

Report



Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing

Part 1

Date: 22 January 2019

Subject Gwent Homelessness Strategy

Purpose To seek to adopt the Gwent Wide Homeless Strategy, review and action plan.

Author Housing Needs Manager

Ward All Wards and Gwent region

Summary Newport City Council has a duty under Section 50 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 to carry out a thorough review of homelessness and to then publish and deliver a strategy to tackle and alleviate homelessness, underpinned by a comprehensive review of homelessness across the area. The Council has developed a Gwent Wide approach to delivering this through collaborative working with the four other Gwent Authorities, with the maintenance of local actions and objectives linked to regional approaches to homelessness issues.

Proposal The proposal is to seek to adopt the strategy and action plan alongside the comprehensive review.

Action by Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Key Stakeholders
- General Public
- Head of Law and Regulations (Monitoring Officer)
- Head of Finance (Chief Finance Officer)
- Head of People and Business Change
- Strategic Director - Place

Signed

Background

The introduction of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 placed a statutory duty on all local authorities in Wales to carry out a review of homelessness and to then formulate a homelessness strategy to take into account the recommendations contained within the review.

The Council has worked in partnership with the four other Local Authorities in Gwent, namely Torfaen County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and Monmouthshire County Borough Council, to secure funding from Welsh Government to deliver a Gwent wide approach, making the use of the knowledge and skills of key officers across Gwent in delivering a joined up approach to tackling an extremely complex issue.

The funding was used to employ an officer to undertake a review of homelessness across Gwent and to seek to provide the framework for the strategy and action plan under the guidance of key officers through a regional steering group.

The collaborative approach has enabled officers and indeed organisations across Gwent to better understand homelessness and to develop a wider understanding of the needs of service users, the varying supply of services, and its impact both regionally and locally, as well as to identify opportunities for collaborative working to make best use of limited resources.

The regional approach has been endorsed by Welsh Government and supported through the funding provided with the review being completed. This is contained within the background papers and provides an extensive review of services in each local authority area alongside regional elements of the review.

The review itself took over seven months to complete and involved;

- Local consultation events
- Regional consultation event
- Service user consultation
- Comprehensive statistical analysis
- Comprehensive policy and best practice review

In total, over 218 service users were consulted and all organisations across Gwent were invited to participate with over 140 delegates attending the regional consultation event. This information has assisted significantly in understanding the strategic context and has led to the development of the following themes within the strategy;

- Increase prevention work to obtain successful outcomes
- Raise awareness of homelessness and services, encouraging self-help and resilience
- Work with social and private rented sector landlords to sustain tenancies and increase access to housing
- Reduce the number of 'repeat presenters' and rough sleeping
- Reduce homelessness for younger people and support their wellbeing
- Increase joint planning, commissioning and delivery of services
- Maximise access to a range of support
- Increase opportunities for training and employment for vulnerable people
- Recording and sharing of information between partners, as appropriate, to help service users
- Modernise services to embrace new technologies and ways of working

Delivery is key and the themes have been pulled together to develop a comprehensive action plan based on ten themes. The themes consider the local context in order to address the needs and pressures in the Newport area alongside regional pressures that are best addressed on this level.

The Action plan will be reviewed on an annual basis with local and regional steering groups established to ensure this is delivered effectively on all levels. It is critical that agencies across Newport and Gwent

are fully engaged with the action plan and this will be a critical early task and one that will require ongoing support and maintenance going forward. The partnership across the five Local Authorities remains highly focused and motivated to deliver the actions required to address homelessness in the region and this will be critical in moving forward.

The regional approach is expected to provide closer working arrangements across the area together with bringing potential benefits in working strategically across the region to co-develop schemes, services and initiatives to tackle and reduce homelessness.

It is likely that this will bring financial benefits through joint commissioning of services, projects and initiatives that will enable services to build capacity that otherwise would be difficult to achieve within a stand-alone local strategy.

It is crucial that the needs of Newport residents are addressed within this context and that the varying pressures upon Newport are recognised as part of the strategy going forward.

Financial Summary

The work to date in completing the review and developing the strategy has been covered through grant funding provided by Welsh Government.

There are no identified financial pressures resulting from the adoption of the homeless strategy although it is clear that a number of actions will require funding but it is the role of the regional and local steering groups to identify the sources of funding through the provision of grant funding opportunities, developing innovative ways of working and the re-allocation of existing resources to tackle identified needs effectively.

Risks

The action plan details a number of risks which will provide a framework for monitoring the action plan (enclosed within the background papers section of this report).

There is a need to ensure that services are targeted and co-ordinated effectively to make the best use of resources and to ensure that all practical steps are taken to tackle and reduce homelessness.

Failure to take the steps will inevitably result in the level of homelessness increasing along with the level of expenditure on services rising.

There is a risk that statutory duties are not met and the action plan enables the statutory framework to be followed and further embedded into day to day work as well as service development.

The action plan ensures that the diverse needs of service users are considered and addressed in terms of the strategic planning context.

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The strategy is linked to the Council's Corporate Plan in delivering the overarching objective of improving people's lives, touching upon the four key themes to varying degrees.

In particular the action plan will address key areas around the wellbeing objectives;

- To improve skills, education and employment opportunities
- To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient
- To build cohesive and sustainable communities

The strategy is a fundamental part of addressing homelessness within the city as well as ensuring that opportunities are taken to develop regional working that benefits residents of Newport.

The strategy links to Welsh Governments commitments to tackle and reduce homelessness in Wales into clear actions that will seek to mitigate against the risks associated with homelessness.

Options Available and Considered

The Council must adopt a homelessness strategy in order to remain compliant with the requirements of the Housing (Wales) Act 2018.

The review has been completed and the strategy has been developed in order to provide a clear focus upon the key findings from the review which has then enabled the action plan that clearly sets the tasks that are required and will be measured in terms of the work undertaken.

The options considered are;

1. Adopt the review, strategy and action plan
2. Decline the review, strategy and action plan

Preferred Option and Why

The preferred option is option 1.

The work undertaken has been extensive and detailed and has involved a wide cross section of agencies across Newport and the Gwent region as a whole, culminating in one large consultation event that highlighted several areas for action.

This work enabled local consultation together with consultation with service user and the public with this then providing further evidence of the key pressures and development needs in services, informing the action plan process.

Research has been published around the implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and this has also been taken into account when developing the action plan and the steps to be taken to address homelessness within the region and Newport city.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

Adoption of the Gwent Wide Homeless Strategy would not result in any additional financial pressures on Council budgets. The initial review was undertaken with grant funding and any identified actions required moving forward will be funded through existing budgets or additional grant funding opportunities identified by regional and local steering groups.

In addition to service delivery improvements, this proposal represents an opportunity to realise financial benefits through joint commissioning of services which could be reinvested to support operational delivery and any new initiatives identified as part of the strategy.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report. The review has been undertaken, and the strategy and action plan have been produced in accordance with the Council's statutory duty under Section 50 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The strategy and action plan provide a regional collaborative approach to alleviating homelessness whilst, at the same time, identifying local issues and problems that are specific to Newport.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

The Gwent Homelessness Strategy is key to ensuring the Council is tackling and alleviating homelessness on a local and regional basis. The review of homelessness has helped all organisations to better understand the needs and issues being faced by services users and providers. The strategy and action plan meet the commitments in the Council's Corporate Plan and contribute to the Well-being Objectives to improve skills, educational and employment opportunity, to enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient, and to build cohesive and sustainable communities. In addition, actions within the strategy will contribute to achieving the priorities of Safer Gwent and Safer Newport and link closely to the work of the Safer City Centre sub group. The Homelessness Strategy will also help to ensure the priorities within the Newport Well-being Plan are met, particularly through the Strong Resilient Communities, and the Green and Safer Spaces interventions.

Comments of Cabinet Member

Cabinet Member has been briefed on the report.

Local issues

The report affects all ward areas in Newport and also the Gwent region as a whole.

Scrutiny Committees

Not applicable

Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010

The development of the strategy and action plan has taken into account the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 and an Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed. This is attached to the report (background papers section of this report) for information and will be reviewed annually as part of the local and regional steering groups respective roles. This has addressed the needs of the specific groups outlined within the act and sets out how the Council will ensure that equalities issues are to be addressed.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

Not applicable.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Consideration has been given to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in the preparation of the strategy.

The elements are outlined below and commentary added to indicate what has been developed and associated actions and mitigation.

Long term

The work undertaken reviewed a significant amount of data covering a range of trends and areas that provided information on short, medium and long terms trends and likely demands on services across a wide range of groups.

The strategy provides a direction for the region and the city for a four year period and seeks to address the immediate issues and provide plans for future service demand and projected pressures based on all know information.

Prevention

A core objective the homelessness service provision focuses upon how homelessness can be prevented and how services can pro-actively seek to address the fundamental issues faced by people presenting with a homeless or potential homeless issue.

The documents look at dealing with immediate homeless issues and pressures innovatively alongside developing education and awareness among the public in an effective manner so that people are more equipped to deal with the challenges faced in managing in accommodation.

Integration

There are clear and distinct links between housing/homelessness and several other services provided to citizens. The work being undertaken is cross-cutting and will involve a range of partner agencies from health, police, probation and other statutory and voluntary partner agencies.

It is critical that the needs of service users are addressed in a holistic manner and those individuals are provided with services tailored to their different needs and requirements.

Collaboration

The strategy is collaborative in nature given that the strategy has been developed upon a regional model, reflecting the footprint of other organisations such as health, police and probation.

This will enable services to be more focused on key and core principles and will consider the opportunities for collaboration on several levels and across several key areas linked to homelessness.

Involvement

Homeless services across Gwent have been transformed over the last three years and part of this has involved consultation with several key groups and work within the action plan will build upon this and develop service user engagement further in order to provide greater feedback on the services provided.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Not applicable.

Consultation

The review details the consultation undertaken and comments received.

Background Papers

Homeless Strategy
Homeless Strategy Action Plan
Homeless Review

Dated: 22 January 2019

Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment (FEIA)

Version 3.6 May 2017

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

Completed by: Simon Rose **Role:** Housing Needs Manager

Head of Service: Kier Duffin **Date:** 31/10/2018

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

Yes / No

When you complete this FEIA, it is your responsibility to submit it to

impact.assessments@newport.gov.uk

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

Gwent Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022

The Gwent Homelessness Strategy is a requirement of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. This is a new strategy and has been developed on a regional basis unlike any previously published homeless plan. The strategy is underpinned by an extensive review of services, stakeholders and providers and this research has directed the development of regional and local actions for the forthcoming 4 years. The strategy, review and action plan will be publically available documents, available in English and Welsh, on paper and on line.

Councils in Gwent have a statutory duty to give housing advice to all its residents and duties to provide temporary accommodation as required to homeless families, pregnant women, certain young people and vulnerable single people. The Gwent Homeless teams also have a duty to cooperate with the responsible authorities: the police, probation and prisons to help to house high risk offenders and under the duties to prevent crime and disorder.

The four priorities of the strategy are to

- Help improve access to suitable and affordable housing
- Offer fast and effective advice and support, working with partners to help vulnerable people
- Minimise homelessness and prevent it through early intervention
- Ensure fair, equal and person-centred homeless services

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

A wide ranging consultation exercise took place to ensure we consulted as broadly as possible:

- A desktop review of key literature, statistical data and samples of homelessness cases from each of the five councils.
- Focus groups and group discussions with key staff in the five councils (from departments relevant to the preparation and implementation of homelessness planning). Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) and political, economic, social, technology and legislation (PESTL) analyses and semi-structured interviews were used.
- Focus groups with Supporting People providers using SWOT and PESTL analyses and themed group discussions.
- A regional event to collect feedback from service providers, partners and other stakeholders (over 400 individuals from representative organisations across Gwent were invited and 140 people attended the event. Representatives covering 25 themes
- The themes we explored included gender, LGBT, domestic violence, gypsy and traveller communities, older people, young people and care leavers, mental health, drug and alcohol use, armed forces, offenders, disability, cultural diversity, ethnicity, refugee and asylum seekers, health and social care service users.
- Surveys with people who have experienced homelessness and related services first hand across Gwent – factoring in equality and diversity, vulnerabilities and varying support needs (there were 165 respondents).
- Direct engagement with different service user groups.

Homelessness services are provided by both statutory and voluntary agencies and must be built around the needs and preferences of service users, as much as reasonably possible. Consultation and partnership working has therefore been central to the development of the homelessness reviews and strategy. This will continue to be a very important element, as homelessness action plans develop in each of the five local authorities over the coming years.

The data collected from service users has been anonymised. Statutory and voluntary agencies that helped to carry out the surveys were all provided with a brief to help make sure service users' consent was fully informed and everyone participated consensually.

All the information collected has been analysed with fundamental elements being drawn out, to structure the reviews (and strategic action plans) and address the points outlined in the introduction. This work has then been condensed into the themes embraced within the homelessness strategy, in the form of a vision, mission, values and strategic objectives, with greater specific detail in the action plans.

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

There has been a comprehensive review completed that has informed the strategy and subsequent action plan. All the available information from service users, stakeholders, officers and staff has been taken into account in the preparation of the 4 year strategy. We are also aware that data capture limitations do exist, such as that for rough sleepers. A new and interactive information collection exercise is planned for the whole of Wales in 2019 known as SHIN the Street Homeless Information Network. This project will provide detailed information on this service user group, to assess need and improve service planning mechanisms for rough sleepers. This will assist us with the Gwent regional approach to assisting rough sleepers throughout the terms of the strategy

There will always be under reporting of some forms of homelessness by certain service users and these are issues largely outside of the remit of the strategy. However, where wider information and data collections from other partner agencies permits data sharing, we will work as closely as possible to be as inclusive as possible with service provision. Examples of potential under-reporting are hate crime incidents and domestic violence, where the barriers to reporting and seeking homelessness service assistance lies with the service user not the service.

All service user data collection systems are set up to record and monitor equalities data. The assessment of the homeless duties local authorities are required to make go a stage further: the homeless assessment has to take into consideration an applicant's particular circumstances. Examples of this will be whether an applicant is fleeing domestic violence, is experiencing hate crime, has vulnerability or other special reason determining them as vulnerable for that reason. This type of detail is recorded within the statutory homeless returns required by Welsh Government.





4. Equalities and Welsh language impact


Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The strategy seeks to address a wide range of groups and individuals in relation to their needs and requirements. This involves both preventative and reactive work and interventions. The strategy has a comprehensive action plan attached to it which will be reviewed on a regular basis and reported on through the respective local and regional steering groups.
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The strategy seeks to address a wide range of groups and individuals in relation to their needs and requirements. This involves both preventative and reactive work and interventions. The strategy has a comprehensive action plan attached to it which will be reviewed on a regular basis and reported on through the respective local and regional steering groups.

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote equal opportunity Promote community cohesion Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Gender reassignment/ transgender	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The strategy seeks to address a wide range of groups and individuals in relation to their needs and requirements. This involves both preventative and reactive work and interventions. The strategy has a comprehensive action plan attached to it which will be reviewed on a regular basis and reported on through the respective local and regional steering groups.
Marriage or civil partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The strategy seeks to address a wide range of groups and individuals in relation to their needs and requirements. This involves both preventative and reactive work and interventions. The strategy has a comprehensive action plan attached to it which will be reviewed on a regular basis and reported on through the respective local and regional steering groups.
Pregnancy or maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The strategy seeks to address a wide range of groups and individuals in relation to their needs and requirements. This involves both preventative and reactive work and interventions. The strategy has a comprehensive action plan attached to it which will be reviewed on a regular basis and reported on through the respective local and regional steering groups.
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The strategy seeks to address a wide range of groups and individuals in relation to their needs and requirements. This involves both preventative and reactive work and interventions. The strategy has a comprehensive action plan attached to it which will be reviewed on a regular basis and reported on through the respective local and regional steering groups.
Religion or Belief or non-belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The strategy seeks to address a wide range of groups and individuals in relation to their needs and requirements. This involves both preventative and reactive work and interventions. The strategy has a comprehensive action plan attached to it which will be reviewed on a regular basis and reported on through the respective local and regional steering groups.
Sex/ Gender Identity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The strategy seeks to address a wide range of groups and individuals in relation to their needs and requirements. This involves both preventative and reactive work and interventions. The strategy has a comprehensive action plan attached to it which will be reviewed on a regular basis and reported on through the respective local and regional steering groups.

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote equal opportunity Promote community cohesion Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The strategy seeks to address a wide range of groups and individuals in relation to their needs and requirements. This involves both preventative and reactive work and interventions. The strategy has a comprehensive action plan attached to it which will be reviewed on a regular basis and reported on through the respective local and regional steering groups.
Welsh Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The strategy seeks to address a wide range of groups and individuals in relation to their needs and requirements. This involves both preventative and reactive work and interventions. The strategy has a comprehensive action plan attached to it which will be reviewed on a regular basis and reported on through the respective local and regional steering groups.

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

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term needs</p>	<p>The strategy is aimed at providing sustainable housing and support solutions for households faced with homelessness with the strategy being reviewed after 4 years. The action plan is a “living document” that will evolve to changing demands and pressures with the fundamental aim of seeking to future proof solutions around homelessness and homeless prevention. It is therefore expected that the actions being undertaken will have a positive impact on homelessness</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The strategy is built firmly upon collaboration as this covers the Gwent area and encompasses all 5 Local Authorities working together to address homelessness. The action plan also includes a range of agencies across all 5 areas and how work will be undertaken together with these partners to address identified issues and objectives.</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>A comprehensive review has been undertaken both regionally and locally seeking views from all stakeholders. Views and opinions have also been sought from service users in order to inform the review and the then developed strategy and action plan. This will be maintained through existing partnership working.</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The legislative framework around homelessness is built upon prevention and alleviation with work heavily focused towards developing effective frameworks and services aimed using resources in the most cost effective manner for the best outcome for individuals.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p><i>Homelessness services across Gwent have been transformed over the last 3 years and part of this has involved consultation with several key groups and work within the action plan will build upon this and develop the key principles further linking to the goals of Newport City Council to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities</i> <i>promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment</i> <i>enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient</i> <i>build cohesive and sustainable communities</i>

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

Homelessness or the threat of such a crisis can happen to any household at any time, regardless of socioeconomic status, household make-up or age. However, the extensive consultation exercise undertaken to develop the strategy provides us with good information so that we can design and develop services and actions appropriate to meet the identified need.

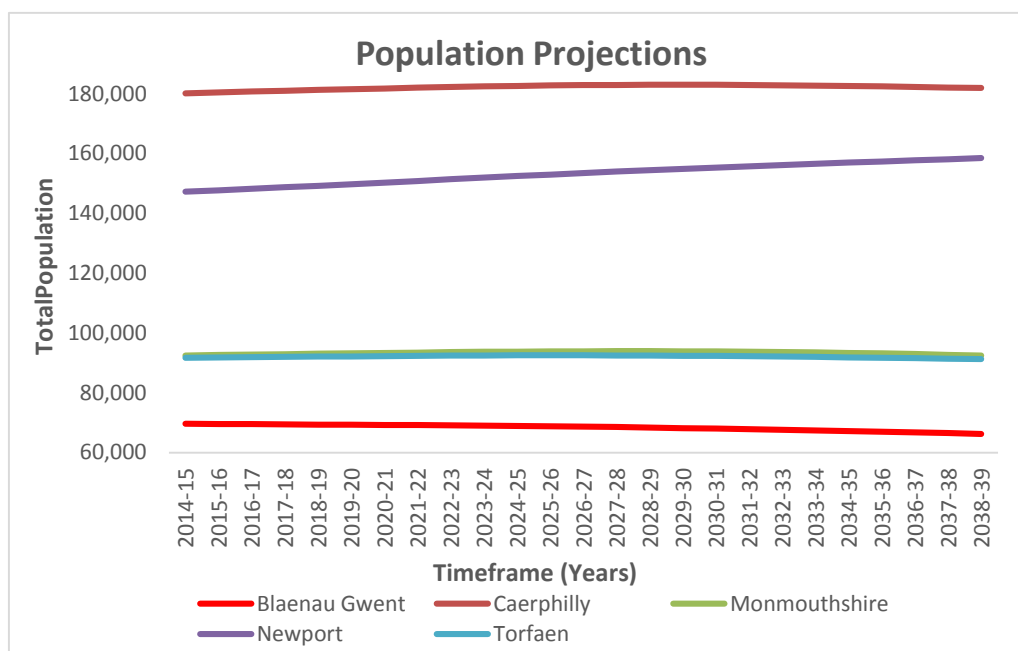
Table 1 displays the number of persons per square kilometre, showing that Monmouthshire is by far the most rural area in Gwent.

Number of people per square kilometre	Mid-year 2011	Mid-year 2012	Mid-year 2013	Mid-year 2014	Mid-year 2015	Mid-year 2016
Blaenau Gwent	642.1	642.2	641.9	640.8	639.6	640.4
Caerphilly	644.5	645.4	646.2	648.7	649.5	650.6
Monmouthshire	107.8	107.9	108.5	108.7	108.9	109.3
Newport	765.2	766.9	769.2	770.7	775.6	782.8
Torfaen	725.5	726.9	727.2	728.8	730.6	732.3
Wales	98.3	98.5	98.5	98.6	98.4	98

Table 1: National Statistics Local Authority Population Projections for Wales 2014

Population growth estimates in Graph 1 show that proportionally, the greatest population growth is projected to be in Newport over the next twenty years. It is fair to assume that Newport is likely to see more of a corresponding increase in the general demand for public services, compared to the

other Gwent local authorities because of this. Conversely the population of Blaenau Gwent may decrease, whilst Torfaen and Monmouthshire reduce only slightly.



Graph1: National Statistics Local Authority Population Projections for Wales 2014. *Assumptions about births, deaths, and migration are have also been incorporated into the figures by the Welsh Government

In Table 2 below, we see the range and levels of diversity across the region as a whole, broken down to the individual local authority level.

Table 2

Percentages of the Population:	Blaenau Gwent	Caerphilly	Monmouthshire	Newport	Torfaen	Wales
Aged 16-24*	10.8	10.4	9.2	11.1	10.6	11.6
Aged 25-44*	24.6	25.1	19.9	25.9	23.9	23.8
Aged 65 plus*	19.8	18.8	24.1	17.4	20.1	20.4
Working age adults that are disabled**	25.4	26	21.4	23.7	23.3	22.5
Male*	49.3	49.0	49.4	49.1	48.7	49.3
Female*	50.7	51.0	50.6	50.9	51.3	50.7
Identifying as other gender ***	There is a widely acknowledged gap in statistical data on gender identity in the UK, which it is anticipated the 2021 Census will address.					
From Non-white Background****	2	2	1.4	8	2.5	4.7
From White Background****	98	98	98.6	92	97.5	95.3
Gypsy and Irish Traveller*****	0.1	0.02	0.01	0.06	0.2	0.1
Asylum Seekers*****	0	0	0	18.32	0	-
Refugees*****	1.7	3.7	4.0	2.5	3.0	-
Household Language*****	0.7	0.5	0.6	2.9	0.5	1.7
Heterosexual*****	-	96.4	98.7	95.4	97.7	95

Identifying as Gay or Bisexual*****	-	1	0.7	1.9	1	1.5
1 Person Household*****	33	28	28	32	30	32
1 Adult with Child(ren)*****	7.8	8.0	4.6	8.1	7.1	6.8
2 Plus Adults and Child(ren)*****	19.8	22.3	21.3	22.2	22.1	20.3
2 Plus Adults no Children*****	39.8	41.9	45.8	37.8	41.0	41.3
No Religion*****	41.1	40.9	28.5	29.7	35.8	32.1
Christian*****	49.9	50.7	62.5	56.9	55.4	57.6
Buddhist*****	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Hindu*****	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3
Jewish*****	0.01	0.04	0.1	0.1	0.02	0.1
Muslim*****	0.3	0.2	0.3	4.7	0.3	1.5
Sikh*****	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other Religion*****	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
Pregnant (aged 19 and under)*****	11.8	11.7	7.9	9.6	11.7	11.9
Children looked after by local authority (aged 0-15)*****	17.3	18.9	16.5	20.2	18.4	17.9

Table 3 displays the number of households presenting to local authority homeless services throughout three financial years, compared to the duties owed:

Household Numbers Not Percentages	Blaenau Gwent			Caerphilly			Monmouthshire			Newport			Torfaen		
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Total Household Numbers (Total Outcomes Only)	552	651	668	672	1581	1972	591	744	584	2154	2532	2142	780	1053	1116
Ineligible Homeless Assessment Applications	-	3	-	-	36	18	-	60	31	39	33	26	-	72	80
Eligible but not Homeless or Threatened with Homelessness	129	108	48	21	249	816	195	240	7	858	339	107	186	150	23
Eligible and Prevention Assistance Provided (section 66)	267	303	289	249	609	571	249	183	255	393	537	461	333	432	427
Eligible and Duty to help to Secure (section 73)	132	198	263	288	525	410	96	216	228	537	1107	968	147	315	395
Eligible, Homeless but not in Priority Need	9	18	32	45	54	19	6	9	19	114	321	294	24	6	129
Eligible, Homeless and in Priority Need,	-	-	-	18	24	4	9	-	12	15	15	8	21	12	23

but Intentionally so																
Eligible, Unintentionally Homeless and in Priority Need (section 75)	12	21	36	54	81	134	39	36	32	204	180	278	69	66	39	
Total Section 66, 73 and 75 Duties	411	522	588	591	1215	1115	384	435	515	1134	1824	1707	549	813	861	

Table 3 WHO12 Data Collected by Local Authorities. Numbers of presenting homeless cases and type of assistance given. Hyphen means zero figure was submitted to Welsh Government

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

The strategy and action plan are clearly related to the four parameters of the debate about fairness identified by the Newport Fairness Commission. For clarity, this is outlined below against the four identified parameters.

Parameter 1: Equal treatment while recognising difference

The legislation provides for all households who are either homeless or at risk of being made homeless to receive services in order to either prevent or relive their situation. This provides equal access to core services although there are clear categories of individuals under legislation who will be entitled to emergency accommodation as a statutory duty which is therefore balanced against individual needs.

Parameter 2: Mutual obligations between citizens and local government

Legislation clearly sets out the responsibilities of local government in addressing homelessness and whilst there are clear duties and responsibilities on the Council, there are equal responsibilities placed upon citizens to engage with what are referred to as reasonable steps and actions required in order to tackle and alleviate their homeless situation. This is what can be described as a person centred approach to resolving identified accommodation and support needs.

Parameter 3: Interdependency and reciprocity within community relations

Citizens have been consulted through the review and the strategy seeks to build upon this and ensure that their input is maintained in the longer term in order to ensure that services are developed and delivered in line with the expectations of citizens as far as reasonably practicable to do so. This is outlined within the local and regional action plan.

Parameter 4: Transparency and accountability in decision-making

Statutory provisions require that decisions taken regarding individual cases are conveyed to individuals through correspondence and within this, individuals are provided with clear and concise advice on their options. This is on an individual level and is an area that is contained within the action plan in order to ensure that this process is as clear and concise as possible whilst still ensuring that statutory obligations and requirements are adhered to. In relation to service development and initiatives, views are sought through service user consultation and this

will form part of an ongoing dialogue with citizens across both Newport and the whole Gwent region to seek to enhance the decision making process and accountability within.

8 Taking this assessment as a whole, what could be done to mitigate any negative impacts of your policy and better contribute to positive impacts?

The essential part of the strategy and the work to be undertaken is to ensure that the outcomes are reviewed and that all agencies are provided with the opportunity to contribute to this.

9 Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing

The strategy will be available on the Council's web pages and will also be promoted by the 5 Local Authorities in Gwent across a range of providers and forums to ensure that service users are given the opportunity to engage with this. Mechanisms will be in place to ensure the ongoing monitoring of the strategy and the action plans both regionally and locally with key information being disseminated as appropriate to highlight pressures, issues and developments.

10 Involvement

The strategy will be published on the Council's web pages and will be available for the general public to access. In addition, stakeholders who have contributed to the review will be provided with a copy of the strategy, final review and action plan.

11 Summary of Impact (for inclusion in any report)

Equality Act 2010 AND Welsh Language

The approach being adopted through the strategy is to seek to ensure that all potential services have equality of access to services and have the right services available to meet their needs at the right time. A critical part of the work is to seek to manage community cohesion as part of the housing process and to seek, where practicable and reasonable to do so, to keep people within existing communities. This clearly promotes community cohesion by virtue of the preventive agenda contained within legislation and the over-arching priority of the Gwent wide strategy.

The benefits of cross boundary working across the region will provide us with the opportunities to provide wider ranging and more inclusive services: Savings may be achieved by jointly commissioning services (e.g. a cross boundary rough sleeper hostel, a cross boundary gypsy and traveller support service) however; working as individual authorities, the cost: benefit of providing a new service would be difficult to demonstrate. The regional strategy approach provides a much needed partnership funding opportunity to provide services we can ill afford as individual local authorities.

Equality and fair access to services are essential components of the new homelessness strategy. All of the Gwent local authorities have statutory duties contained in the Equality Act 2010 and each of the Gwent local authorities Strategic Equality and Diversity Plans/Policies for further information have been referenced in the strategy. There are a number of policy documents around equality, diversity and fairer access to services that have strategic links with homelessness. Examples

include: The completion of a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, to identify housing needs amongst the Gypsy and Traveller community; older people strategies and plans; SP strategies and plans; younger people's strategies and plans, housing adaptation and disabled facility grant policies and procedures and also plans connected to refugee and asylum seekers.

We are aware that individually, authorities within the region have variations in terms of diversity: Newport for example, being a city authority, demonstrates a wider range of ethnicity, refugee/asylum seekers and religious variation amongst its homeless presentations. In Blaenau Gwent there are a higher proportion of single homeless presentations compared to the rest of the region and given that it is the smallest of the council areas within the region, this represents a difficulty in terms of assisting single homeless people.

Through adopting a regional consultation approach and comparison of historical and more recent data, the regional homeless strategy approach provides us with a wider range of opportunities to address imbalances of service across the region for homeless people who are not currently in receipt of the most appropriate services

The practice of undertaking an EIA on a regional basis has provided us with the assurance that the five authorities have considered the equalities agenda in a consistent manner. The overarching themes identified in the consultation process have been developed into actions that are underpinned by themes and wider strategic actions to encompass equal access to all. Where the strategic action plan contains local actions, the relevant local authority will incorporate the local standards of their equality and diversity policies, positively then addressing issues around discrimination.

The EIA will be used when we need to respond to emerging trends and changes in regional and area specific population demographic over the term of the strategy action plan. This EIA will also be used to support regional and local proposals for new schemes and support commissioning with partner agencies, both locally and regionally.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Consideration has been given to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in the preparation of the strategy. The elements are outlined below and commentary added to indicate what has been done and put into place.

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

- Long term: the importance of balancing short- term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long – term needs

The work undertaken reviewed a significant amount of data covering a range of trends and areas that provided information on short, medium and long terms trends and likely demands on services across a wide range of groups. The strategy provides a direction for the region and the city for a 4 year period and seeks to address the immediate issues and provide plans for future service demand and projected pressures based on all know information.

- Prevention: How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help us meet our objectives

A core objective the homelessness service provision focuses upon how homelessness can be prevented and how services can pro-actively seek to address the fundamental issues faced by people presenting with a homeless or potential homeless issue. This looks at dealing with immediate homeless issues and pressures innovatively alongside developing education and

awareness among the public in an effective manner so that people are more equipped to deal with the challenges faced in managing in accommodation.

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

There are clear and distinct links between housing/homelessness and several other services provided to citizens. The work being undertaken is cross cutting and will involve a range of partner agencies from health, police, probation and other statutory and voluntary partner agencies. It is critical that the needs of service users are addressed in a holistic manner and that individuals are provided with services tailored to their different needs and requirements.

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

The basis of the strategy is collaborative in nature given that the strategy has been developed upon a regional model, reflecting the footprint of other organisations such as health, police and probation. This will enable service to be more focused on key/core principles and will consider the opportunities for collaboration on several levels and across several key areas linked to homelessness.

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

Homeless services across Gwent have been transformed over the last three years and part of this has involved consultation with several key groups and work within the action plan will build upon this and develop service user engagement further in order to provide greater feedback on the services provided.