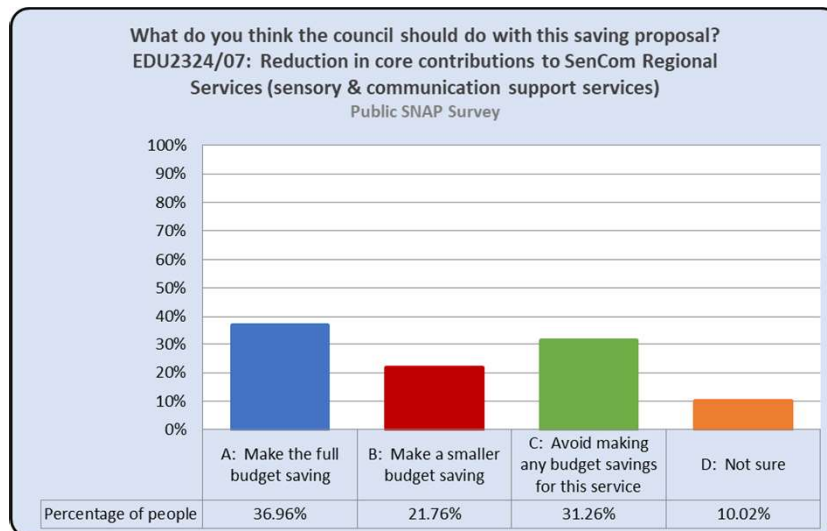
Q12b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	118	22.52%
2	128	24.43%
3	149	28.44%
4	54	10.31%
5 of least importance	75	14.31%

NB: There were 296 no responses.
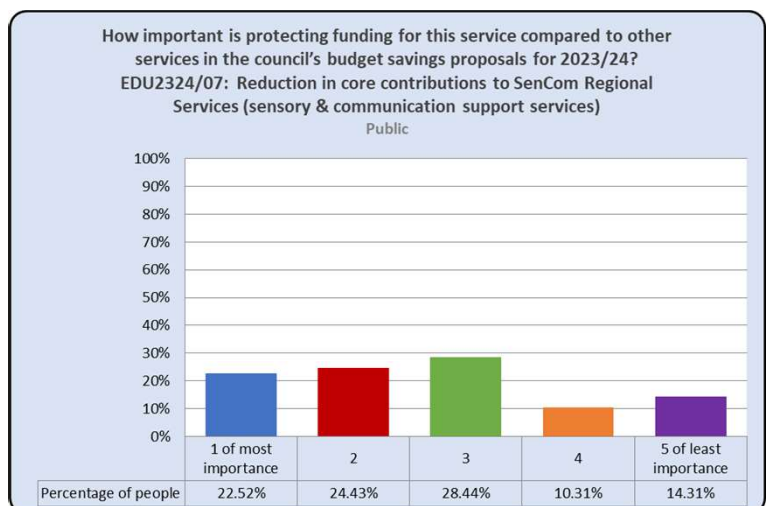
A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- Sensory impairments are a serious issue, and the value of savings are not proportionate to the impact.
- If savings can be made without impacting on services such as using council accommodation that should be prioritised.
- The building is vital to the service. It not only houses staff, but equipment and vital support groups that provide mental health support. There doesn't exist other facilities in each local authority that could house the equipment needed as well as the resources and groups. Cost savings could be made by reducing visits and offering training instead thus reducing travel costs, producing and sending resources, providing training at the university creating an advisory service instead of providing education which staff could do from office / home.
- Try to encourage saving through the use of council owned assets.
- If it can be achieved through overhead reductions, then fine.
- This service is vital for people with sensory and communication difficulties. Helping children with visual impairment from a young age benefits them throughout their school life. Helping them to achieve the best education possible means they have better outcomes in life.
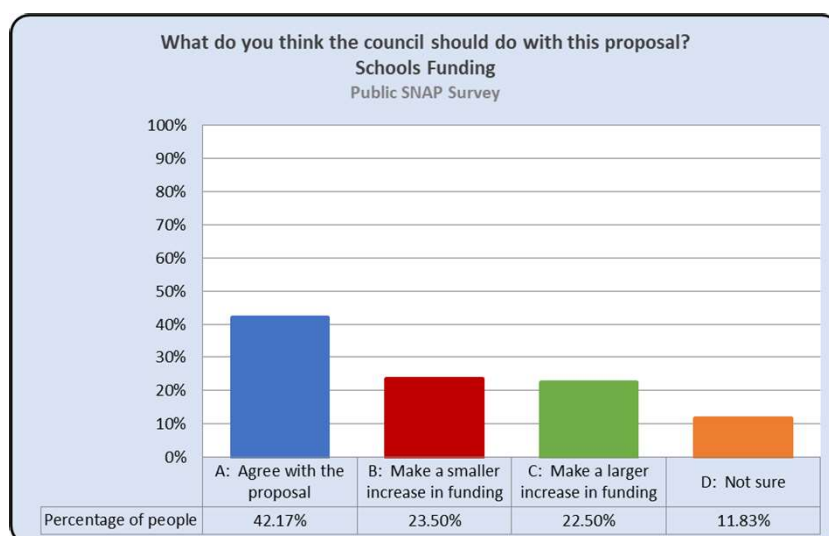
Schools

Schools Funding

Q13a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

| Schools Funding	No. of people	% of people
A: Agree with the proposal	253	42.17%
B: Make a smaller increase in funding	141	23.50%
C: Make a larger increase in funding	135	22.50%
D: Not sure	71	11.83%

NB: There were 220 no responses.

Q13b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	237	42.86%
2	124	22.42%
3	119	21.52%
4	25	4.52%
5 of least importance	48	8.68%

NB: There were 267 no responses.
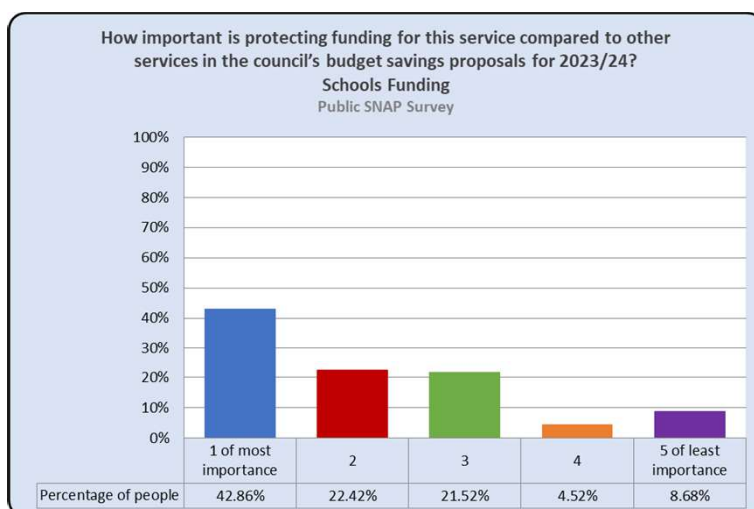
Page 106

A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- Schools are underfunded and this directly impacts upon the wellbeing, health and safety and achievement of both staff and pupils.
- Education is the key to our future success, so I would suggest schools, Teachers' pay increases etc. are fully funded as needed.
- You MUST fully fund any pay increase awarded to teaching staff. It is totally unfair to expect schools to absorb this cost – It will take money away from children, put many schools into a deficit and completely negate your commitment to education.
- Schools have been protected from austerity for far too long and need to stop being kept in a protective bubble where they spend like it is going out of fashion.
- Schools need to be more responsible for the budget, not be subsidised by the LA. They need to make more effort to manage the school budget appropriately.
- School have been hit by pay increases, gas, electricity costs, basic essential cost rises such as paper costs. They will struggle to absorb the costs further without further support or reduction in what can be offered to students in terms of basic education.

Housing & Communities

Library and Adult Community Learning Services

Q14a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

| Library & Adult Community Learning Services	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	429	71.98%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	81	13.59%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	48	8.05%
D: Not sure	38	6.38%

NB: There were 224 no responses.
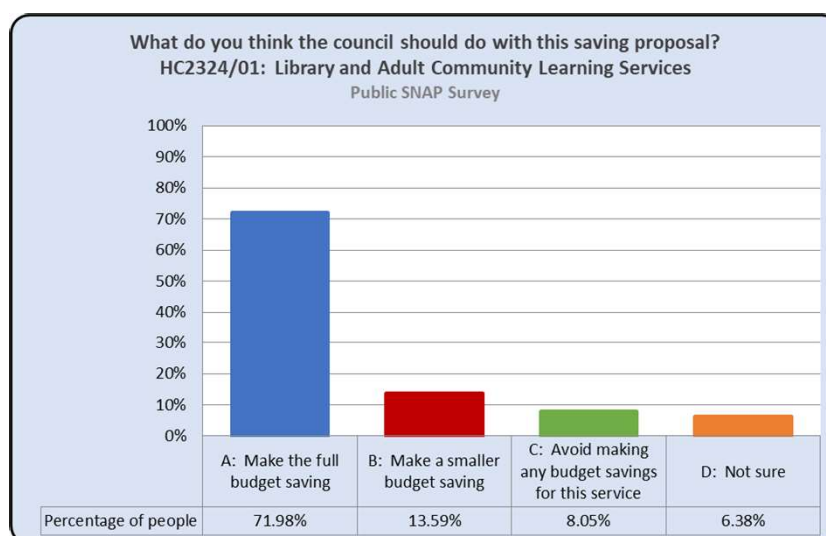
Q14b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	65	12.13%
2	69	12.87%
3	149	27.80%
4	90	16.79%
5 of least importance	163	30.41%

NB: There were 284 no responses.
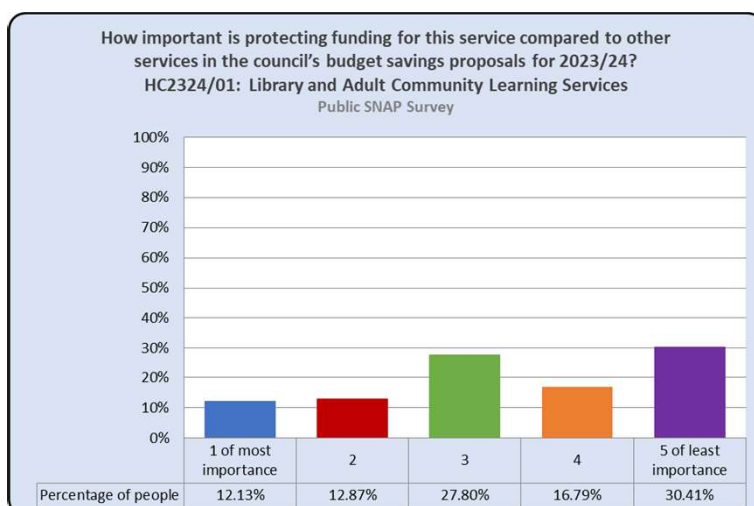
**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- Perhaps fewer facilities with better opening hours would be a better solution? With a mobile library bus filling the gaps if really needed.
- Libraries are so important in the community and yes online services are more popular but there is also a section of the public that wish to access books and other services for many reasons. There are very few libraries left in Newport and they should be maintained and open as frequently as possible or otherwise I fear that they will close and there will be no library provision for future generations.
- Show an understanding that some people are using libraries to keep warm.
- Not everyone has access to computers and, not all people can afford to buy books to read.
- As the world becomes more digital, this is realistic. However, promoting education and a safe space in the more poverty stricken areas remains essential.
- Terrible, as I think Libraries should be there for all – but something has to give, and should we pay for services with ever decreasing customers?

Reducing funding to the Shop Mobility scheme in 2023-24

Q15a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

| Reducing funding to Shop Mobility	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	357	59.90%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	99	16.61%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	93	15.60%
D: Not sure	47	7.89%

NB: There were 224 no responses.
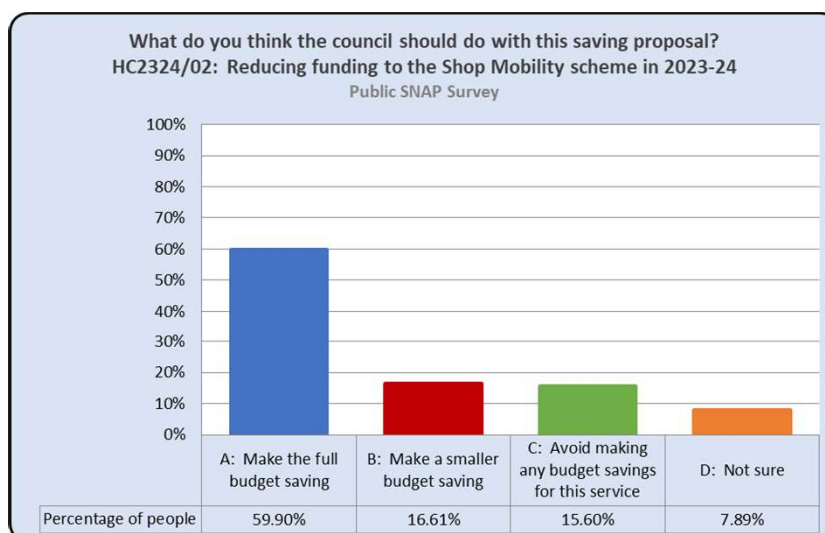
Q15b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	74	14.10%
2	79	15.05%
3	137	26.10%
4	85	16.19%
5 of least importance	150	28.57%

NB: There were 295 no responses.
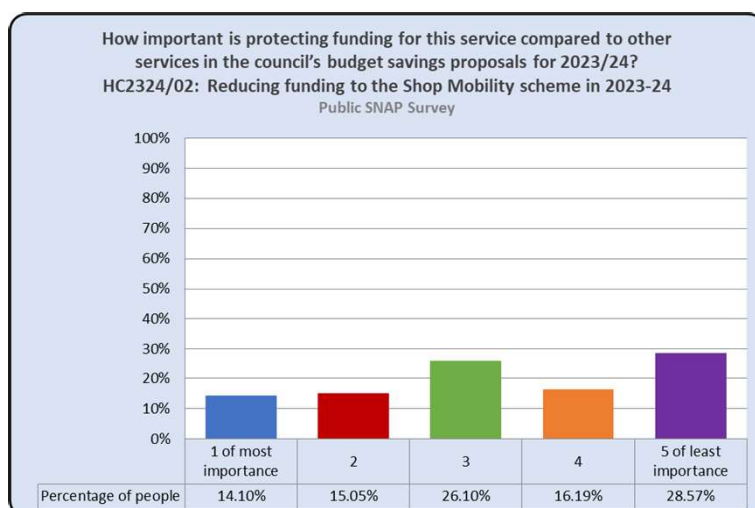
A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- Cost reduction compared to the benefit of the service, compared to other high ticket items does not justify reducing the budget.
- It's £7k...increase the council tax by half a penny across the board and you'll fund it many times over. Removal of the service is more costly in the long run, as it prevents the elderly/disabled being able to go out shopping (thus putting money into the economy) and increasing pressure on elderly care etc.
- People with disabilities should be able to access shops etc the same as those who are fully mobile.
- This is such a small sum that makes a huge difference to the public who need them.
- I think local businesses should take the responsibility for ensuring access mobility under the equality act. I also believe that a private hire mobility service whereby those needing to use scooters are able to pay as you go. Similar to other national road scooter hire services
- People can pay for their own. I don't think this is a necessity.

Environment & Public Protection

Community Safety Warden Service Restructure

Q16a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

| Community Safety Warden Service Restructure	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	332	55.52%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	118	19.73%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	105	17.56%
D: Not sure	43	7.19%

NB: There were 222 no responses.
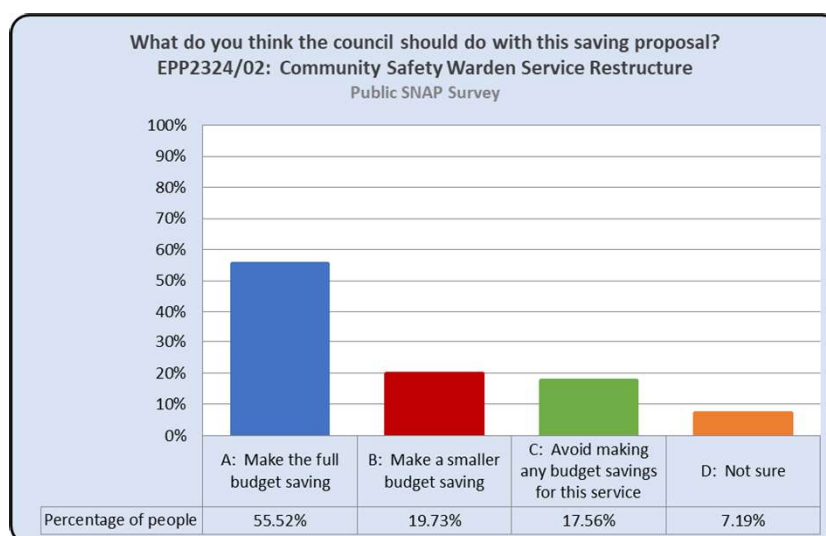
Q16b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	94	17.70%
2	96	18.08%
3	152	28.63%
4	69	12.99%
5 of least importance	120	22.60%

NB: There were 289 no responses.
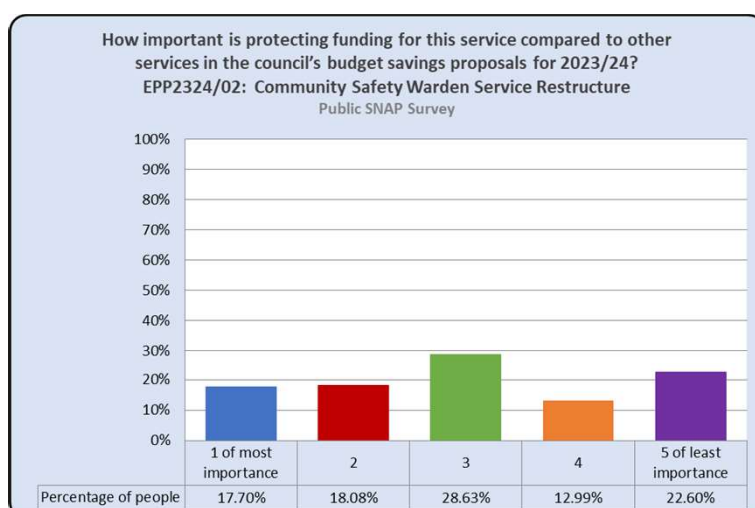
**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- I think a focus on this key issue of anti-social behaviour is essential.
- There's enough anti-social behaviour going on now and how are you as a council going to ensure there will be a major focus still on anti-social behaviour.
- As long as you are looking at the most serious needs, working in partnership with local police and crime commissioner(s) and police staff, this seems like a good option to review needs.
- Not an appropriate use of public funds in the current economic crisis. An easy saving to make.
- Can't more of these duties be passed to PCSO, not police. This service will not be used by the majority and PCSO roles need to offer more to the community.

Increased fees and charges within Environment and Leisure Services

Q17a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Increased fees & charges	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	358	60.37%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	116	19.56%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	87	14.67%
D: Not sure	32	5.40%

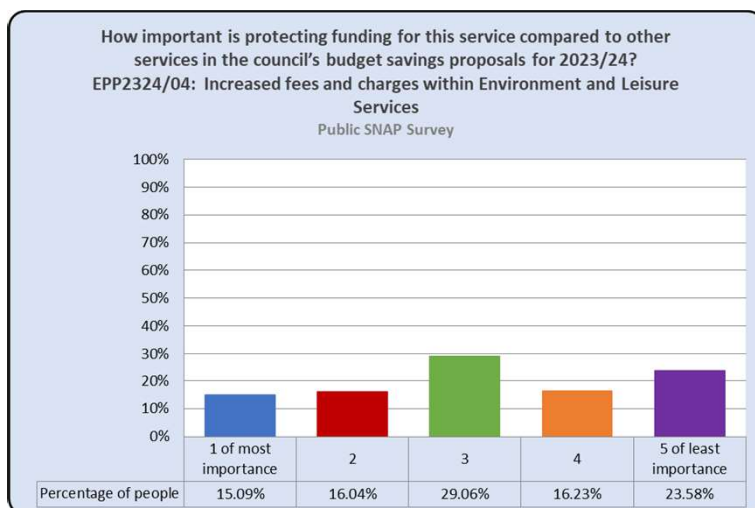NB: There were 227 no responses.
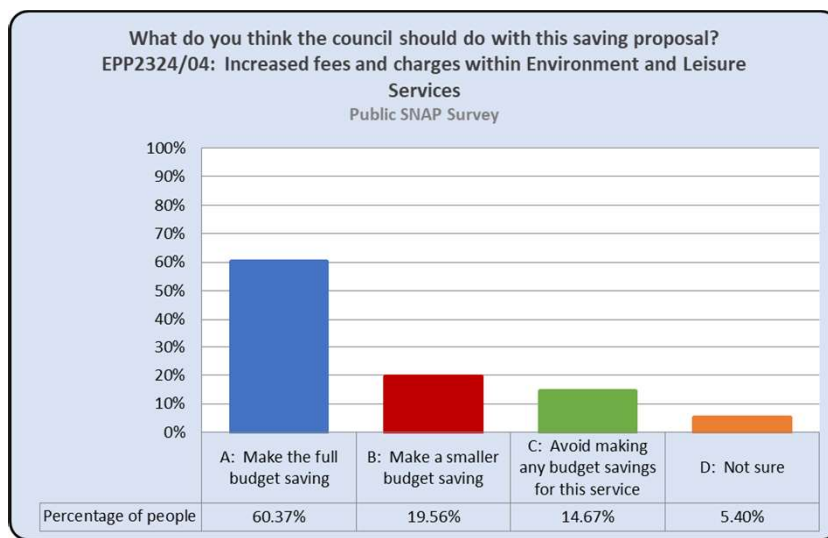
Q17b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	80	15.09%
2	85	16.04%
3	154	29.06%
4	86	16.23%
5 of least importance	125	23.58%

NB: There were 290 no responses.

**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- 10%-20% is too high and adds even more costs on already heavily burdened residents due to cost of living crisis and energy price explosion. Suggest 6% only.
- Keep allotments the same cost, as many people benefit from them physically and mentally, having to pay more could result in them being reluctantly given up as the tenant might not have enough funds to cover it.
- Charging more for services to people at times of grief or that support their emotional and physical wellbeing is a bad idea. I would distinguish between proposed cuts such as these which affect vulnerable groups and looking again at the non-essential services that the Council provides that could be cut or put on hold until the current pressures concerning cost of living / inflation / energy crisis etc. have passed.
- Agree with cuts but can't understand why allotments are being prioritised over burials when they are a luxury rather than a necessity.
- With the current financial crisis and the effect on morale after COVID, I do not believe that now is the time to be making these cuts.
- All of the above should be operating at full cost recovery at the very least – the council tax payer should not be subsidising these services.

Introduce parking charges to park and countryside car parks

Q18a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Introduce parking charges	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	317	50.08%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	54	8.53%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	231	36.49%
D: Not sure	31	4.90%

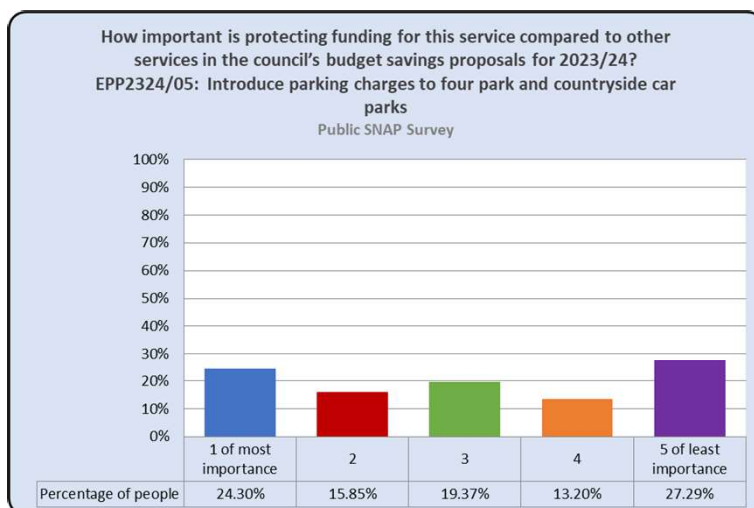NB: There were 187 no responses.
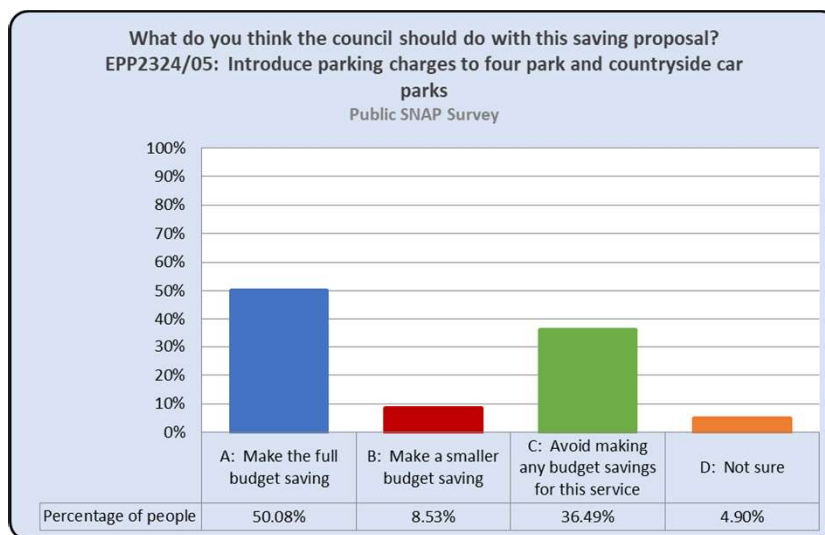
Q18b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	138	24.30%
2	90	15.85%
3	110	19.37%
4	75	13.20%
5 of least importance	155	27.29%

NB: There were 252 no responses.

**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- Anything more than a minimal charge e.g. £1 for 3 hours will mean people park on street nearby and you don't make the extra income. I have never paid to park in 14 locks as I now park on the estate opposite.

- I think minimum charges for certain places are acceptable. I'm happy to pay for Belle Vue Park for what I get in return, but I don't go to 14 locks as often and if I pay for parking, I don't spend as much in the cafe. As soon as people have to pay parking they tend to stop going or go less.

- The people of Newport own these PUBLIC areas and, should NOT have to pay to visit them. It will also mean children are Not taken to visit these sites to participate in health sports. You should not be penalising people who want to be healthy.

- Free exercise is vital in today's challenging times. essentially charging for access to this should be avoided and in real terms will have little impact on budgets or increased revenues for the council.

- Savings will be made by not implementing this proposal. The cost of installation of meters and creating marked spaces and signs etc. will pay and display be by only card or if cash will this mean machines will need to be emptied daily which could possibly increase the councils cost of employing someone to undertake this task. What will be the initial outlay compared to the proposed savings?

- These areas will stop being used, they are literally dog walking and children's play areas, families are struggling as it is, a lot of families are only able to take their children to parks these days because cinemas and restaurants are so expensive, keep the parks free.

Household Waste Recycling Centre – Charging for non-household waste

Q19a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

HWRC – Charging for non-household waste	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	357	58.33%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	51	8.33%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	174	28.43%
D: Not sure	30	4.90%

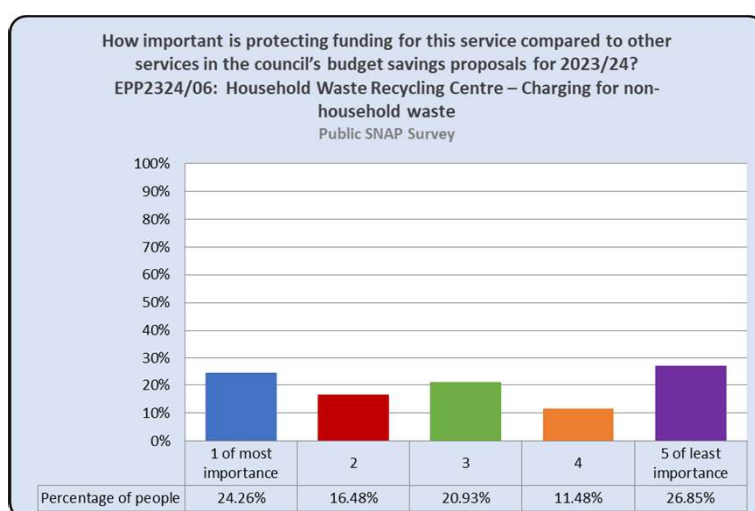NB: There were 208 no responses.
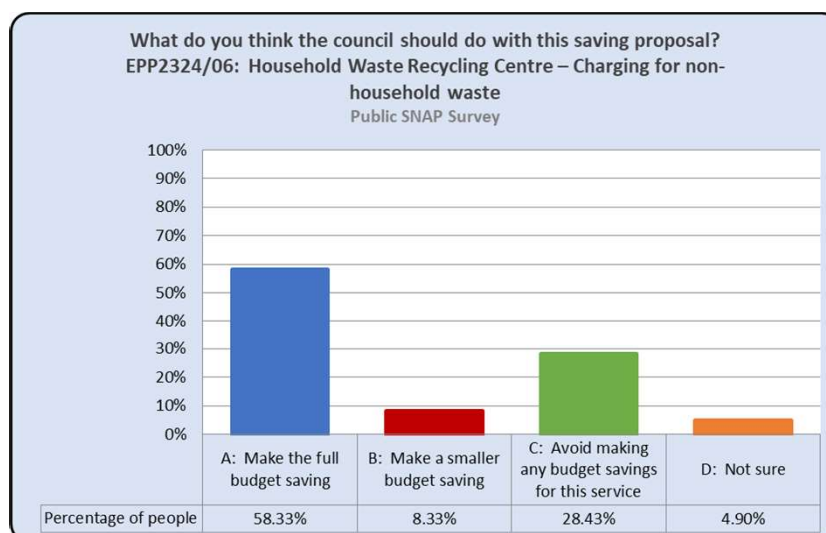
Q19b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	131	24.26%
2	89	16.48%
3	113	20.93%
4	62	11.48%
5 of least importance	145	26.85%

NB: There were 280 no responses.

A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- This would lead to more fly tipping and probably have a net increased cost to the Council.
- Introducing charges will invoke people to make alternative arrangements, such as fly tipping, burning domestic waste in their gardens and other forms of dumping. For example, during Covid lockdown when the town dump was closed, I observed local roads I often use were suddenly littered with dumped domestic rubbish and furniture as a result of this lack of provision.
- Cost of employing somebody to measure and charge would possibly outweigh savings.
- Support this as long as fines and patrols for fly tipping are increased.
- Hopefully it will make people consider what is waste and what can be re-used and recycled.

Charge for replacement (residual waste) bins

Q20a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Charge for replacement (residual waste) bins	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	265	43.51%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	100	16.42%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	208	34.15%
D: Not sure	36	5.91%

NB: There were 211 no responses.

Q20b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	124	22.92%
2	79	14.60%
3	129	23.84%
4	79	14.60%
5 of least importance	130	24.03%

NB: There were 279 no responses.
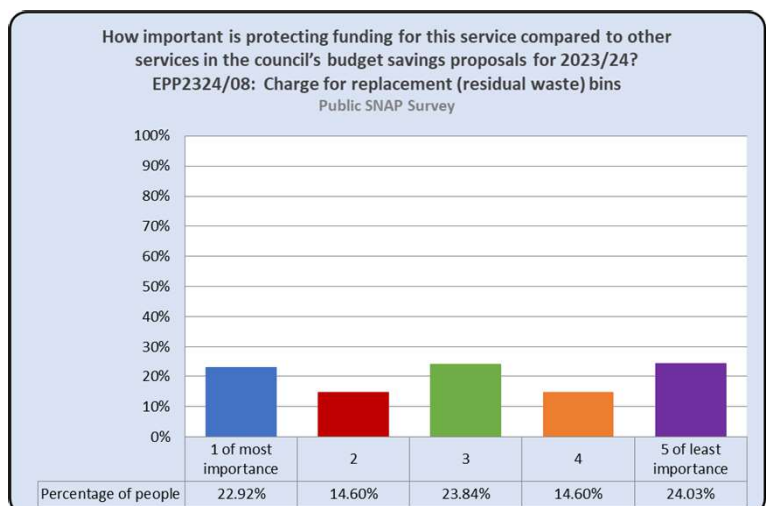
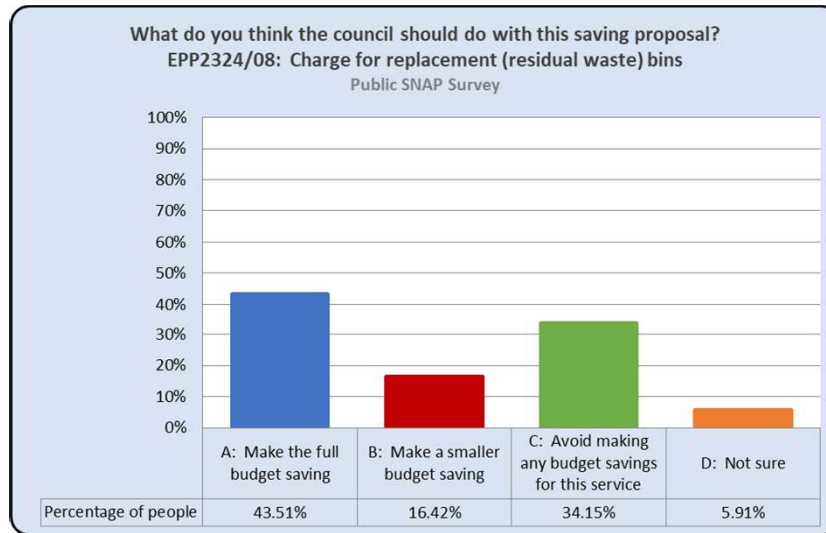**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- Most bins need replacing due to the bin men throwing them around and damaging them. We should not be charged for their carelessness.
- Instruct waste collection staff to take more care of the bins. They cause most of the damage to bins.
- Bins get stolen – It's not fair to pass this charge onto the resident. If you want to increase CCTV to find the culprit then great.
- People will just dump rubbish which will cost far more to clean up.

Domestic Residual and Garden Waste Collection – 3 Weekly Collections

Q21a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

| 3 Weekly Collections	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	201	31.70%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	70	11.04%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	336	53.00%
D: Not sure	27	4.26%

NB: There were 186 no responses.

Q21b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	287	50.80%
2	105	18.58%
3	69	12.21%
4	37	6.55%
5 of least importance	67	11.86%

NB: There were 255 no responses.

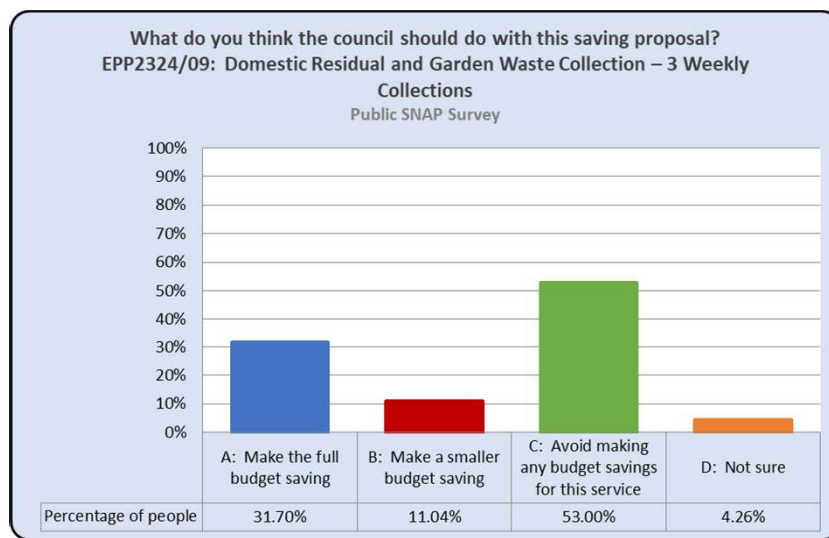**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- I support these proposals, providing that recycling is expanded to include further items that are not currently accepted. For example, food wrappers and foil covered crisp packets which can currently be recycled elsewhere. I appreciate there will be a cost to develop this service.
- I already struggle to get rid of the dog waste in the tiny dustbins you provide. If you're moving to 3 week collections, you first need to increase bin sizes. Again, it's a false saving, as you're avoiding adding fly tipping into your equations.
- I recycle everything and still struggle with too much rubbish. This is a fundamental of council activity. Do not go to 3 week bin collections.
- This idea assumes everyone has the same level of waste, i.e. a single person or a family of 4 - this idea is flawed and means you are penalising those who have more waste due to larger families.
- Three weekly is fine for me, but just don't have charges for the tip.

Infrastructure

Changes to operational practice and procedures

Q22a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Changes to operational practice and procedures	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	185	31.20%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	148	24.96%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	168	28.33%
D: Not sure	92	15.51%

NB: There were 227 no responses.
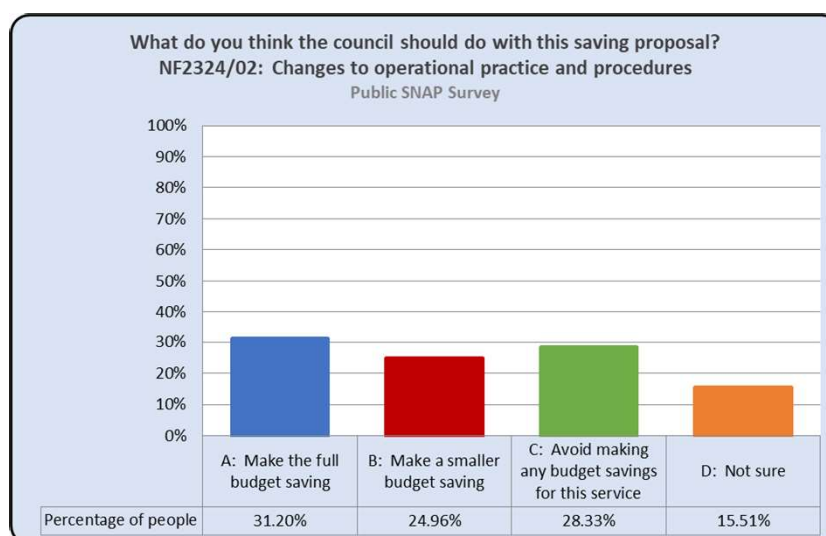
Q22b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	119	23.71%
2	112	22.31%
3	148	29.48%
4	66	13.15%
5 of least importance	57	11.35%

NB: There were 318 no responses.
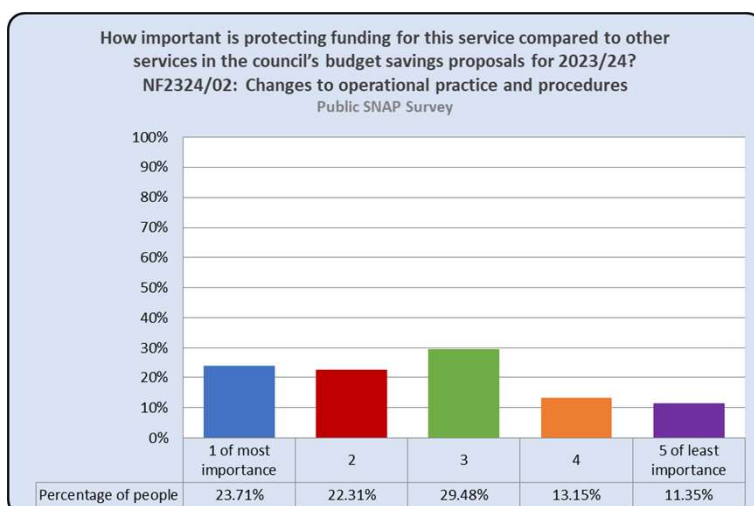
A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- Do not compromise potential flood prevention measures.
- Drainage helps roads which flood, roads which flood mean people can't easily travel and work. This is already a challenging area – whilst I agree with the need to review the service, can more be done with local communities to look at this need? Have you done an impact assessment on the likely issues on travel, flooding of homes, fields, etc?
- We are moving into times where we are seeing flooding on a more frequent basis, it would be criminal to reduce services that help eliminate and alleviate flooding! Proactive is always better than reactive!!!
- Given rising frequency of issues and that 1:100 year events (and the 1:25, 1:10 etc) are happening at frequency that original design and engineering did not anticipate, this could be a false economy.

Streetlighting Switch off 00:00 to 06:00 (excluding safety critical sites) and Reduction in Maintenance

Q23a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Streetlighting Switch off	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	366	60.40%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	106	17.49%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	104	17.16%
D: Not sure	30	4.95%

NB: There were 214 no responses.

What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?
NF2324/04: Streetlighting Switch off 00:00 to 06:00 (excluding safety critical sites) and Reduction in Maintenance
Public SNAP Survey

	A: Make the full budget saving	B: Make a smaller budget saving	C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	D: Not sure
Percentage of people	60.40%	17.49%	17.16%	4.95%
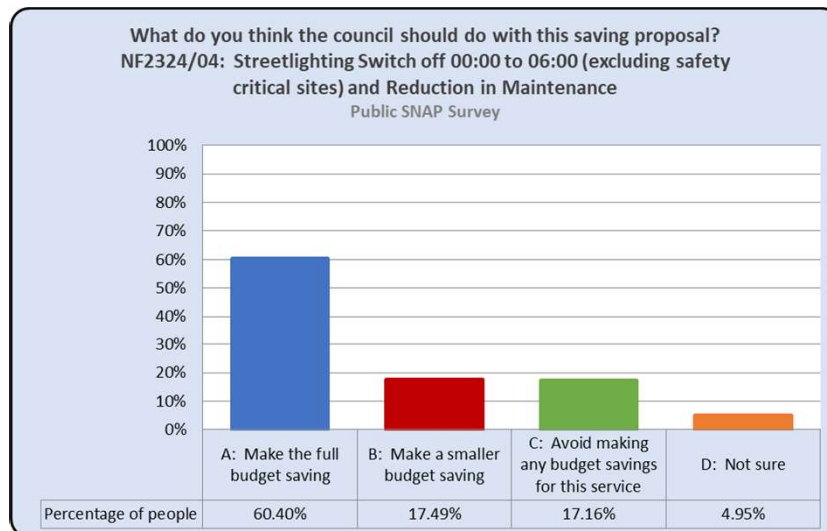
Q23b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

|	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	138	26.54%
2	91	17.50%
3	122	23.46%
4	60	11.54%
5 of least importance	109	20.96%

NB: There were 300 no responses.
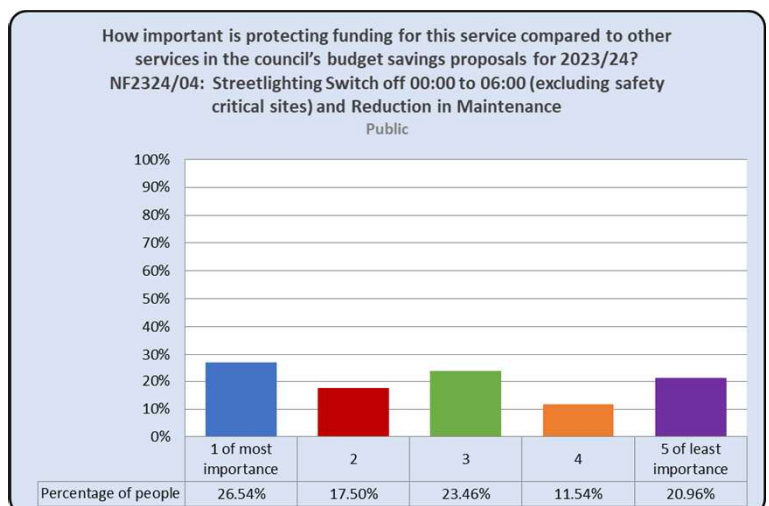
How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?
NF2324/04: Streetlighting Switch off 00:00 to 06:00 (excluding safety critical sites) and Reduction in Maintenance
Public

	1 of most importance	2	3	4	5 of least importance
Percentage of people	26.54%	17.50%	23.46%	11.54%	20.96%

A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- This will make it unsafe for lone people to walk the streets and lead to an increase in crime.
- Consider later hours than those proposed. People are still walking around especially on weekends after midnight. This is a matter of public safety.
- Keep main road lighting as it is, but smaller streets and cul de sacs could be switched off.
- As long as reviews are undertaken on public safety and in consultation with police and community safety partnerships?
- They do this in other European countries, and it's been successful from what I can tell. Further research is needed.
- Need to ensure those undertaking the audits visit the areas at night to ensure the correct decisions are made and not second guessed from an office.

Q24a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Fees increased by 10%	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	435	73.23%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	50	8.42%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	46	7.74%
D: Not sure	63	10.61%

NB: There were 226 no responses.

Q24b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	80	16.74%
2	57	11.92%
3	117	24.48%
4	74	15.48%
5 of least importance	150	31.38%

NB: There were 342 no responses.
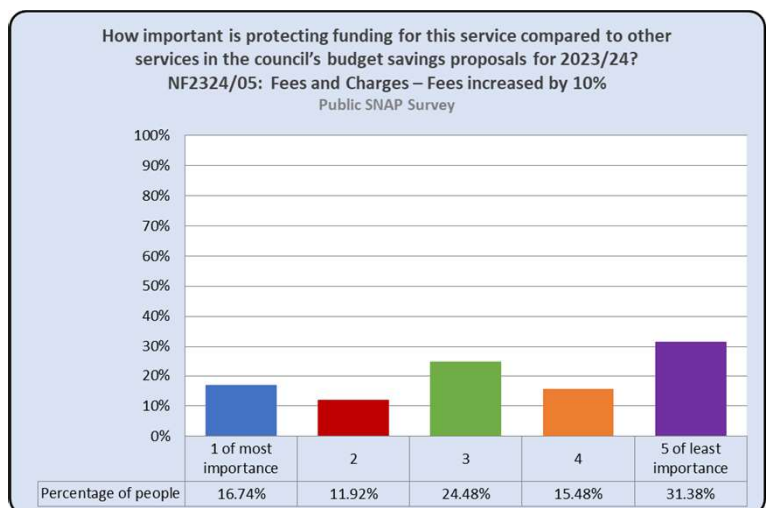
Page 128

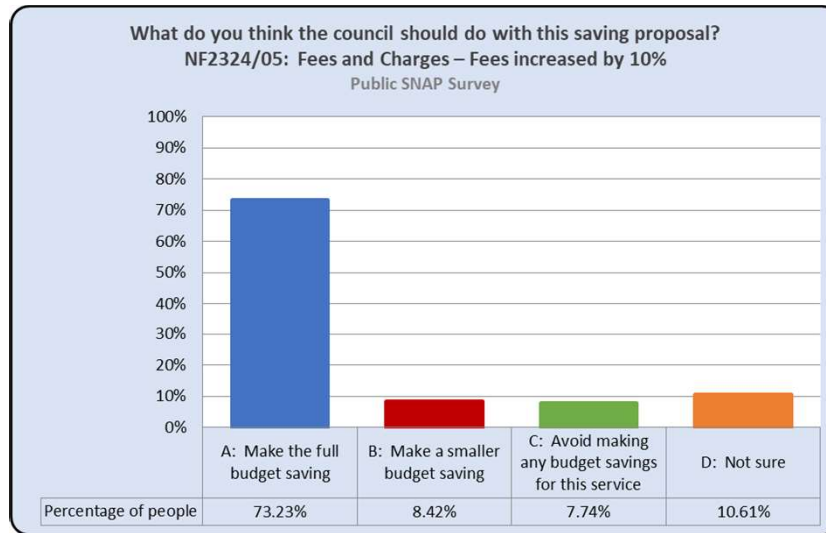**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- I would suggest a higher than inflation increase – utility companies make massive profits and can easily afford this.
- Any savings will be passed on by utility companies to their customers in extra charges.
- The utility companies can pass this cost on in minute amounts to their customers.

Regeneration & Economic Development

Newport Live Management Fee

Q25a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

| Newport Live Management Fee	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	408	67.77%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	86	14.29%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	53	8.80%
D: Not sure	55	9.14%

NB: There were 218 no responses.
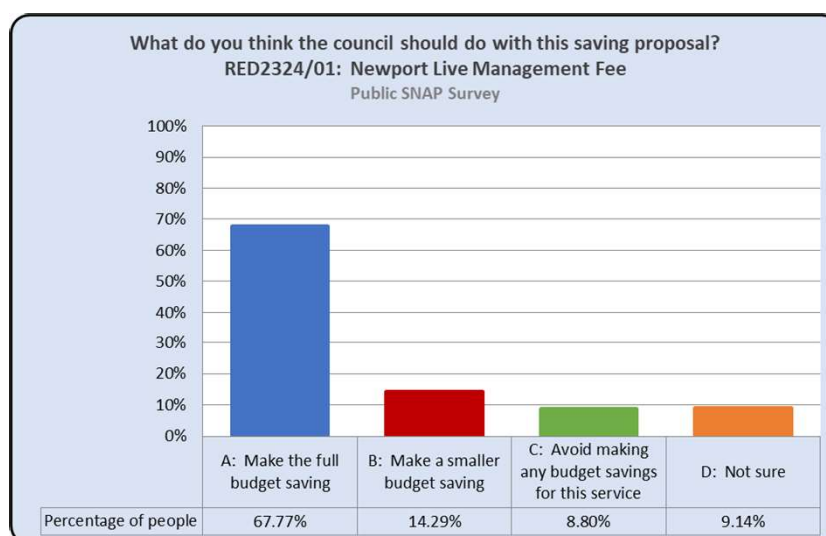
Q25b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	81	15.58%
2	85	16.35%
3	136	26.15%
4	71	13.65%
5 of least importance	147	28.27%

NB: There were 300 no responses.
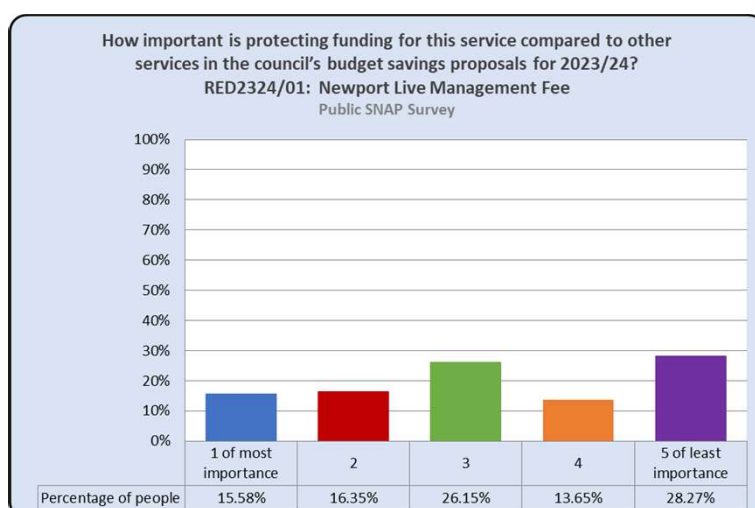
A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- Leisure is vital but I understand cuts need to be made. Cutting the proposed saving by 10%.
- The community need leisure facilities and they will not be competitive with private industry.
- It should be able to function on its income.
- We need to maintain a vibrant leisure and arts scene in Newport. If the budget is cut it will likely lead to a reduced offering at the Riverfront and this is a vital cultural hub and driver of footfall to the city centre.
- Ensure profits are reinvested to offer broad range of activities, keep prices as low as possible for users, especially children and young adults. Hopefully create a generation of healthier people.
- The council should keep making exercise as accessible as possible otherwise this will turn into a greater pressure on health services in the future.

Law & Standards

Reduce Staffing levels in the Registration Service

Q26a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Reduce Staffing levels in the Registration Service	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	382	63.88%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	91	15.22%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	71	11.87%
D: Not sure	54	9.03%

NB: There were 222 no responses.

What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?
LS2324/03: Reduce Staffing levels in the Registration Service
Public SNAP Survey

| Percentage of people | 63.88% | 15.22% | 11.87% | 9.03% |
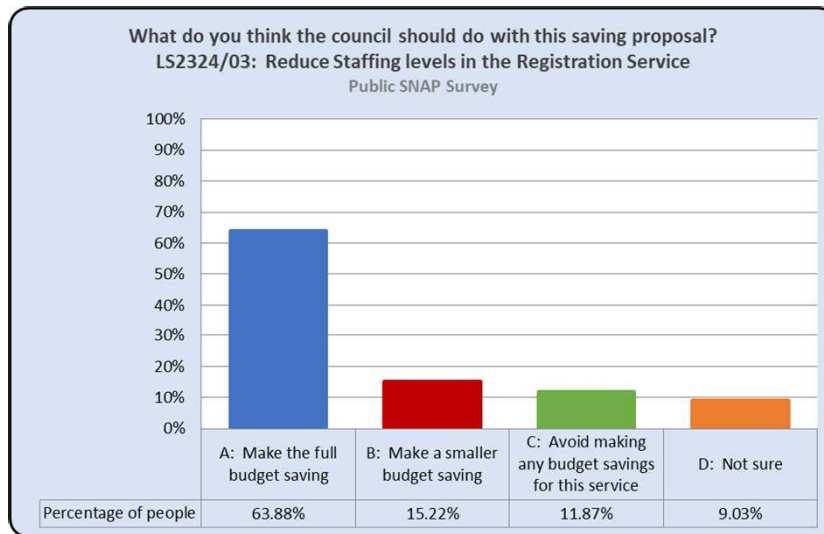
Q26b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

|	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	66	13.04%
2	56	11.07%
3	155	30.63%
4	88	17.39%
5 of least importance	141	27.87%

NB: There were 314 no responses.

How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?
LS2324/03: Reduce Staffing levels in the Registration Service
Public SNAP Survey

| Percentage of people | 13.04% | 11.07% | 30.63% | 17.39% | 27.87% |

A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- Unfortunately, or fortunately, this saving will have less of a human impact than many of the others so hopefully the IT services in place will support staff in their roles.
- Prioritise service ease of use for anyone who has suffered a bereavement as additional stress, waiting times etc. where documentation is needed seems unethical.
- These cuts can be managed, whereas cutting costs in areas like Oakland Respite Service is detrimental to the most vulnerable people in society.
- Vital service, reduce hours, if you have to, not entire posts!
- As long as the statutory requirement is met, I would agree with this.

Finance

Reduce opening times in Customer Services

Q27a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

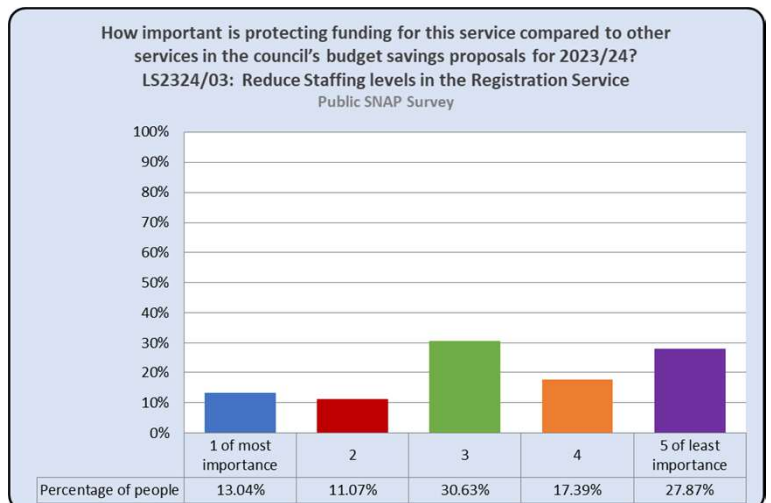| Reduce opening times in Customer Services	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	396	67.01%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	75	12.69%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	70	11.84%
D: Not sure	50	8.46%

NB: There were 229 no responses.
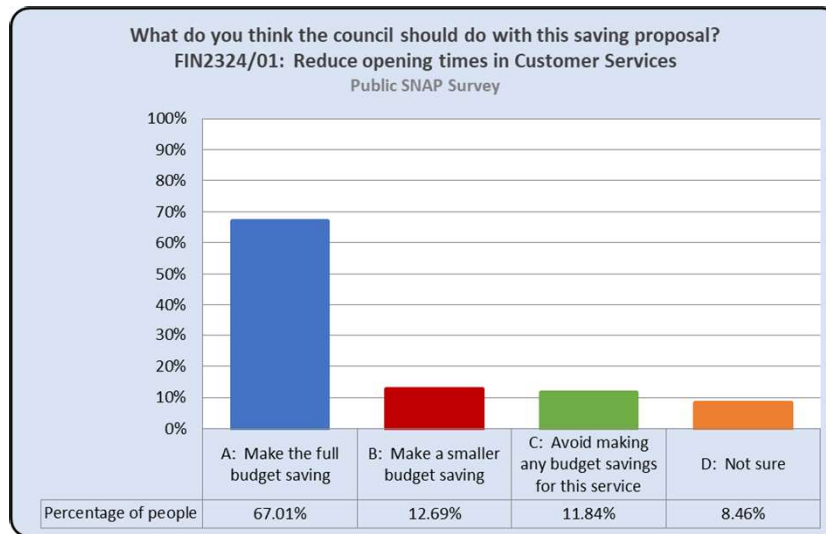
Q27b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	63	12.60%
2	69	13.80%
3	141	28.20%
4	87	17.40%
5 of least importance	140	28.00%

NB: There were 320 no responses.
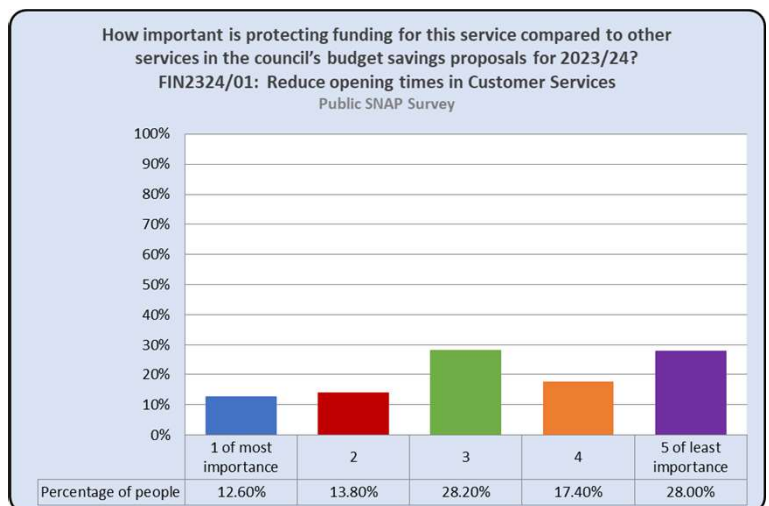
A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- Civic Centre closure times make sense. Limiting F2F services to this extent will have an impact on many service areas including Housing.
- It's difficult enough as it is to contact ANYONE at NCC and NOT everyone is IT literate or can even afford a computer!
- Cannot support this. Face to face contact is so important for many people whom I come across. The current provision is already under strain.
- Go further. Why in this day and age are you even offering this sort of service?
- Please make sure everyone is capable of using self-service as you are proposing library reductions as well and people such as elderly and the homeless may struggle.

Switching off phone and face to face channels for some transactions

Q28a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

| Switching off some transactional requests	No. of people	% of people
A: Make the full budget saving	346	57.67%
B: Make a smaller budget saving	106	17.67%
C: Avoid making any budget savings for this service	108	18.00%
D: Not sure	40	6.67%

NB: There were 220 no responses.

Q28b: How important is protecting funding for this service compared to other services in the council's budget savings proposals for 2023/24?

	No. of people	% of people
1 of most importance	99	19.04%
2	86	16.54%
3	147	28.27%
4	65	12.50%
5 of least importance	123	23.65%

NB: There were 300 no responses.

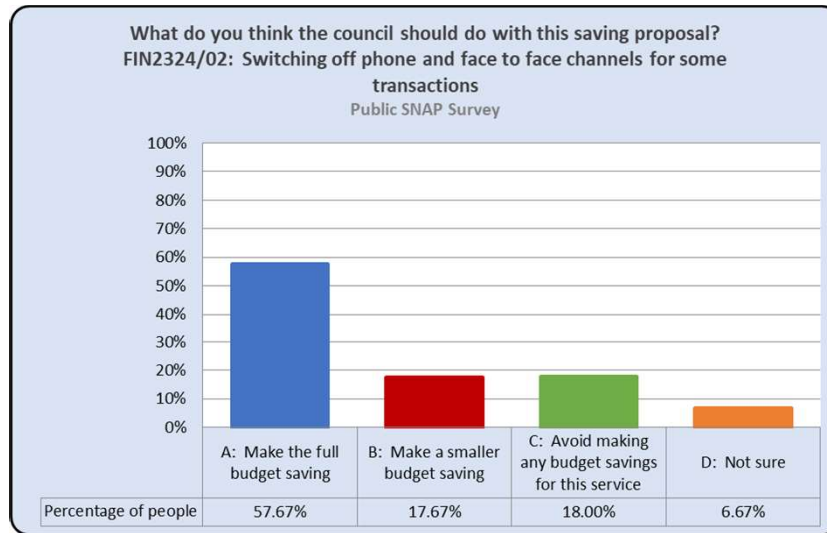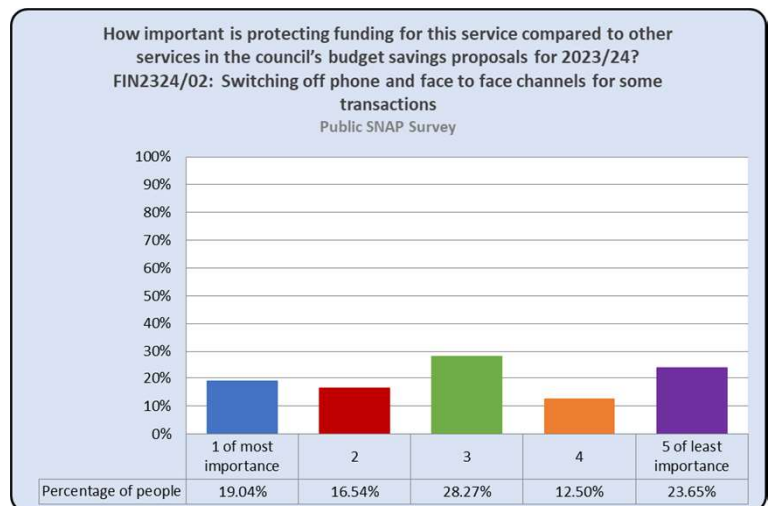**A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:**

- Some members of the community may not be able to use online platforms, please keep the phone lines open for this.
- This is a possible saving but not everyone can communicate via the internet. Also face to face enquiries are far more effective and outcomes are more positive.
- Sometimes you need to talk or email someone, if your online request is not acted upon.
- Agree with this proposal, however there does need to be an improvement in how online requests are handled. Some of mine have been ignored and as there's no function to chase the request, I end up having to create a duplicate of the request. An online system will only be a success if it's efficient, easy to use and has direct accountability.

Asset Rationalisation

Q29a: Should we:

Public SNAP Survey		
	No. of people	% of people
Continue to use our assets in the same way	59	10.10%
Repurpose assets, where funding is available to do so	288	49.32%
Where possible look at transferring assets to community & third sector groups	204	34.93%
Dispose of the assets to realise a capital receipt	254	43.49%

NB: There were 236 no responses.
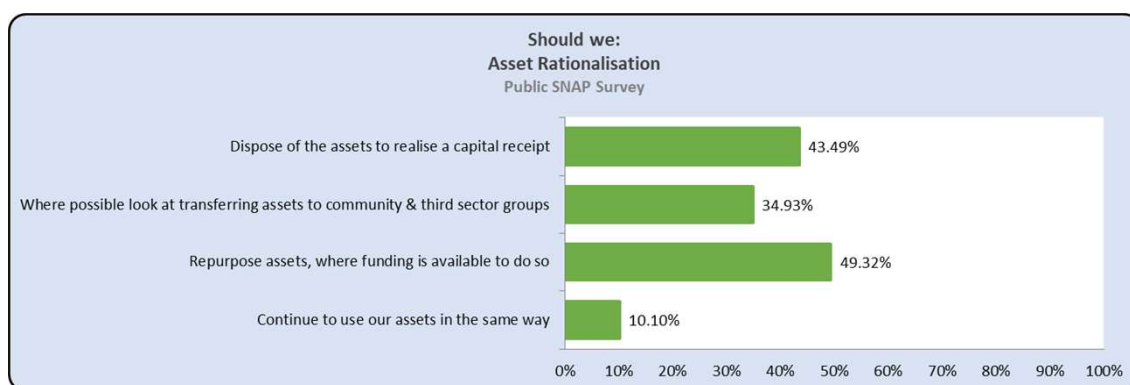
Bus Wi-Fi Survey		
	No. of people	% of people
Continue to use our assets in the same way	442	67.69%
Repurpose assets, where funding is available to do so	303	46.40%
Where possible look at transferring assets to community & third sector groups	169	25.88%
No longer own some buildings and assets move services into other premises	131	20.06%
Don't know	208	31.85%

Page 138
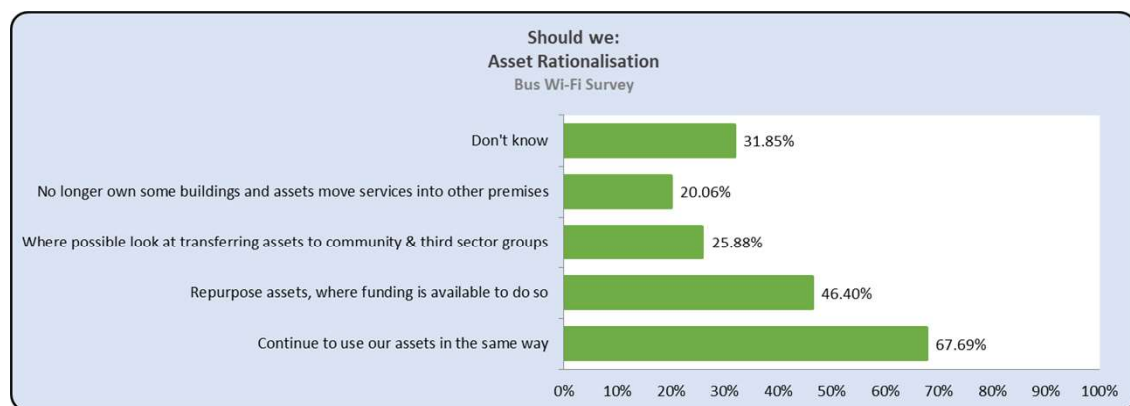
Q29b: Specifically in relation to the Civic Centre, should we:

Public SNAP Survey	No. of people	% of people
Look at options to bring other organisations into the Civic Centre	367	63.49%
Move services out and look at new ways of using the building, where funding is available	77	13.32%
Explore options to dispose of the building	134	23.18%

NB: There were 242 no responses.
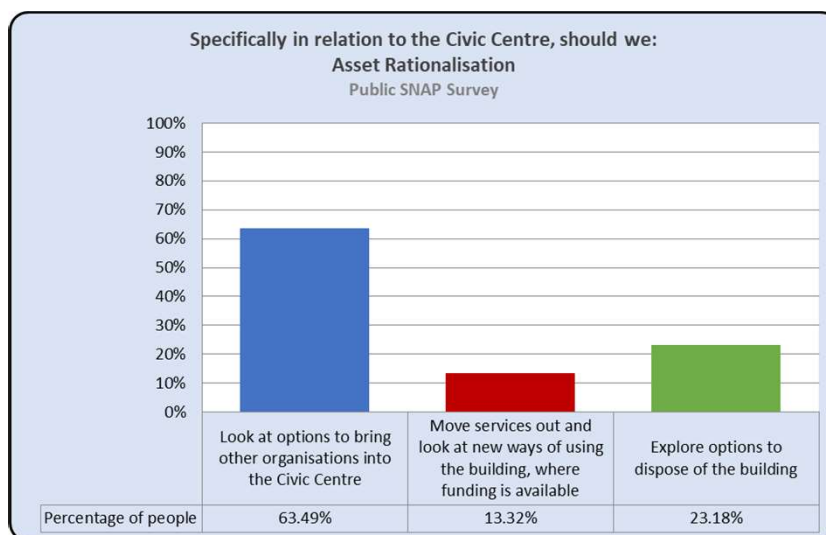
Bus Wi-Fi Survey	No. of people	% of people
Look at options to bring other organisations into the Civic Centre	205	31.39%
Move services out and look at new ways of using the building, where funding is available	146	22.36%
The building would no longer be owned by the Council and services would be moved into other premises	74	11.33%
Don't know	228	34.92%
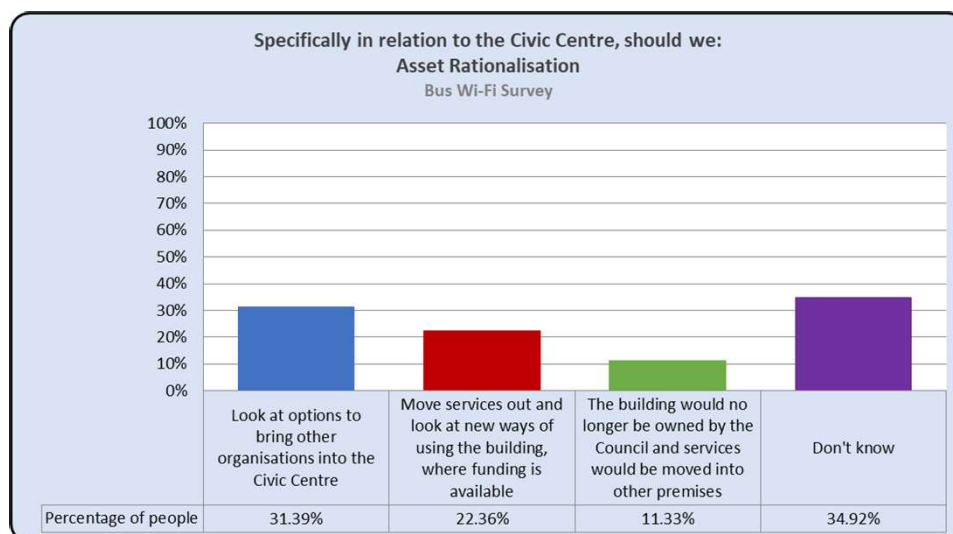
Q29c: Specifically in relation to the Mansion House and other buildings, should we:

Public SNAP Survey		
	No. of people	% of people
Continue to use it as we are	68	11.74%
Explore options for increasing the usage	322	55.61%
Explore options for disposal of the building and grounds	189	32.64%

NB: There were 241 no responses.
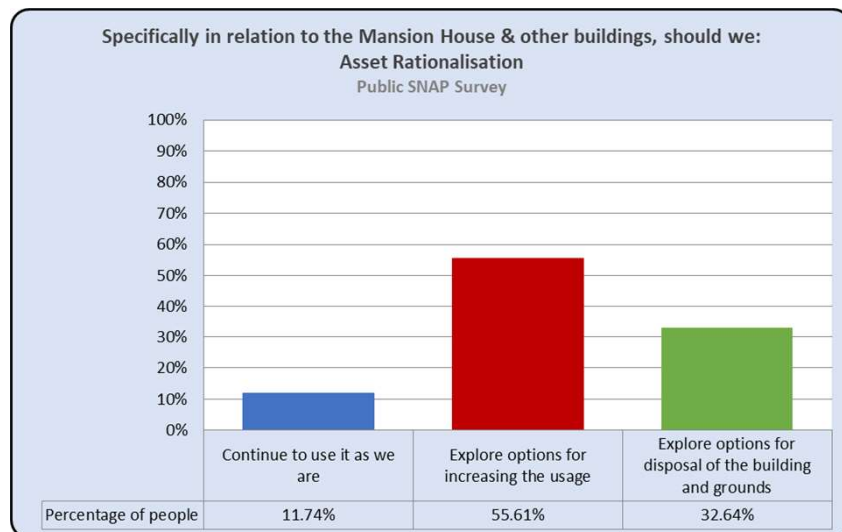
Bus Wi-Fi Survey		
	No. of people	% of people
Continue to use it as we are	147	22.51%
Explore options for increasing the usage	139	21.29%
The building and grounds would no longer be owned by the Council and services would be moved into other premises	139	21.29%
Don't know	228	34.92%

Q29c: Specifically in relation to the Mansion House and other buildings, should we:
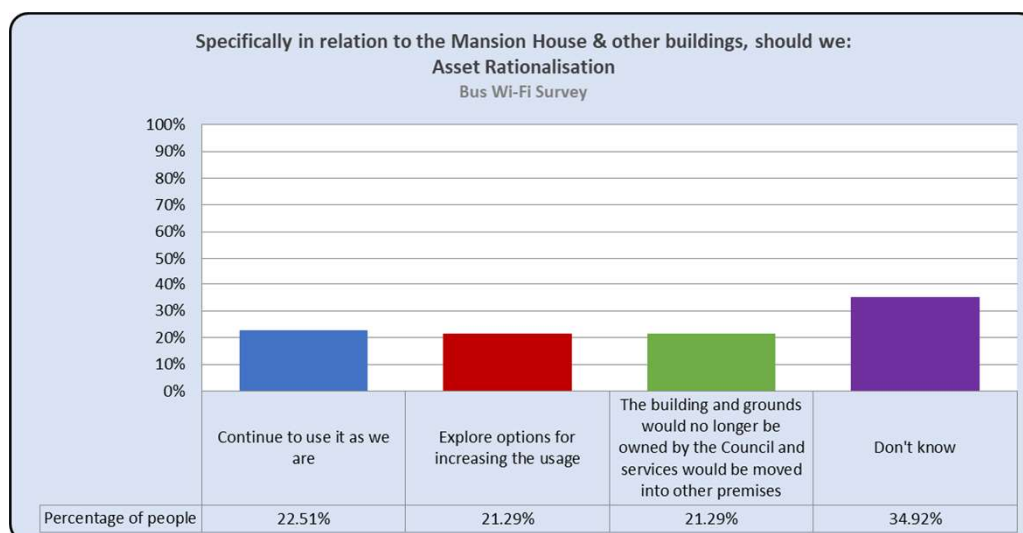
Funding

Council Tax

Q30a: What do you think the council should do with this saving proposal?

Public SNAP Survey		
Council Tax increase	**No. of people**	**% of people**
Too much	417	63.86%
About right	190	29.10%
Not enough	28	4.29%
Don't know	18	2.76%

NB: There were 167 no responses.

Is the proposed council tax increase of 9.5%.....?
Public SNAP Survey

	Too much	About right	Not enough	Don't know
Percentage of people	63.86%	29.10%	4.29%	2.76%
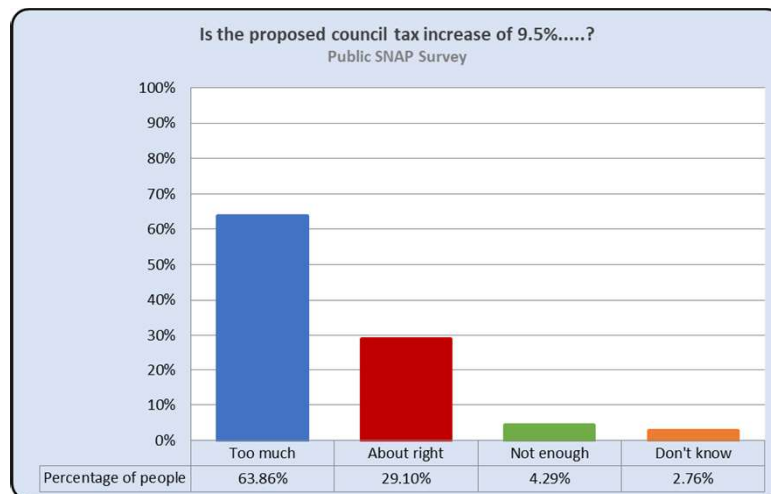
Bus Wi-Fi Survey		
Council Tax increase	**No. of people**	**% of people**
Too much	203	31.09%
About right	154	23.58%
Not enough	53	8.12%
Don't know	243	37.21%
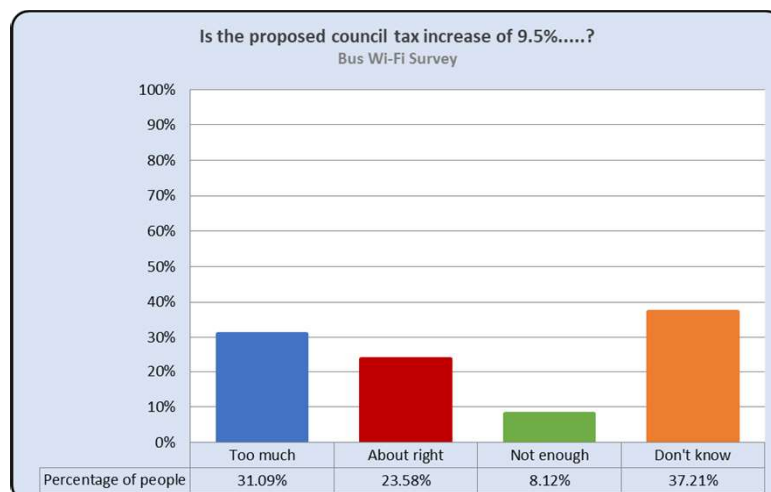
Is the proposed council tax increase of 9.5%.....?
Bus Wi-Fi Survey

	Too much	About right	Not enough	Don't know
Percentage of people	31.09%	23.58%	8.12%	37.21%

A selection of comments, in the respondent's own words, that indicate the range of responses received:

- We will be paying more and receiving less. 9.5% may not be much to many people but when some have had close to 0% increase in wages it's tough.
- I agree with council tax rises as long as investment in services is demonstrated with resources being used more effectively.
- As much as it pains me to say, and I hate having to pay more tax, but this is below inflation. I personally would accept this providing the bin collections are not changed to three weekly.
- Consideration should be given to broadening the assistance / benefits levels for this on low incomes.
- Prefer tax rises than cuts to key services.
- Why should I pay more for fewer services?

Equalities Monitoring

Q31: What is your gender?

Public SNAP Survey		
Gender	No. of people	% of people
Male	279	37.91%
Female	403	54.76%
Non-binary	5	0.68%
Self-identify	1	0.14%
Prefer not to say	48	6.52%

Bus Wi-Fi Survey		
Gender	No. of people	% of people
Male	271	41.50%
Female	240	36.75%
Non-binary	44	6.74%
Self-identify	27	4.13%
Prefer not to say	71	10.87%

NB: There were 84 no responses.

Self-identify: Gender Fluid

What is your gender?
Public SNAP Survey

	Male	Female	Non-binary	Self-identify	Prefer not to say
Percentage of people	37.91%	54.76%	0.68%	0.14%	6.52%

What is your gender?
Bus Wi-Fi Survey

	Male	Female	Non-binary	Self-identify	Prefer not to say
Percentage of people	41.50%	36.75%	6.74%	4.13%	10.87%
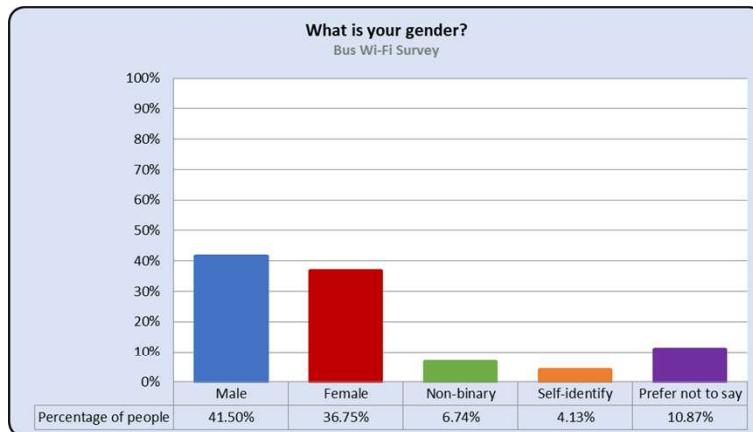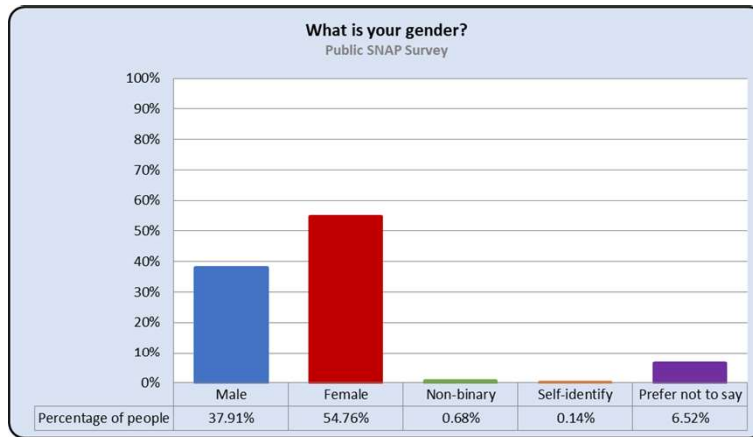
Q32: What is your age?

Public SNAP Survey		
Age	No. of people	% of people
Under 18 years old	1	0.14%
18-24 years old	19	2.57%
25-34 years old	121	16.37%
35-44 years old	211	28.55%
45-54 years old	168	22.73%
55-64 years old	113	15.29%
65-74 years old	45	6.09%
75 years or older	13	1.76%
Prefer not to say	48	6.50%

Bus Wi-Fi Survey		
Age	No. of people	% of people
Under 18 years old	58	8.88%
18-24 years old	157	24.04%
25-34 years old	110	16.85%
35-44 years old	90	13.78%
45-54 years old	84	12.86%
55-64 years old	65	9.95%
65+	27	4.13%
Prefer not to say	62	9.49%

NB: There were 81 no responses.

Age?
Public SNAP Survey

	Under 18 years old	18-24 years old	25-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-54 years old	55-64 years old	65-74 years old	75 years or older	Prefer not to say
Percentage of people	0.14%	2.57%	16.37%	28.55%	22.73%	15.29%	6.09%	1.76%	6.50%

Age?
Bus Wi-Fi Survey

	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Prefer not to say
Percentage of people	8.88%	24.04%	16.85%	13.78%	12.86%	9.95%	4.13%	9.49%
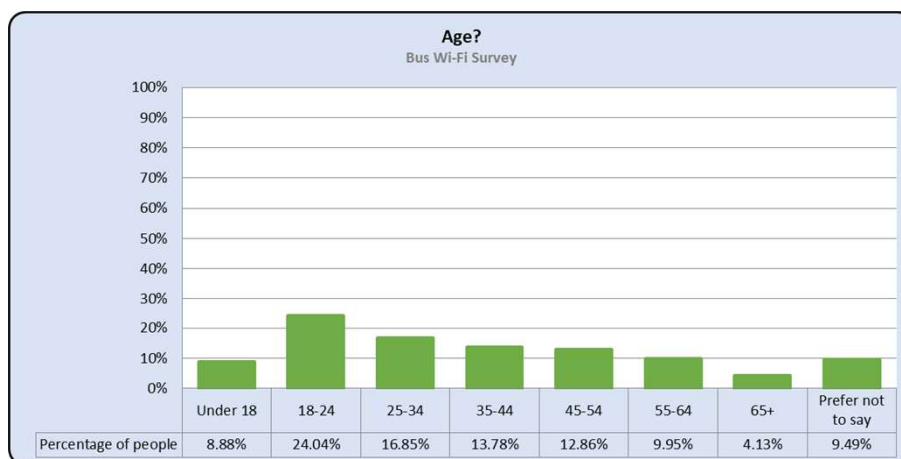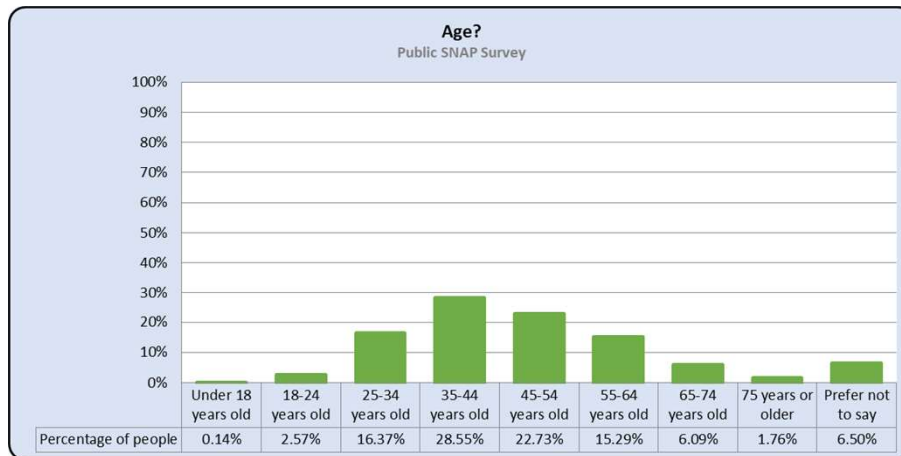
Q33: What area of Newport do you live in?

Public SNAP Survey		
Ward	No. of people	% of people
Allt-Yr-Yn	48	6.55%
Alway	17	2.32%
Beechwood	36	4.91%
Bettws	38	5.18%
Bishton & Langstone	22	3.00%
Caerleon	45	6.14%
Gaer	31	4.23%
Graig	20	2.73%
Llanwern	15	2.05%
Lliswerry	44	6.00%
Malpas	46	6.28%

Public SNAP Survey		
Ward	No. of people	% of people
Pillgwenlly	8	1.09%
Ringland	14	1.91%
Rogerstone East	22	3.00%
Rogerstone North	19	2.59%
Rogerstone West	37	5.05%
Shaftesbury	9	1.23%
St Julians	70	9.55%
Stow Hill	24	3.27%
Tredegar Park & Marshfield	27	3.68%
Victoria	18	2.46%
Not specified as living in a Newport ward	123	16.78%

NB: There were 87 no responses.

Bus Wi-Fi Survey		
Ward	No. of people	% of people
Allt-Yr-Yn	20	3.06%
Alway	41	6.28%
Beechwood	24	3.68%
Bettws	80	12.25%
Bishton & Langstone	11	1.68%
Caerleon	39	5.97%
Gaer	35	5.36%
Graig	26	3.98%
Llanwern	31	4.75%
Lliswerry	50	7.66%
Malpas	47	7.20%

Bus Wi-Fi Survey		
Ward	No. of people	% of people
Pillgwenlly	45	6.89%
Ringland	43	6.58%
Rogerstone East	3	0.46%
Rogerstone North	3	0.46%
Rogerstone West	4	0.61%
Shaftesbury	2	0.31%
St Julians	25	3.83%
Stow Hill	11	1.68%
Tredegar Park & Marshfield	14	2.14%
Victoria	8	1.23%
Not specified as living in a Newport ward	91	13.94%

What area of Newport do you live in?
Public SNAP Survey

What area of Newport do you live in?
Bus Wi-Fi Survey
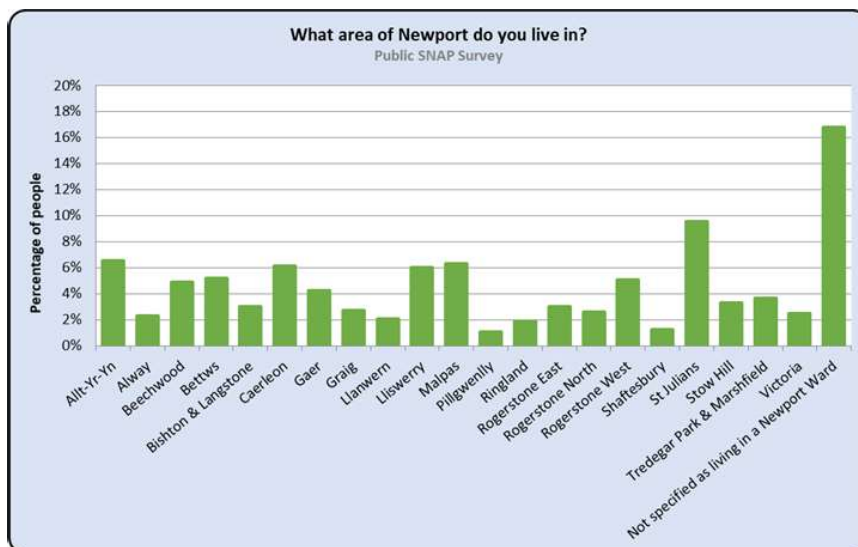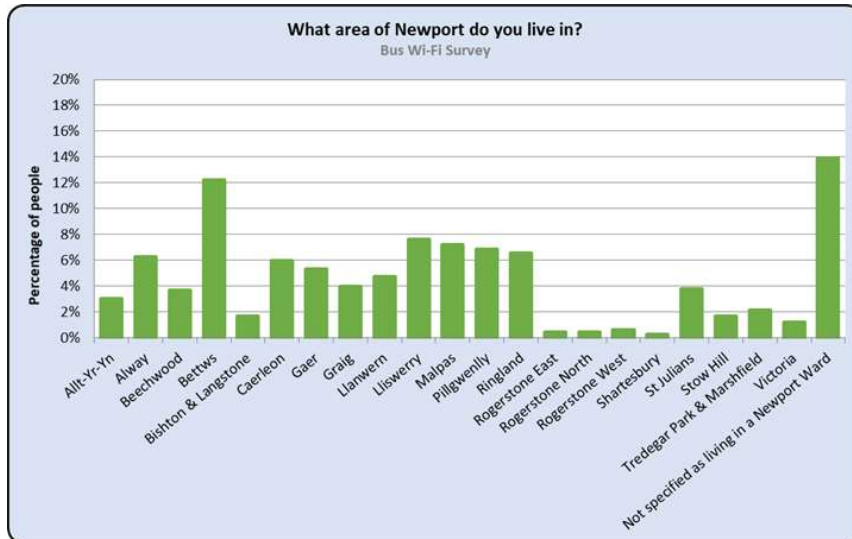
Q34: Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Disabled	No. of people	% of people
Yes	84	11.78%
No	567	79.52%
Prefer not to say	62	8.70%

NB: There were 107 no responses.

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?
Public SNAP Survey

	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Percentage of people	11.78%	79.52%	8.70%
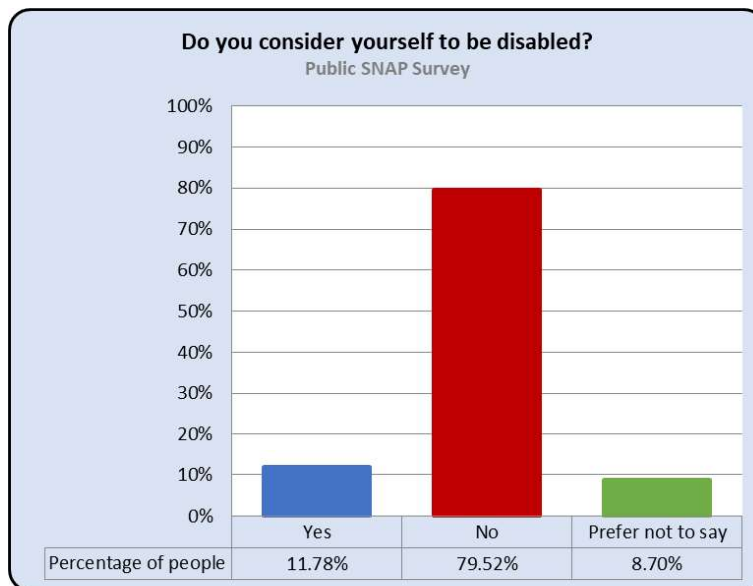
Q35: Do you consider yourself a Welsh speaker?

Welsh speaker	No. of people	% of people
Yes - Fluent	17	2.34%
Yes - able to understand some Welsh	90	12.38%
No	572	78.68%
Prefer not to say	48	6.60%

NB: There were 93 no responses.

Do you consider yourself a Welsh speaker?
Public SNAP Survey

	Yes - Fluent	Yes - able to understand some Welsh	No	Prefer not to say
Percentage of people	2.34%	12.38%	78.68%	6.60%
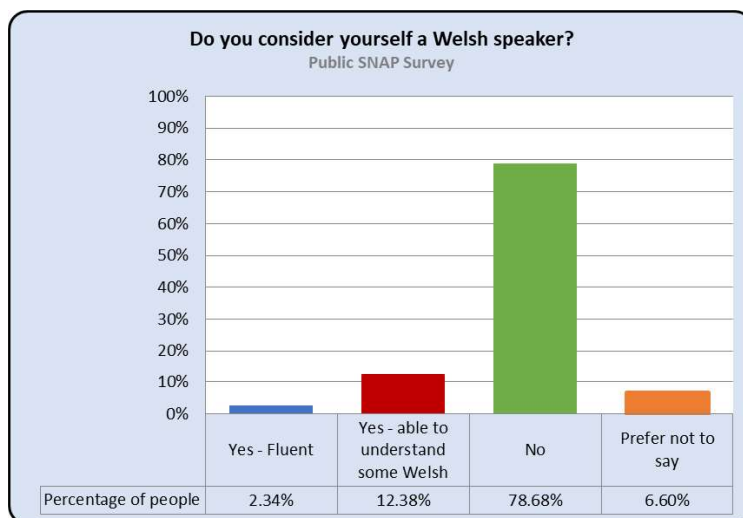
Q36: What is your ethnic group?

Public SNAP Survey		
Ethnicity	**No. of people**	**% of people**
White - Wel / Eng / Sco / NI / British	636	87.48%
White - Irish	5	0.69%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1	0.14%
Other White	12	1.65%
White & Black Caribbean	1	0.14%
White & Asian	4	0.55%
White & Black African	1	0.14%
Other Mixed	4	0.55%
Indian	1	0.14%
Pakistani	4	0.55%

Public SNAP Survey		
Ethnicity	**No. of people**	**% of people**
Bangladeshi	1	0.14%
Other Asian	0	0.00%
Black African	2	0.28%
Black Caribbean	0	0.00%
Other Black	0	0.00%
Arab	0	0.00%
Chinese	0	0.00%
Other ethnic group	3	0.41%
Prefer not to say	52	7.15%

NB: There were 93 no responses.

Other White	Other Mixed	Other Asian	Other Black	Other ethnic group
British / French	White - Mexican			Australian
Polish				Cymry, dim lliw
European				
Polish				
European				
Italian				

Bus Wi-Fi Survey		
Ethnicity	No. of people	% of people
White - Wel / Eng / Sco / NI / British	300	45.94%
White - Irish	30	4.59%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	3	0.46%
Other White	13	1.99%
White & Black Caribbean	20	3.06%
White & Asian	9	1.38%
White & Black African	25	3.83%
Other Mixed	7	1.07%
Indian	32	4.90%
Pakistani	6	0.92%

Bus Wi-Fi Survey		
Ethnicity	No. of people	% of people
Bangladeshi	37	5.67%
Other Asian	33	5.05%
Black African	46	7.04%
Black Caribbean	1	0.15%
Other Black	17	2.60%
Arab	10	1.53%
Chinese	2	0.31%
Other ethnic group	5	0.77%
Prefer not to say	57	8.73%

What is your ethnic group?
Public SNAP Survey

What is your ethnic group?
Bus Wi-Fi Survey
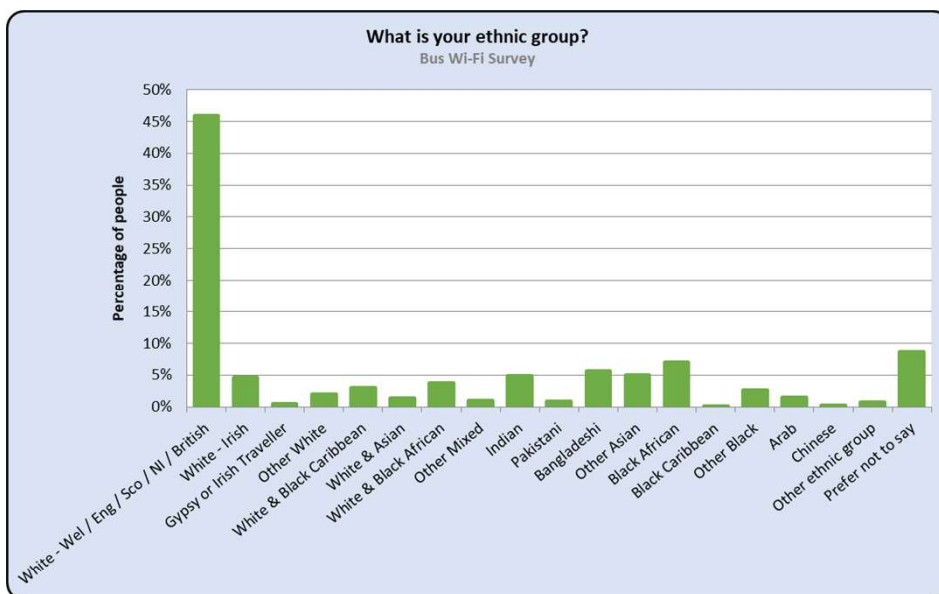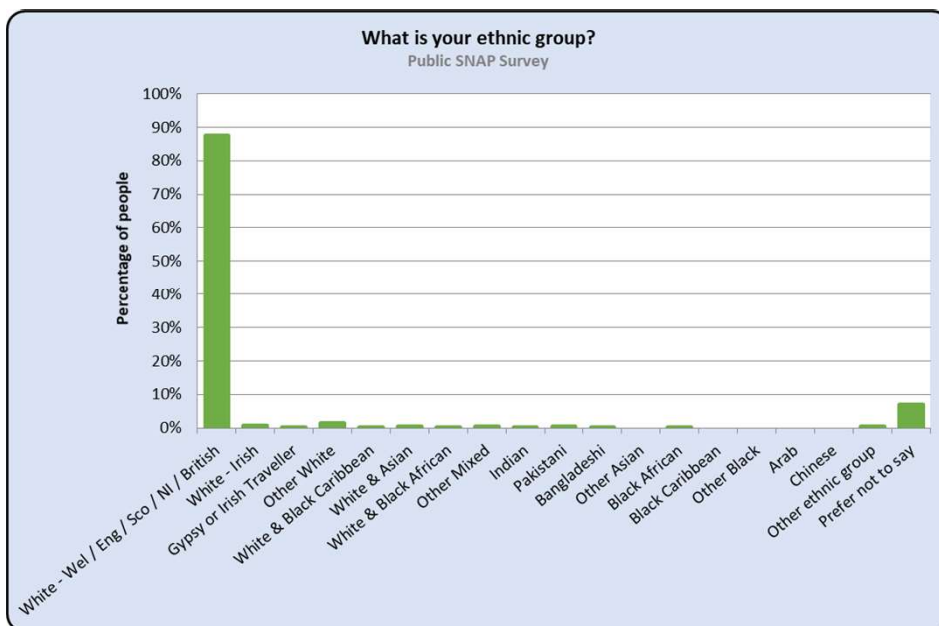
Q37: What is your current sexual orientation?

Sexual Orientation	No. of people	% of people
Heterosexual / Straight	533	78.27%
Gay man / Homosexual	14	2.06%
Gay women / Lesbian	6	0.88%
Bisexual	16	2.35%

Sexual Orientation	No. of people	% of people
Pansexual	2	0.29%
ACE	1	0.15%
I identify in another way	3	0.44%
Prefer not to say	106	15.57%

NB: There were 139 no responses.

What is your current sexual orientation?
Public SNAP Survey

	Heterosexual / Straight	Gay man / Homosexual	Gay women / Lesbian	Bisexual	Pansexual	ACE	I identify in another way	Prefer not to say
Percentage of people	78.27%	2.06%	0.88%	2.35%	0.29%	0.15%	0.44%	15.57%
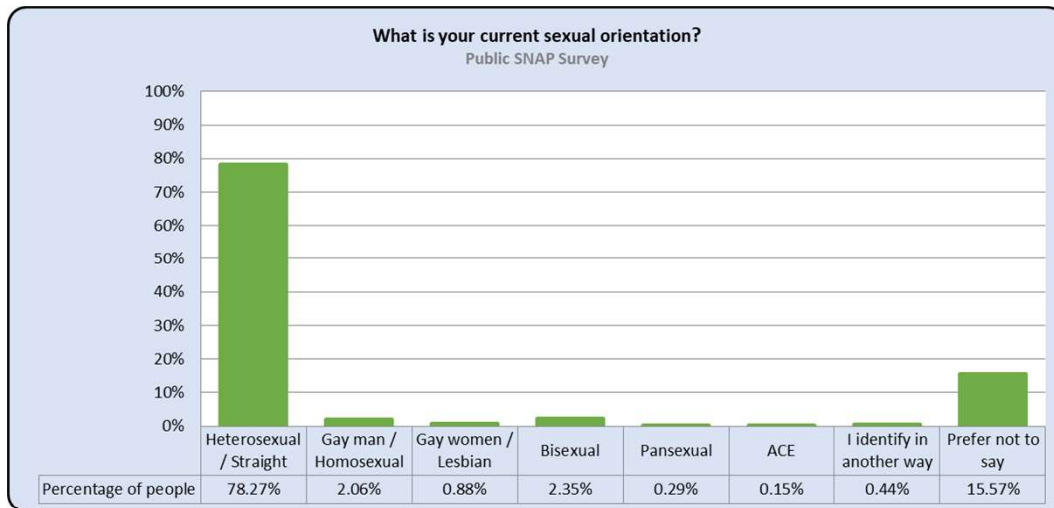
Q38: Are you married or in a civil partnership?

Married	No. of people	% of people
Yes	407	57.81%
No	220	31.25%
Prefer not to say	77	10.94%

NB: There were 116 no responses.

Are you married or in a civil partnership?
Public SNAP Survey

	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Percentage of people	57.81%	31.25%	10.94%
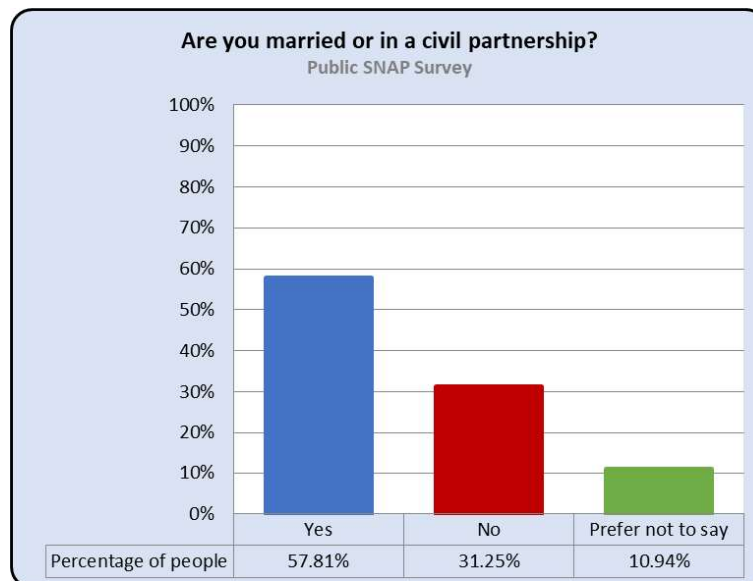
Q39: Religion / Belief?

Religion / Belief	No. of people	% of people
Buddhist	1	0.14%
Christian	266	37.57%
Hindu	1	0.14%
Jewish	2	0.28%
Muslim	6	0.85%
Sikh	0	0.00%

Religion / Belief	No. of people	% of people
Any other	7	0.99%
Atheist	50	7.06%
No religion	216	30.51%
Agnostic	26	3.67%
Humanist	7	0.99%
Prefer not to say	126	17.80%

NB: There were 112 no responses.

Religion / Belief?
Public SNAP Survey

	Buddhist	Christian	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Any other	Atheist	No religion	Agnostic	Humanist	Prefer not to say
Percentage of people	0.14%	37.57%	0.14%	0.28%	0.85%	0.00%	0.99%	7.06%	30.51%	3.67%	0.99%	17.80%
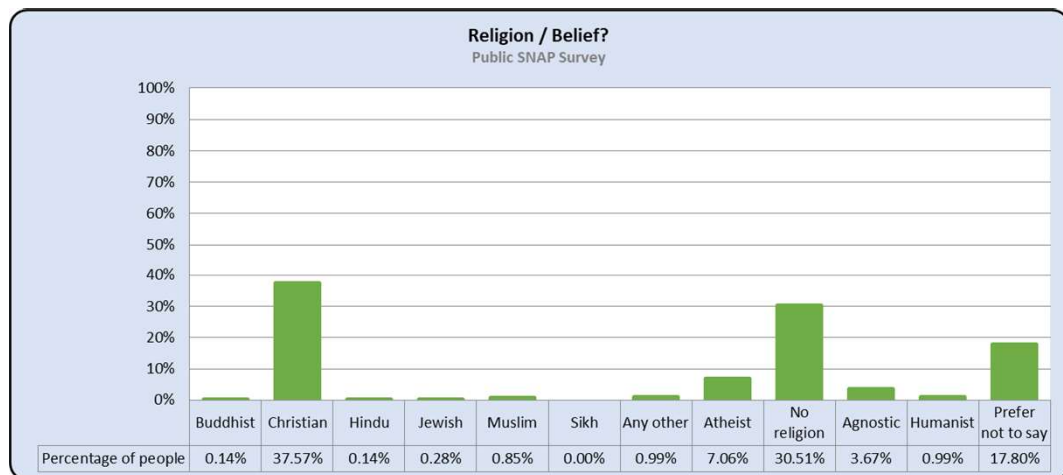
Q40: What is your sex?

Sex	No. of people	% of people
Female	386	55.22%
Male	255	36.48%
Prefer not to say	58	8.30%

NB: There were 121 no responses.

What is your sex?
Public SNAP Survey

	Female	Male	Prefer not to say
Percentage of people	55.22%	36.48%	8.30%
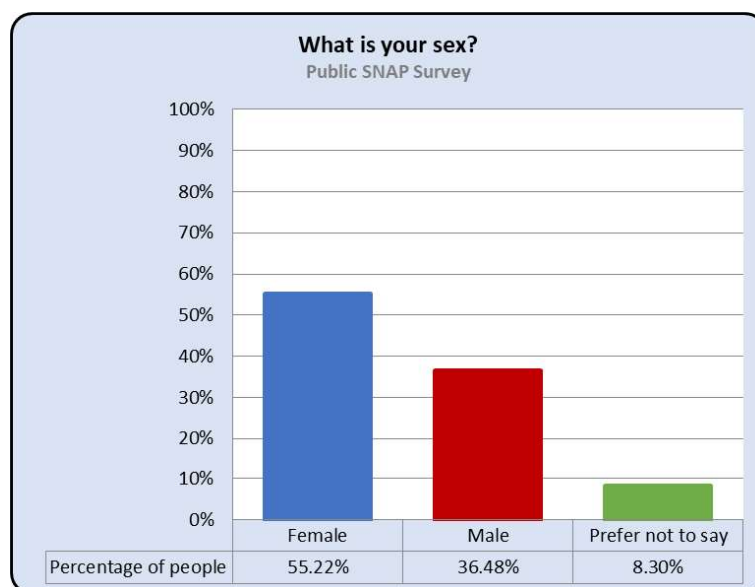
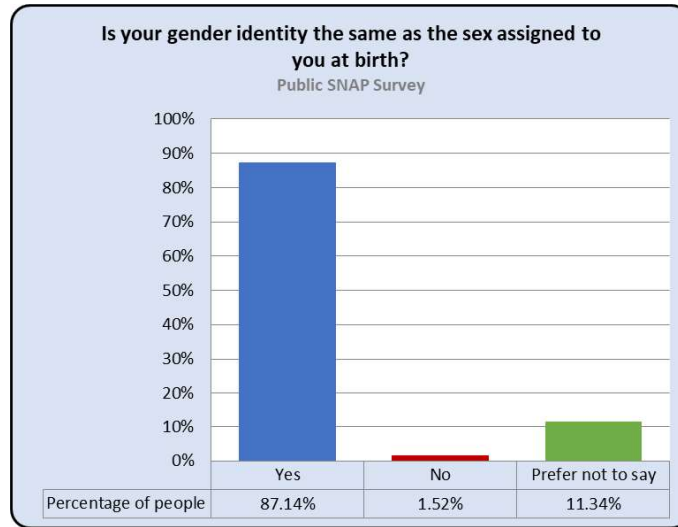## Q41: Is your gender identity the same as the sex assigned to you at birth?

Identity assigned at birth	No. of people	% of people
Yes	630	87.14%
No	11	1.52%
Prefer not to say	82	11.34%

NB: There were 97 no responses.

Q42: Caring Responsibilities?

School age	No. of people	% of people
Yes	303	41.79%
No	362	49.93%
Prefer not to say	60	8.28%

Pre-school age	No. of people	% of people
Yes	124	17.37%
No	529	74.09%
Prefer not to say	61	8.54%

Dependent adult	No. of people	% of people
Yes	133	18.55%
No	509	70.99%
Prefer not to say	75	10.46%

NB: There were 95 no responses (school age); 106 no responses (pre-school age); and 103 no responses (dependent adult).
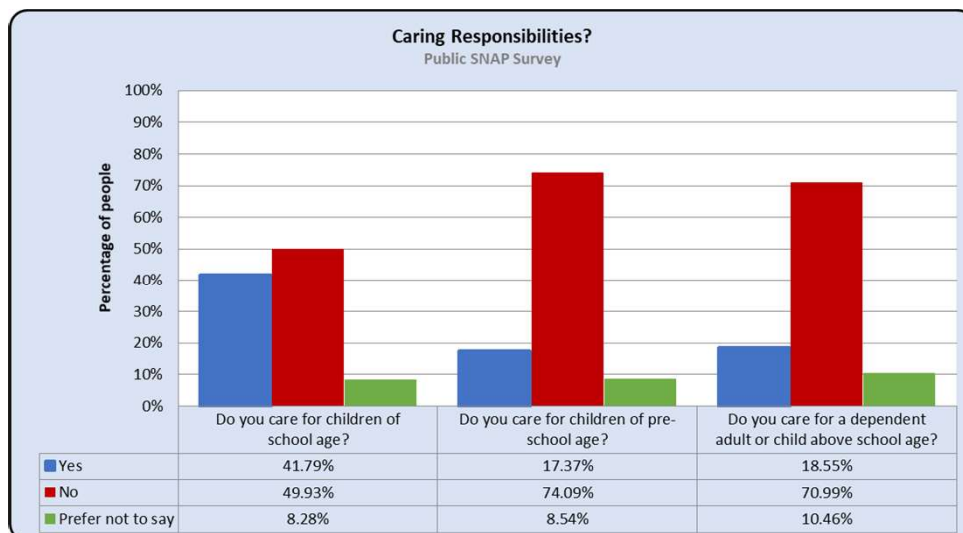
This page is intentionally left blank

Scrutiny Report

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Part 1

Date: May 2023

Subject   Scrutiny Adviser Report

Author   Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Role
Samantha Schanzer (Scrutiny Adviser)	Present the Committee with the Scrutiny Adviser Report for discussion and update the Committee on any changes.

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. **Action Plan**
   Consider the Actions from previous meetings **(Appendix 1)**:
   - *Note the responses for the actions;*
   - *Determine if any further information / action is required;*
   - *Agree to receive an update on outstanding issues at the next meeting.*

2. **Committee's Work Programme:**
   Consider the Committee's Forward Work Programme Update **(Appendix 2)**:
   - *Are there any amendments to the topics scheduled to be considered at the next Committee meeting?*
   - *Are there any additional invitees that the Committee requires to fully consider the topics?*
   - *Is there any additional information that the Committee would like to request?*

3. **Scrutiny Topic Referral**
   Consider referrals forwarded to committee **(Appendix 3)**
   - *Does the referral meet the criteria as set out within the referral form?*
   - *Does the referral fit with the priorities within the work programme?*
   - *If so, which Scrutiny committee is best placed to deal with this referral e.g. Performance Scrutiny Committee for Place, People or Partnerships or Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee?*
   - *How should this piece of work be undertaken?*

2   Context

Background

Action Sheet

2.1   Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Action Sheet from the Committee meetings. The updated completed actions are included in the table.

2.2   Any actions that do not have a response will be included on the Action Sheet at the next meeting to ensure that the Committee can keep track of outstanding actions.

Forward Work Programme

2.3   Attached at **Appendix 2** is the Draft Forward Work Programme for the year 2023-24.

2.4   The purpose of a Forward Work Programme is to help ensure Councillors achieve organisation and focus in the undertaking of enquiries through the Overview and Scrutiny function. Effective work programming is essential to ensure that the work of Overview and Scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services.

2.4   Further information about the work programming process, including the procedures for referring new business to the programme, can be found in our Scrutiny Handbook on the Council's Scrutiny webpages (www.newport.gov.uk/scrutiny).

2.5   The Centre for Public Scrutiny's Good Scrutiny Guide recognises the importance of the forward work programme. In order to 'lead and own the process', it states that Councillors should have ownership of their Committee's work programme, and be involved in developing, monitoring and evaluating it. The Good Scrutiny Guide also states that, in order to make an impact, the scrutiny workload should be co-ordinated and integrated into corporate processes, to ensure that it contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.

Scrutiny Topic Referral

2.6   Attached at **Appendix 3** is a Scrutiny Topic Referral.

2.7   As per the procedure, all Scrutiny Topic Referrals in the first instance are considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to determine whether they meet the criteria:

- **Public Interest**: The concerns of the people should influence the issues chosen for Scrutiny.
- **Ability to Change**: Priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence, and which will result in a Cabinet decision being taken.
- **Performance**: Priority should be given to the areas in which the Council, and other agencies, are not performing well.
- **Extent**: Priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the city.
- **Replication**: Work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

2.8   There are several reasons to reject a Scrutiny Topic Referral, including:

- Scrutiny involvement would have limited/no impact upon outcomes.

- The issue is already being addressed/examined elsewhere and change is imminent.
- The topic would be better addressed elsewhere and will be referred there.
- New legislation or guidance relating to the topic is expected within the next year.
- The topic may be sub-judice or prejudicial to the Council's interest.
- The topic is too broad to make a review realistic.
- The topic area is currently subject to inspection or has recently undergone substantial change.

2.9 For every item on the work programme, including referrals, it should be clear:

- What is the issue/activity/project under consideration?
- What is Scrutiny being asked to do?
- What are the reasons for/expected benefits of involving Scrutiny in this matter?
- Is there a specific deadline for this piece of work?

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

3.1 The following information is attached:

Appendix 1: Action Sheet from Previous Meetings;
Appendix 2: Draft Forward Work Programme
Appendix 3: Scrutiny Topic Referral

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- **Action Sheet from Previous Meetings - Appendix 1**
  - Consider the responses to the actions from the meeting;
  - Are you satisfied that you have received the necessary information?
  - Are there any further issues arising from the responses that you would like to raise?
  - For the actions that do not have responses – these actions will be rolled over to the next meeting and reported back to the Committee.

- **Draft Forward Work Programme - Appendix 2**
  Consider:
  - Are there any amendments to the topics scheduled to be considered at the next Committee meeting?
  - Are there any additional invitees that the Committee requires to fully consider the topics?
  - Is there any additional information that the Committee would like to request?

- **Scrutiny Topic Referral - Appendix 3**
  Consider:
  - Does the referral meet the criteria as set out within the referral form?
  - Does the referral fit with the priorities within the work programme?
  - Should this referral be accepted or rejected based on the criteria and other information?
  - If accepted, which Scrutiny committee is best placed to deal with this referral e.g. Performance Scrutiny Committee for Place, People or Partnerships or Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee?
  - How should this piece of work be undertaken?

Section B – Supporting Information

5   Supporting Information

5.1   The Corporate Assessment, and the subsequent follow up assessment provide background information on the importance of good work programming. Specific reference is made to the need to align the Cabinet and Scrutiny work programmes to ensure the value of the Scrutiny Function is maximised.

5.2   The latest Cabinet work programme was approved by the Cabinet on a monthly basis for the next 12 months and includes the list of reports scheduled for consideration. Effective forward planning by both Cabinet and Scrutiny needs to be coordinated and integrated in relation to certain reports to ensure proper consultation takes place before a decision is taken. A link to the Cabinet work programme is provided here to the Committee as part of this report, to enable the Committee to ensure that the work programmes continue to reflect key decisions being made by the Cabinet.

6.   Links to Council Policies and Priorities

6.1   Having proper work programming procedures in place ensures that the work of Overview and Scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services, contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and ensures that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.

6.2   This report relates to the Actions from Committee's which support the achievement of the Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with the Law and Regulation Service Plan, Objectives, Actions and Measures and the Wellbeing objectives:

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
Aims:	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

7   Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

7.1   The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 which came into force in April 2016 sets the context for the move towards long term planning of services.

7.2   **General questions**
   • How is this area / policy affected by the new legislation?

- How will this decision / policy / proposal impact upon future generations? What is the long term impact?
- What evidence is provided to demonstrate WFGA has been / is being considered?
- Evidence from Community Profiles / other data?
- Evidence of links to Wellbeing Assessment / Objectives / Plan?

7.3   Wellbeing Goals
- How are the Wellbeing goals reflected in the policy / proposal / action?
  - *A prosperous Wales*
  - *A resilient Wales*
  - *A healthier Wales*
  - *A more equal Wales*
  - *A Wales of cohesive communities*
  - *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
  - *A globally responsible Wales*

7.4   Sustainable Development Principles

- Does the report / proposal demonstrate how as an authority we are working in accordance with the sustainable development principles from the act when planning services?

  - ***Long Term***
    The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs
  - ***Prevention***
    How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives
  - ***Integration***
    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
  - ***Collaboration***
    Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives
  - ***Involvement***
    The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

8   Background Papers

- The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act (Wales)
- Corporate Plan 2022-2027
- The Corporate Assessment and follow up assessment.

Report Completed: May 2023

This page is intentionally left blank

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
ACTION SHEET

	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
1	Conclusion of Committee reports	Send comments and recommendations to officers	Samantha Schanzer	COMPLETE
2	Annual Corporate Self Assessment Report 2021-22	Provide an update regarding the money set aside by the Council for regeneration projects.	Tracey Brookes/Samantha Schanzer	COMPLETE
3	Annual Corporate Self Assessment Report 2021-22	Provide a response regarding the university	Tracey Brookes/Samantha Schanzer	COMPLETE

This page is intentionally left blank

Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Draft Work Programme: June 2023 to May 2024

Meeting	Agenda Items
02/06/2023	• Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report • EV Charging Strategy • Consultation Update (Information only)
23/06/2023	• Welsh Language Annual Report
28/07/2023	• Information Risk Report • Climate Change Annual Report
08/09/2023	• Annual Corporate Wellbeing Self Assessment • Annual Digital Strategy Report
29/09/2023	▪ Strategic Equalities Plan Annual Report
27/10/2023	▪ Transformation Plan / Budget Consultation Plans / Development of MTFP ▪ Air Quality Action Plan
01/12/2023	• Scrutiny Annual Report
19/01/2024	• MTFP and Revenue Budget – Consultee Meeting
08/03/2024	• **TBD**
26/04/2024	• **TBD**

This page is intentionally left blank

SCRUTINY TOPIC SELECTION CRITERIA

Criteria for Selecting Scrutiny Topics

- **P**UBLIC INTEREST: The concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen for scrutiny;
- **A**BILITY TO CHANGE: Priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence, and which will result in a Cabinet decision being taken;
- **P**ERFORMANCE: Priority should be given to the areas in which the Council, and other agencies, are not performing well;
- **E**XTENT: Priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the city;
- **R**EPLICATION: Work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

Reasons to Reject Scrutiny Topics

- The issue is already being addressed / being examined elsewhere and change is imminent
- The top would be better addressed elsewhere (and will be referred there)
- Scrutiny involvement would have limited / no impact upon outcomes
- The topic may be sub-judice or prejudicial to the Council's interest
- The topic is too broad to make a review realistic
- New legislation or guidance relating to the topic is expected within the next year
- The top area is currently subject to inspection or has recently undergone substantial change

Defining Scrutiny Topics

For every item on the work programme / new referral, it should be clear:

- What is the issue / activity / project under consideration?
  - *A brief outline of the matter being referred / the question being asked*
- What is Scrutiny being asked to do?
  - *e.g. undertake a full review of the subject? Investigate / interrogate different policy options? Be consulted of final proposals before decision making? Monitor outcomes / implementation?*

- What are the reasons for / expected benefits of involving Scrutiny in this matter?
- Is there a specific deadline for this piece of work?

Scrutiny Topic Referral Form and Guidance

Guidance Notes

Scrutiny Committees set their work programme once a year, usually between June and July. Once this work programme is set, any topic that an Officer / Member thinks should be added to the work programme has to be approved by the full Committee prior to adding it onto the work programme.

This is usually done at a Committee meeting, where the Committee receives a brief overview of what it being proposed, and they then decide if they would like to add it to the Annual work programme. Scrutiny Committees have limited time and resources and therefore work plans need to be manageable.

It is not possible to include every topic suggested by Members, Heads of Service or the Public in the Work Plan. Successful scrutiny is about looking at the right topic in the right way and Members will need to be selective whilst also being able to demonstrate clear arguments in favour of including or excluding topics.

Scrutiny work programmes should be focused on what outcomes we can achieve within the resources available and adding value to the process. If you have a topic that you think should be added to the work programme, please fill in the attached form with details of what the Committee is being asked to do. You will then need to send this form to scrutiny@newport.gov.uk, where the Scrutiny Advisors will determine which scrutiny Committee it should go to, and provide comment on how the referral fits into the work programme and how it could be undertaken.

For every item on the work programme / new referral, it should be clear:

- What is the issue / activity / project under consideration?
  - *A brief outline of the matter being referred / the question being asked*
- What is Scrutiny being asked to do?
  - *e.g. undertake a full review of the subject? Investigate / interrogate different policy options? Be consulted on final proposals before decision making? Monitor outcomes / implementation?*
- What are the reasons for / expected benefits of involving Scrutiny in this matter?
- Is there a specific deadline for this piece of work?

<u>Scrutiny Topic Referral Form and Guidance</u>

The Referral Process

- All referrals to the Scrutiny Work Programme are considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in the first instance.

- Once you email this form to the scrutiny mailbox (scrutiny@newport.gov.uk), the Scrutiny Advisors will schedule your referral on the agenda for the next meeting of that Committee.

- You will receive an email back confirming receipt of the referral, and the date of the Committee meeting.

- The form is then sent to the appropriate Heads of Services so that they can comment on the relevance of the suggested topic, and highlight any factors that need to be taken into consideration when deciding whether to conduct a review of the topic.

- The Scrutiny Advisors will also provide comment on the referral in terms of how it fits in with the Scrutiny work programme, which Committee it would best fit with, the priorities set by the Committee and whether the Committee has the necessary resources.

- The Scrutiny Advisors meet with the Chair prior to the agenda being published, and will be in contact with you if the chair has any queries about the referral, or if they have asked for any additional information.

- The final agenda is published 1 week before the meeting. You should receive the agenda from Modern.gov. If you do not, please email scrutiny@newport.gov.uk.

- You will be invited to attend the meeting, to discuss the referral and answer any questions the Committee may have.

- The Committee will weigh up whether the topic meets their agreed selection criteria, whether it fits with the priorities within its work programme, and also how this piece of work should be undertaken.

- After the Committee meeting, the Scrutiny Advisors will confirm with you what was agreed, and discuss with you the next steps if the referral is approved.

If you would like any help filling in this form, please contact:

- Neil Barnett
  neil.barnett@newport.gov.uk

- Samantha Schanzer
  Sam.schanzer@newport.gov.uk

We would be happy to discuss your suggestion with you and how the topic would fit within the Scrutiny Work Programme. If you wish we can fill the form in on your behalf and send it to you for verification before it is submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.

Form Updated 13/04/2023

Scrutiny Topic Referral Form and Guidance

Title of topic:	*Levelling up funding bids and why they keep failing*
Brief description of the topic	*Newport City Council have submitted several bids to the UK Government for funding and each one has been rejected .We need to know why and what actions can we take to improve our chances*
Scrutiny's Role:	*Please provide detail of what Scrutiny's role would be in the process: i.e.* - *to undertake an investigation and make recommendations to Cabinet* - *Being a consultee on proposals prior to a final decision by Cabinet;* - *.*
Lead Officers:	*Who will be involved with this piece of work? :* - *Head of Service and Chief Executive*
Has this matter been before Cabinet / Council?	*Cabinet have approved the bids, but nobody has investigated why they have failed*
Who will make a final decision on this matter?	• *Cabinet*
When will a decision on this matter be taken?	*Not applicable ongoing until bids stop*
What are the timeframes for this piece of work?	*Please include:* • *When does scrutiny's involvement need to be completed by? N/A* • *How many meetings do you think you will need to complete the amount of work required for this topic?2-3* • *When would you be ready to start / hold the first meeting? ASAP*
Please provide detail of how this work would contribute towards Corporate Priorities and Objectives.	*Does this piece of work relate to of the following:* - - *Wellbeing Plan 2018-2023* - *Corporate Plan 2022-2027* *Successful bids will improve the lives of Newport residents and provide valuable jobs*
Does this involve any partner agencies?	*No, but individuals or organisations could be asked if it was felt to be beneficial*

Scrutiny Topic Referral Form and Guidance

Please email this form to <u>scrutiny@newport.gov.uk</u>.

To be completed by the Scrutiny Team:

Comments **Head of Service**	This is not a relevant topic for presentation to Scrutiny. The bids submitted to UK Government are part of a competitive process. Local Authorities are not guaranteed to receive funding and neither has there been a commitment from UK Government to ensure that all Local Authorities receive such funding – such is the nature of a competitive process. Newport is no different to a number of other UK and Welsh authorities who have been unsuccessful in securing this particular funding. Proposed bids are reported to Cabinet for endorsement and are therefore in the public domain. There is also a significant amount of commercially sensitive content which forms part of the bid which is not appropriate for open discussion or publication. Bids are based on projects or topics which are already identified in the Service Plan which has already been through the Scrutiny process.
Comments **Democratic and Electoral Services Manager**	The process of bidding is not within the remit of any Newport City Council committee, as this sits with the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The grant funding process is very competitive; In round 1 only 36% of bids were successful, and in round 2 only 21% were successful. Recommendations from a committee would not have any impact on the bidding and selection process within DLUHC. Due to the limited amount of scope for scrutiny to influence the process, this referral does not align with the purpose of scrutiny: a cross-party committee coming together to make a difference to the outcome through acting as a 'critical friend'. The topic does not fit under any Terms of Reference based on the referral request outlined above. The priority of OSMC is to focus on policies that impact all Council areas, and plans and strategies that impact the whole Council; Performance Scrutiny is focussed on the achievement of outcomes and actions within service plans, and progress in improvements. The referral does not fit either of these criteria. With these factors in mind, it is not recommended that this is taken forward as a scrutiny topic, as scrutiny involvement will have limited / no impact on outcomes. This topic could potentially be considered for an information only report that could be shared with committee to provide an update on any known feedback from bids (if there is any) and any additional

Form Updated 13/04/2023

Scrutiny Topic Referral Form and Guidance

	information that is known to contextualise the overall outcomes of the scheme in general. If an information only report is taken forward it should not contain any commercially sensitive information.

Form Updated 13/04/2023

This page is intentionally left blank