

Report



Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 14th October 2020

Subject Newport City Council Covid 19 Response and Recovery Update

Purpose To present to Cabinet an update on the Council's progress being made towards recovering services and supporting Newport's communities as part of its Strategic Recovery Aims.

Author Chief Executive of Newport City Council
Head of People and Business Change

Ward All

Summary In March 2020, the Covid-19 health emergency impacted on the delivery of Council services, Newport's communities and businesses as lockdown and social distancing measures were introduced. The immediate response of the Council and its strategic partners was to preserve life and minimise the spread of the virus; maintain continuity of front line and supporting services; and to support the city's communities and the vulnerable. This report provides an overview of what action the Council has taken to date and the progress against the Strategic Recovery Aims

Following the last Cabinet Report in September 2020, Newport had seen a significant increase in the number of positive Covid-19 cases in the community and has entered into a localised lockdown. The Council's Civil Contingencies 'Gold Team' alongside its Track, Trace and Protect service, Incident Response Teams and partners including the Strategic Coordination Group have taken necessary actions and shared communications with the community in order to reinforce current restrictions and reduce the spread of the virus.

Proposal Cabinet is asked to consider the contents of the report and note the progress being made to date, the risks that are still faced by the Council.

Action by Corporate Management Team

Timetable Immediate

Signed

Background

Since the last Cabinet Report in September 2020, Newport Council and its partners have continued to monitor vigilantly the Covid-19 cases in the City through its role at the multi-agency Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG), the Council's Emergency Response Team (Covid Gold) and liaison with Welsh Government and Public Health Wales partners.

Covid-19 Response (October 2020)

In September, through Public Health Wales (PHW) monitoring, the number of positive Covid-19 cases had significantly risen in Newport and across local authorities in Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr and Bridgend. The measures were expanded to all local authorities in South East Wales. With the restrictions in place it means:

- People will not be allowed to enter or leave Newport without a reasonable excuse;
- People will no longer be able to form, or be in, an extended household (sometimes called a "bubble");
- Meeting indoors with anyone who is not part of your household (people you live with) will not be allowed, unless you have a good reason, such as providing care to a vulnerable person;
- All licensed premises will have to close at 11pm; and
- People must work from home wherever possible.

This is in addition to existing restrictions brought in nationally by the Welsh Government around social gatherings and mandatory wearing of face masks in enclosed spaces such as shops and public transport. Throughout this period of time Newport Council alongside Public Health Wales, Welsh Government (WG) and other organisations have been communicating to residents and businesses the importance of adhering to the restrictions and best practice relating to hygiene, social distancing and Track, Trace, Protect (TTP). The Council has also set up Incident Management Teams to support the new localised measures and to respond to any community and setting outbreaks in the City.

Over the next six months, throughout the winter period, we are expected to live alongside this virus as well as managing seasonal winter flu and the cold virus. As the Council responds to these incidents it is likely that this will have an impact on the delivery of some Council services. This report provides an overview of what action the Council has taken to date and the progress against the Strategic Recovery Aims. In addition as part of the Council's performance and risk reporting, further reports will be provided to Cabinet on delivery against service plans, Strategic Recovery Aims and the Council's Corporate Plan.

Progress of Delivery against Strategic Recovery Aims

Outlined in Appendix 1 of the report is a detailed update on the progress of delivery being made against the Strategic Recovery Aims. A summary of the progress to 30th September 2020 as follows:

Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of 2nd October, 12 primary schools have had positive cases and 15 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. Additionally, 4 secondary schools have had positive cases and 10 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. There have been no recorded cases of children attending NCC special schools or nursery schools.• Hot school meal service was reinstated at two primary schools from 14th September. Further reinstatement of hot meal service across remaining schools will be announced in due course.• Schools are submitting plans via EAS for the delivery of Accelerating Learning Programme (ALP) and Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards.• £20k (ALP) given to Children services to support Children who are Looked After and re-engagement of learners who are at risk from criminal exploitation.• Ongoing work to improve IT infrastructure and procure additional devices for schools. This includes establishment of links with Maindee Unlimited to provide digital devices to primary pupils in Maindee and Liswerry Primary Schools.• Supporting 400 staff that were made redundant from Celtic Manor with help on re-training, CV's and signposting people to other services / local authorities for support. 800 postcodes were received from Celtic Manor 55% of which were Newport, this number will include part time seasonal staff also.• The Work & Skills teams are proactively looking at ways to increase capacity (both staffing & premises) across the City to allow for support of those affected due to the end of Furlough.
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<p>Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transforming Towns has repurposed £100k to support Small and Medium sized Enterprises to carry out winter resilience works such as outdoor heaters and awnings. • Work commenced on the demolition of Tredegar Court to allow for the replacement of bedsits with flats. • The Council has secured £1.4m funding to proceed with redevelopment of Information Station and Museum and Library buildings. • Collaboration with Registered Social Landlords to deliver Innovative Housing Programme and Optimised Retrofit programme. • NCC was the first Welsh local authority to place an order to supply a new all electric Refuse Collection Vehicle which is planned to be operational by April 2021. • Community solar installation across multiple sites will be completed and public electric vehicle charge points will be operational in Council car parks in the autumn. • Supporting businesses to comply with new Covid-19 restrictions.
<p>Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test, Trace and Protect Service has been supporting the Strategic Coordination Group and Public Health Wales with contact tracing. • Regulatory services continuing to support businesses to comply with the new restrictions. • The Council and its Public Service Board partners have commenced the review of the Active Travel Map for Newport as well as the commencement of planned Active Travel schemes. • Internally, the organisation has supported staff in different ways to continue to provide services to residents – signposting to mental health support from our occupational health department, counselling provision and regular advice and guidance in staff communications on a range of wellbeing topics. Each piece of communications that goes out has a wellbeing focus to support the resilience of staff working during this challenging period.
<p>Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress is being made on the actions from the Strategic Housing Forum to address specific issues relating to housing in Newport. • Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Groups are working with partners to mitigate incidents of ASB, and as autumn is approaching work is being undertaken via communications team to ensure safe Halloween and bonfire nights. • Safer Pill Group has met on two occasions to deliver a partnership action plan. A community steering group has also been established to consult on, and shape priorities. • Perception survey relating to the Council's response to Covid-19 was undertaken and results are being analysed with initial findings being positive in terms of support provided to households. Further bus wi-fi survey to be completed in October. • Collaborating with the Fairness Commission, the Council delivered eight engagement sessions with the most affected groups identified in the Community Impact Assessment. The results are now being incorporated into the Assessment and informing a Participatory Budgeting Programme commencing in October. • Neighbourhood Hubs are gradually increasing the number of face-to-face appointments whilst ensuring that COVID-19 regulations are strictly adhered to. This will ensure we can provide a balanced and flexible offer for residents requiring support in person or digitally. • Black History Wales 365 campaign supported by NCC – launching start of Black History Month. Monthly engagement and communications activities planned throughout the year • BAME specific business support is being commissioned,(seminars and workshops) to support existing and start-up businesses across the city • Positive action plan being developed to further develop the council's offer in terms of employment opportunities to under-represented/disadvantaged groups • Leader has established and chairs a BAME community forum in order to progress Black Lives Matter areas of focus

Financial Summary

The Council's financial (revenue and capital) update is reported separately as part of the Council's budget management. The Covid-19 impact is reported to Cabinet and as highlighted in previous finance reports, the Council's financial position continues to be closely monitored in light of significant reductions in income and increase in costs to deliver services during the crisis.

Risks

Through the Council's Risk Management process, the Covid-19 risk is reported every quarter to the Council's Cabinet and Audit Committee. Below is the latest update taken from the Quarter 1 2020/21 risk report update.

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (1-5)	Probability of risk occurring (1-5)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Covid 19 Pandemic Risk (Corporate Risk)	5	5	Mitigation measures outlined in the report.	Corporate Management Team

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Corporate Plan 2017-22
Strategic Recovery Aims

Options Available and considered

1. To consider and note the contents of the report and for Cabinet / Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.
2. To request further information or reject the contents of the report

Preferred Option and Why

1. To consider and note the contents of the report and for Cabinet / Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

Welsh Government have been supporting local authorities through the pandemic with a Hardship Fund intended to reimburse for all Covid related spend over and above existing budgets and within a set criteria. This will run to the end of the current financial year.

Additional monies have also been made available by WG for any lost income that local authorities are incurring, and again recently extended this fund to the end of the financial year. This excludes Council Tax income which is under significant strain.

In essence, Covid related, eligible expenditure are predominantly funded by the WG. A revenue budget monitor to end of September will be reported to the Cabinet in November and include the latest position. Financial forecasts are slowly improving as the Council continues to incur vacancy cost savings and other savings linked to the new ways of working currently in place e.g. less travel costs. These are required to mitigate against delayed delivery of savings and loss of Council Tax income which together are significant.

All costs which are not eligible for WG funding will need to be funded from services own budgets and will be reported as and when they develop over the year. Service areas have been asked to minimise these, wherever possible where they create overspending.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report, which provides an update on the actions taken to deliver the Council's Strategic Recovery Aims and progress since the September report. Any legal issues will be picked up at the appropriate time as part of the operational delivery of the individual actions, within service areas. The main developments since the last report are in relation to the local lock-down restrictions, the escalation in compliance and enforcement work and the significant increase in the Test, Trace Protect contact tracing work.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

The recovery of the Council's services is important to ensure that we are able to build on the strong collaborative work that the Council has delivered in the last 6 months to manage this crisis. The role of Civil Contingencies, emergency planning and preparation is vital to ensure that the Council is able to continue to deliver services but also minimise the risks posed on Newport's communities.

The Council's supporting services and our partners are building on the advancements made to ensure we are able to operate safely and maintain the necessary social distance guidelines. The progress detailed in this report highlights the continuous work that is being made and build up resilience in the long term.

Comments of Cabinet Member

The Leader of the Council is briefed on all aspects of the Council's strategic recovery.

Local issues

Members to be aware of the impacts that Covid is having on our Local Communities and business.

Scrutiny Committees

NA

Equalities Impact Assessment

The findings outlined in the Council's Covid-19 Community Impact Assessment have informed the development of the Strategic Recovery Aims as well as future strategic and operational decision making.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

Not applicable.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The areas covered in this report demonstrate the progress being made against the Strategic Recovery Aims which also support the Council's Corporate Plan 2017-22. In consideration of the sustainable development principle and 5 ways of working:

Long Term – The progress reported against the Strategic Aims support the long term aims of the Council to improve people's lives.

Preventative – The preventative work outlined in the report support the Council's approach to minimising future covid 19 outbreaks and as necessary provide targeted support to those that need it. Re-establishing services in line with necessary legislation and regulation enables the Council to operate in the new normal.

Integration – The Strategic Recovery Aims have been integrated with the Council's Wellbeing Objectives set in the Corporate Plan as well as Service Plans. Recommendations from the Community Impact Assessment will also shape how the Council can improve the delivery of services across communities.

Involvement – Included in this report are actions to involve Newport's communities to provide assurance and shape the way in which services are being delivered by the Council. Their feedback and involvement in the process will enable the Council to consider how services are delivered in the long term.

Collaboration - The actions in the report are being undertaken in collaboration with partners from the Council's Public Services Board but also strategic partners within each service area. The collaborative work enables the Council to share resources and build expertise and knowledge.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Not applicable.

Consultation

Senior Leadership Team

Corporate Management Team

Officer leads across the Authority

Background Papers

Cabinet Report (Strategic Recovery Aims) – July 2020

Corporate Plan 2017-22

Strategic Recovery Aims

Dated: October 2020

Appendix 1 – Progress of Delivery against Strategic Recovery Aims (as at end of 30th September 2020)

Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment.		
Understand, and respond to, the additional challenges, which Covid19 has presented, including loss of employment, impact on business and on the progress, achievement and wellbeing of both mainstream and vulnerable learners.		
Supports Wellbeing Objective 1 – To improve skills, education and employment opportunities.		
Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
Support schools and other educational establishments to safely reopen for staff and pupils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's Education service has operational guidance on full –re-opening of schools from Welsh Government (WG). The guidance recognises pupil contact groups should be maintained as far as possible but will not be the same for specific circumstances. Education Services has met with all Heads (Primary / Secondary / Special) via TEAMS to discuss their return to school plans. No obstacles have been raised and each school is required to complete a health & safety assessment. Schools outside of the Council's cleansing service have will need to ensure arrangements are in place and schools contracted with the Council have been asked what additional cleaning services are required. Education Services is collating each return to school plan and are aiming to be open from 7th September. Repurposing days will be held on 1st and 2nd September to prepare for the arrival of all pupils. School Transport (Pupil Transport Unit) have received updated guidance suggesting no requirement for social distancing on dedicated school transport and no mandatory requirement for users to wear face masks. Post 16 provision is being explored by Secondary Head teachers to see how they can operate successfully but the issue of concessionary sets remains unresolved. For primary schools there will be no provision for paid school meals until 14th September. Before this date pupils will need to bring their own pack lunch and Chartwells will provide cold "grab-bag" lunches for all free school meal pupils. The aim is for hot meals to be made available after the 14th September. Free school milk scheme for Nursery and Foundation phase pupils will recommence from 7th September. For secondary schools pupils will have "grab and go" bags which will include a got hand-held product e.g. panini for the first 2 weeks. Further provisions and requirements will be discussed with each school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 2nd October, 12 primary schools have had positive cases and 15 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. Additionally, 4 secondary schools have had positive cases and 10 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. There have been no recorded cases of children attending NCC special schools or nursery schools. Face coverings are now required to be used by all pupils over the age of 11 who are accessing home to school transport. This requirement has been in place since 1st September 2020. A hot school meal service was reinstated at two primary schools from 14th September. Further information will be shared with Head teachers across Newport shortly with a view to the hot meal service being reinstated on all sites as soon as possible. Breakfast Club provision is variable across the city. A large proportion of schools have chosen to postpone the re-establishment of breakfast clubs whilst arrangements for statutory schooling are allowed to embed and stabilise. Further information is due to be shared with Head teachers shortly for consideration when determining future provision. Some schools have however already implemented Breakfast Club provisions, albeit that these differ to pre-Covid operations. In some schools, numbers have reduced, in others a grab-bag facility enables children to be provided with a free breakfast in the classroom environment. The Council has a statutory duty to provide free school meals for eligible pupils, and this requirement still stands in cases where a pupil is required to self-isolate. Given the documented prevalence of Coronavirus across Newport, this position is likely to change significantly as time progresses. A solution is therefore required to ensure that appropriate provision is established to ensure that the Council's statutory duties around Free School Meal provision can be fulfilled. As at 11th September 129 pupils entitled to free school meals were required to self-isolate. We are awaiting further guidance from Welsh Government on this matter. Newport Norse is reporting high levels of sickness amongst staff employed to support the 24 schools who are within the Cleaning SLA. At present, requirements continue to be met, but this is being monitored closely. Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) held with all schools hosted by NCC Health and Safety and Environmental Health in collaboration with Education Services

Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment.

Understand, and respond to, the additional challenges, which Covid19 has presented, including loss of employment, impact on business and on the progress, achievement and wellbeing of both mainstream and vulnerable learners.

Supports Wellbeing Objective 1 – To improve skills, education and employment opportunities.

Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
Work to prevent and reduce inequality of progress and outcomes in education for mainstream and vulnerable learners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WG have provided a grant for £1.018m for the Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards: Accelerating Learning Programme including a breakdown of how this funding is allocated to individual schools. Funding will be targeted at specific cohorts identified as most at risk such as those learners in years 11,12,13; vulnerable and disadvantaged children; year 7 pupils to support their transition from Primary to secondary schools. Guidance has been provided from WG to manage pupil absence following return back in September including recording of registers and support provided to pupils and families through the Education Welfare Service. GEMS will be supporting parents and pupils to understand the return to school. Education Services and Regeneration Investment & Housing are working with schools to identify school leavers at risk of becoming NEET. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WG £1.018m grant for the Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards: Accelerating Learning Programme (ALP) allocations have been issued to schools. Schools are submitting plans via EAS grant monitoring portal WG £20K (ALP) for NCC will be ported from Education Services to Children's Services to expand catch-up support for Looked After Children and re-engagement of learners known to Children's Services who are at risk from Criminal Exploitation Guidance circulated to Head teachers and governing bodies on the recording of registers and following up on absence Destinations meetings have been held with schools and Coleg Gwent to identify young people who are at risk of becoming NEET and allow follow up by staff from the Education Services and Regeneration Investment & Housing teams. WG £58k grant to commission the ABUHB Whole School Approach team to support all Newport schools, with a specific focus on Wellbeing and Covid recovery. WG £26k grant to expand the Counselling service to support children and young people below the Year 6 threshold.
Support schools to enhance and develop digital skills; digital teaching and learning platforms; and enhanced support for digitally excluded learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newport Council Education Services, Digital Services and Shared Resource Service (SRS) will be delivering initiatives through the "EdTech" funding to improve the IT infrastructure in schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to improve the IT infrastructure in schools is ongoing with the programme running to plan £700k of WG EdTech grant funding has been used to order additional digital devices for schools Links have been established with Maindee Unlimited who are seeking to provide digital devices to primary pupils in Maindee Primary School and Lliswerry Primary School.
Support and enable people that are digitally excluded to access community IT programmes, Council services and other public services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newport City Council's Adult Community learning courses will be recommencing from September where people can access IT and digital courses. The next iteration of the Council's Digital Strategy will be developed this financial year and taking into consideration the findings of the Community Impact Assessment, Covid 19 recovery as areas of strategic focus. 	No further updates since September 2020.
Support people who have been affected by unemployment to access new opportunities through training and re-employment required for post Covid 19 businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's Neighbourhood Hubs will be offering courses through the Adults Community Learning from September. In Addition the Neighbourhood Hubs are offering employment support over the phone or online including help with job searches, CVs, interview techniques as well as free online training courses and one to one mentoring. Supporting Cardiff Capital Region's Virtual Job Fair on Facebook to support people into work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celtic Manor made over 400 redundancies in the last couple of months. The employability teams have been supporting those affected residents with a Newport post code to update CV's, job search, access training etc., Those outside Newport have been signposted to out counterparts in the appropriate LA for the support required. . 800 postcodes were received from Celtic Manor 55% of which were Newport, this number will include part time seasonal staff also. The Work & Skills teams are proactively looking at ways to increase capacity (both staffing & premises) across the City to allow for support of those affected due to the end of Furlough.

Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment.

Understand, and respond to, the additional challenges, which Covid19 has presented, including loss of employment, impact on business and on the progress, achievement and wellbeing of both mainstream and vulnerable learners.

Supports Wellbeing Objective 1 – To improve skills, education and employment opportunities.

Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach/Restart – tablets and dongles have been purchased via the ‘Barrier Fund’ to distribute to those individuals who do not have the resource at home, this has enabled us to offer support virtually to those most in need. • £280k grant fund for freelance workers in cultural and arts sector has launched on 5th October.
<p>Ensure our diverse communities are appropriately supported through tailored interventions specific to their needs, including consideration of language, culture and points of access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly BAME e-bulletins including accessible / translated materials and signposting to services e.g. foodbanks, hate crime reporting and funding opportunities. • Establishment of Disability Access Group that has been feeding into the city centre re-opening plans. • Co-ordination of support provided to people with no recourse to public funds. • Looking at mechanisms to encourage BAME young people to advertise and access apprenticeships in the Council and across businesses in the city. • Consideration of standalone scheme working with community based organisations to support BAME young people to access employment opportunities. • Unconscious bias training delivered for senior leaders, managers and those involved in the recruitment process to remove institutional barriers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work reported in September is still ongoing. • Business Support and Connected Communities Team are developing a BAME specific business support programme for local business owners

Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy

Understand and respond to the impact of Covid19 on the city’s economic and environmental goals to enable Newport to thrive again.

Supports Wellbeing Objective 2 – To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment.

Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
<p>Maintain our focus on regenerating Newport to deliver existing and new investment projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In June 2020 the Council presented its <i>Economic Impact and Recovery</i> report to Cabinet. This outlined the Council’s approach for supporting the City’s economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has secured £1.4m funding to proceed with redevelopment of Information Station and Museum and Library buildings. • Engaged with Specialist Welsh Government Support to target long-term vacant and derelict properties across the city.
<p>Enable and support the construction industry to re-establish the supply of new and affordable housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned development programme for 2020/21 has been approved by WG of £4.8m of Social Housing Grant funding to be spent in Newport for the creation of over 200 new affordable housing units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planned development programme has been reviewed to consider schemes that may be revised to consider the specific demands connected to wider WG legislation towards homelessness duties, is progressing, notable achievements this month have included the demolition of part of the Tredegar Court sheltered housing scheme in order to allow for the replacement of bedsits with flats and the creation of a dementia friendly garden. • We have also been working with RSL partners to access other Welsh Government Covid19 funding streams relating to affordable housing

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Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
<p>Enable and support businesses to re-establish normal operations whilst maintaining the health and safety of their workers and customers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a Task & Finish group between Regeneration Investment & Housing, Regulatory Services, Gwent PSB partners, City Services and Disability Access Group (feeding into plans) to support businesses in establishing Covid safe environments for staff and customers across the city and in the city centre. Regulatory services continue to provide advice and guidance to businesses whilst also ensuring necessary health & safety arrangements are being complied with. 	<p>construction and redevelopment. These include the Innovative Housing Programme (phase 4) and the Optimised Retrofit Programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newport fully allocated its Welsh Government ‘Start-Up Grants’ in August 2020 – a fund to assist those who started a business prior to lockdown and could not therefore access any support. The Council has received over 150 expressions of interest for Business Development Grants £280k grant fund for freelance workers in cultural and arts sector has launched on 5th October. Transforming Towns has £100k small grant scheme ‘repurposed’ to allow businesses to carry out winter resilience works (e.g. awnings, bubbles, outdoor heating) to be rolled out to city centre initially in October.
<p>Enable and support businesses to prepare for future trade arrangements resulting from Brexit negotiations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council’s Brexit Task & Finish Group has recommenced since the easing of lockdown and are now looking at the legislative changes / frameworks that may be established from trade arrangements. The Council’s Regeneration team will be looking at ways in which we can provide support to businesses once there is certainty over future arrangements. The Council’s Regulatory Services are awaiting further guidance in relation customs checks and supporting as necessary requirements for businesses that import / export goods and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council’s Brexit Task and Finish Group convened on 21st September. The Council is reviewing the outcomes of ongoing Brexit Trade negotiations and as necessary assessing the impact(s) on the Council services, communities and economy. Latest update on the Council’s preparation is provided in the Brexit Cabinet Report for October.
<p>Protect and improve the environment, including air quality and decarbonisation of the city for its residents, businesses and visitors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gwent Sustainable Travel Charter will be presented at Cabinet in September outlining the proposals for moving towards greener fuels, adopting new approaches to travel and commuting; and using alternative transport to travel in / out and across the city. The Council’s Fleet Services will be purchasing new electric vehicles and will be purchasing a new electric refuse vehicle. New ways of working will also be supporting how officers can work from home, and delivering remote meetings that will reduce the impact of emissions for commuting and travelling to meetings. Installation of solar panels at the velodrome and other council sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Gwent Sustainable Travel Charter has been developed to support and encourage staff to travel in a more sustainable way. The travel charter was presented to cabinet in September as part of the Sustainable Travel Cabinet Report. A number of public services board member organisations will be signing up to the charter across Gwent. A launch will take place as part of Wales Climate Week in November and the commitments in the charter will be implemented over the next three years. NCC was the first Welsh local authority to place an order to supply a new all electric Refuse Collection Vehicle which is planned to be operational by April 2021. This is in addition to the 5 x all electric cars and 12 x all electric vans which have been introduced into the fleet over the past 12 months as older vehicles have been replaced. Electric vehicle charging points have been installed at Telford Depot and the Waste Disposal Site in support of these vehicles to compliment other charging points at various locations in the city, at a time when access to facilities and assets are under less demand/occupation; therefore, logistics and displacement are less of a constraint. Community Solar installation across multiple sites will be complete by October 2020. Further sites will be identified to increase the council’s local renewable energy supply.

Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy

Understand and respond to the impact of Covid19 on the city's economic and environmental goals to enable Newport to thrive again.

Supports Wellbeing Objective 2 – To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment.

Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A widespread building energy efficiency programme is being developed to tackle carbon emissions, in the short-term to realise savings associated with using Council building is a less intensive form of occupation. • Public electric vehicle charge points will be operational in council car parks this autumn.
Continuing support and safe delivery of the Council's City services including waste, cleansing and highways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City services continue to operate normally and within the requirements of Covid-19 guidance for social distancing and cleaning. • Waste services continue to operate the appointments system at the Household Waste Recycling Site and have recently reopened the Tip shop for reusable items. • The Council purchased a camera car to support Civil Parking Enforcement Officers to prevent and deter unlawful parking across the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further update.

Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens

Promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people, safeguarding the most vulnerable, and building strong, resilient communities

Supports Wellbeing Objective 3 – To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient

Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
Support people to remain living independently in their homes and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brynglas Day centre remains closed but a new temporary outreach service has been developed that will support people in their own homes and community. The centre has been cleaned and prepped in readiness for opening. • The virtual First Contact hub continues to operate and is managing all Social Service contacts, offering information, advice and assistance and escalating appropriate cases for further assessment. • NOW assessments continue and preparation for the introduction of LPS (Liberty Protection Safeguards) continues for the new implementation date of 01.04.2022 • The Hospital Team and Reablement are operating to deliver Home First and maintain hospital discharge processes, PPE is used and social distancing maintained where possible. • Domiciliary care services have been operational throughout and are now at full capacity. New packages are being brokered without delay and in June and July of 2020 the Brokers successfully commissioned 1000 new hours of service 	No further updates since September 2020.
Fully restore Children and Adult Services, supporting partners that have been impacted by Covid 19 and ensuring service users and staff are supported and protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing levels are good with little agency usage • Circa 5 vacancies in each of the Councils 3 homes, with continued interest for new admissions; Spring Gardens and Blaen y Pant are planning to take up to 5 new admissions from a home in Torfaen that is closing 	No further updates since September 2020

Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens

Promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people, safeguarding the most vulnerable, and building strong, resilient communities

Supports Wellbeing Objective 3 – To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient

Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A system for residents families has been set to facilitate socially distanced visits • Homes have been utilising technology such as iPads in order to communicate with families and other professions such as GP surgeries • Adults training team have been providing a blended approach to training through online and some face to face courses (where essential) • Regular contact with operational teams has continued to ensure that staffing fulfil their regulatory training requirements • Training rooms in Brynglas have been prepped and are ready to deliver training in line with Covid 19 requirements • Commissioning have been working with residential and domiciliary care providers throughout. The team have administered the WG Hardship funding, co-ordinated requests for PPE and testing, distributed guidance and worked closely with Environmental Health, ABUHB and Public Health Wales who have monitored homes and supported them in the implementation and ongoing maintenance of risk management systems. • Commissioning are also currently administering the £500 payment to care workers in adult and children provider services • The Commissioning team are working with regional colleagues to share intelligence and to ensure funding is being allocated in a way that is consistent and equitable. • Community services such as MIND, Citizens Advice Bureau, and the Pobl carer respite service are now beginning to open up move into the next phase of transition. • The Appointeeship service has been operational throughout but modified to reduce the need for face-to-face contact. Some of these changes have worked well and will be retained for efficiency. 	
<p>Assess the impact and the long-term sustainability of the social care sector in Newport informing future service requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older persons residential and nursing care providers have been disproportionately affected by Coronavirus and ongoing discussions with providers are addressing issues of long term financial sustainability and the requirement to change the way the service is delivered to ensure the safety of residents and staff. • Discussions are being held with providers across all commissioned service areas about their recovery plans; this includes how they can adapt and modify their services to adhere to social distancing and infection control requirements and how this will affect capacity and deliverability. i.e. some providers have been using technology to run online groups and offer support. This has been very effective in some areas and will continue to form part of the future service offer. We are starting to have discussions with respite and day service providers about how and when they can restore provision. 	<p>No further updates since September 2020.</p>

Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens

Promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people, safeguarding the most vulnerable, and building strong, resilient communities

Supports Wellbeing Objective 3 – To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient

Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Workers remain in contact with people we support and are monitoring the situation in relation to carer breakdown or changes to circumstances because of the pandemic. This engagement is critical in the determination of how services re-open, to measure demand, offer confidence and support the role of informal carers at a time when those shielding are considering how to return to services. 	
Safeguard and support children and young people to remain safely with their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Services are now conducting their work with families and young people applying necessary social distancing measures. • Children's homes / settings have remained open and the team continues manage caseload accordingly. • Development of Windmill Farm and Rosedale developments are still proceeding. 	No further updates since September 2020
Improve opportunities for Active Travel and work towards improved air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured WG funding for £600k to install temporary pop up schemes to repurpose the highway for active travel (cycling / walking) and social distancing. • Successful funding allocations of £2.7m for Active Travel schemes at Monkey Island Bridge and works on permanent routes across the city. This also includes further work taking place around St David's school and across Gaer fort site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further to last month's update, the Council is undertaking a review of its Active Travel Network Map collaborating with partners from the PSB • Work has commenced across a number of Active Travel schemes.
Regulate businesses and support consumers / residents to protect and improve their health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory services continue to support businesses on their Covid-19 secure environments and continue to ensure necessary compliance arrangements are being adhered to for both workers and customers. • The Council's Environmental Health team have been collaborating with the Gwent LAs and ABUHB on the delivery of the regional Test, Trace and Protect Service. This will support any future isolated, cluster and city wide outbreaks in future. Further information can be found in the Cabinet Report from August 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Test, Trace and Protect Service has been supporting public services with the current outbreak in Newport. • Regulatory services continue to support businesses on their Covid-19 secure environments and continue to ensure necessary compliance arrangements are being adhered to for both workers and customers.
Work with key partners to safely re-open cultural and leisure facilities including the promotion of the city's parks, open spaces and coastal paths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newport Live Leisure facilities have opened from 10th August with limited capacity due to WG guidance. Reopening of facilities are being undertaken with revised opening hours, staggered access times, reduced capacities, cashless payment systems and necessary Test, Track and Protect requirements. • Work is being undertaken with Tennis Wales and Newport Live to improve tennis courts and commence accessible cycling scheme at Tredegar Park. • In development is the relocation of the MUGA to allow development of the Ringland health centre and Liswerry Pond has new club for running Liswerry ponds called Angling Watch UK. • All parks are now fully open including Fourteen Locks canal centre and café facilities. • Transporter Bridge has reopened but unfortunately the Riverfront Centre remains closed until further guidance from WG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum and Art Gallery are open on alternate days via a booking system • Newport Live sites such as the Theatre and Newport Centre remain closed to the public. • Newport Live is applying the new restrictions to its centres.

Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens

Promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people, safeguarding the most vulnerable, and building strong, resilient communities

Supports Wellbeing Objective 3 – To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient

Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
Sustain a safe, healthy and productive workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers continue to work from home and only those that are required to attend the Civic Centre and other buildings to deliver specific services should be attending. New Ways of Working report will be presented to Scrutiny and Cabinet in the autumn outlining the short term and long term approach for flexible working in Newport Council. Health & Safety team, facilities and Newport Norse have been undertaking risk assessments and implementing necessary measures to maintain social distancing. Managers and staff have been asked to undertake DSE Assessments for their home working arrangements and as necessary provided equipment. Guidance has been / to be provided to managers and staff for re-entering the buildings. This will be limited across the Civic Centre. Human Resources are developing new policies and procedures to support officer's wellbeing and working arrangements. Continuous improvements to the Council's HR system (iTrent) to support remote check in, flexi time as well as improvements to the recruitment process. The Council's Democratic Services and Digital Services have been supporting the Council's Elected Members to use Teams and video conferencing for Council meetings. Scrutiny and regulatory meetings will be re-established in the autumn as per the Governance and Democratic arrangements report from July 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of buildings remain closed to the public and following Welsh Government guidance the Council's advice to staff is that they continue to work from home and to avoid any unnecessary visits to the Council buildings where possible. Recent guidance has been shared with Council staff about ongoing arrangements based upon Welsh Government guidance. The Council continues to staff working from home by co-ordinating the distribution of home working kit with further distribution continuing into October. Internally, the organisation has supported staff in different ways to continue to provide services to residents – signposting to mental health support from our occupational health department, counselling provision and regular advice and guidance in staff communications on a range of wellbeing topics. Each piece of communications that goes out has a wellbeing focus to support the resilience of staff working during this challenging period. Virtual Scrutiny and other Council governance meetings have recommenced from September 2020.

Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19

Provide people with the resources and support that they need to move out of the crisis, considering in particular the impact that Covid 19 has had on our minority and marginalised communities.

Supports Wellbeing Objective 4 – To build cohesive and sustainable communities

Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
Work together with our partners to reduce poverty, address homelessness and support our most vulnerable people as a priority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Needs Unit continue to source emergency accommodation in response to phase 1 objectives of Welsh Government and PHW to accommodate those at risk of and rough sleeping Continued partnership working to deliver mental health, substance misuse support and develop independent life skills to support rough sleepers to move into permanent accommodation Strategic development of actions plans relating to long term affordable housing for vulnerable cohorts of individuals experiencing homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress has been made on the actions arising from Strategic Housing Forum (SHF), including the formation of sub- groups set up to address specific issues relating to housing in Newport including rough sleeping, Covid19 WG homelessness legislation, housing supply and community support. Additional units of emergency temporary accommodation sourced and utilised to meet on-going and sustained demand. Sub- groups of the SHF developed to ensure longevity to partnership working throughout and post- Covid Homelessness phase 2 (Covid19) revenue and capital funding confirmed with WG

Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19

Provide people with the resources and support that they need to move out of the crisis, considering in particular the impact that Covid 19 has had on our minority and marginalised communities.

Supports Wellbeing Objective 4 – To build cohesive and sustainable communities

Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
Assess and address the inequalities that Covid 19 has highlighted or contributed to within our communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People & Business Change are leading work on a Community Impact Assessment (CIA) that will consider the impact that Covid-19 has had on communities in Newport during the Lockdown period. This will be presented to Cabinet in the autumn and will have recommendations for the Council's service areas and partners to implement and consider for future strategic / operational decisions. • Council's commitment to ensure the City's BAME communities have access to services, employment and economic opportunities across the city and in the Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals for phase 2 revenue funding, to deliver mental health and substance misuse services agreed and progressed with partners • In accordance with WG guidance, phase 2 strategic actions agreed to ensure cohorts at risk of homelessness are accommodated and supported • People & Business Change finalising the Community Impact Assessment (CIA) following the work completed with the Fairness Commission. • People & Business Change are also supporting the Council's commitment to ensure the City's BAME and marginalised communities have access to services, employment and economic opportunities across the city and in the Council. • Black History Wales 365 campaign supported by NCC – launching start of Black History Month. Monthly engagement and communications activities planned throughout the year • BAME specific business support is being commissioned,(seminars and workshops) to support existing and start-up businesses across the city • Positive action plan being developed to further develop the council's offer in terms of employment opportunities to under-represented/disadvantaged groups • Leader has established and chairs a BAME community forum in order to progress Black Lives Matter areas of focus.
Identify, develop and seek to sustain any positive developments emerging during the crisis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the Covid crisis and continuing into the easing of lockdown measures, the Council's communication team have been utilising social media (Twitter / Facebook) and website to promote the work of the Council, delivery and reopening of services and the community efforts across Newport. • One Newport (Public Services Board) newsletter has been highlighting the positive work of the Council and its partners in supporting the city to recover and various initiatives across communities. • Audit Wales have revised their work programme for the year to provide assurance and share best practice on the work that the Council and other public sector bodies have undertaken in during and after lockdown. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further updates from September 2020.
Developing opportunities for people to access suitable and affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned development programme for 2020/21 has been approved by WG of £4.8m of Social Housing Grant funding to be spent in Newport for the creation of over 200 new affordable housing units. • We have met with funders of our research into the private rented sector. We have agreed a way forward for the research that will abide by current social distancing regulations but will also pick up on issues we may need to address post-COVID. • We held a successful Strategic Housing Forum in July. The issues and challenges arising from COVID were discussed with all partners committing to work together to address the challenges presented to housing and homelessness by COVID. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planned development programme is progressing, notable achievements this month have included the demolition of part of the Tredgar Court sheltered housing scheme in order to allow for the replacement of bedsits with flats and the creation of a dementia friendly garden. • We have also been working with RSL partners to access other Welsh Government funding streams relating to affordable housing construction and redevelopment. These include the Innovative Housing Programme and the Optimised Retrofit Programme. • Work has continued on the private rented sector research. The focus of the research has been agreed with the funders and an initial steering group meeting has been held.

Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19

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Supports Wellbeing Objective 4 – To build cohesive and sustainable communities

Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress has been made on the actions arising from Strategic Housing Forum, including the formation of sub groups set up to address specific issues relating to housing in Newport including rough sleeping, housing supply and community support. • SHF sub groups developed and membership determined to address issues relating to housing supply and homelessness. • Phase 2 WG capital funding proposals developed further to provide additional units of supported housing. This will support move on from temporary accommodation and mitigate the effects of COVID on homelessness and rough sleeping.
<p>Deliver a community cohesion programme that effectively responds to community tensions and creates a shared sense of identity across the city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of different groups including Disability Access Group to address concerns / issues in relation to accessing services and facilities. • Multi agency Gypsy and Traveller group to address concerns in accessing services / facilities and to address any tensions within the community • Working with partners to support EU citizens and communities that are experiencing hardship, discrimination and housing issues. Also helping EU citizens to access and apply for EU Settled Status. Working with partners to raise awareness throughout the year to encourage EUSS uptake before the deadline of 30th June 2021. • Supporting foodbanks to respond to increase need for their services and distribution of food to disadvantaged households and individuals. Supporting BAME community groups to signpost and access foodbanks. • Addressing any hate crime, community tensions and emerging issues with Gwent Police. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation and dissemination of key messages in community languages ongoing, particularly in response to developments around local lockdown • Gypsy and Traveller Group now well established, engaging appropriate partners • Disability Access Group meeting every 2 weeks and has advised on city centre re-opening and potential improvements to pedestrian access • Capital radio advert promoting EUSS has been commissioned, alongside a series of short information videos in community languages. Schools are also being proactively engaged in outreach work • Activities in place for Hate Crime Awareness Week (October) including targeted work with schools • Foodbank working group established to develop a co-ordinated approach across the city • Hate crime awareness week – planned communication campaign, targeted work in schools and community training sessions are planned. Community tensions are monitored and reported on a weekly basis.
<p>Prevent and address instances of antisocial behaviour impacting upon the residents and the business community of Newport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Newport is the city’s community safety partnership and delivers on emerging local community safety issues and problem solving, working with the police, fire and rescue and other statutory partners we have been working throughout the COVID health crisis to support residents and businesses. • Extensive partnership work has taken place to ensure safe opening of businesses including support for the night time economy. • The two funding streams for Serious Violence and Serious & Organised Crime have now amalgamated in SVOC. Although there is still a significant focus on Newport there are resources invested in this threat area across the rest of Gwent. • Although COVID 19 has had an impact on the delivery of services, there is still work ongoing by St Giles Trust/ Barnardo’s and Fearless to support those who are at risk of participating in Serious Organised Crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Pill (sub group of Safer Newport) has now met on two occasions and has an action plan in place, based on the police’s most recent problem profile. Work is ongoing to ensure this reflects positive (and negative) lessons learned from previous work in Pill, and other areas of the city. • The Safer Pill Steering Group has also been established, bringing local community members together to consult on planned activities and shape priorities. • An additional sub-group of Safer Pill has been established to address issues associated with Gypsy and Traveller sites across the city. <p>Anti-social Behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October is traditionally the most challenging time in relation to Anti-social behaviour with Halloween and Bonfire night being so close together. • Each year, the ASB Group/ASB Ops Group work closely with partners to establish a plan of work to mitigate the incidents of Anti-social behaviour as

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Supports Wellbeing Objective 4 – To build cohesive and sustainable communities

Strategic Aim Step	Update (September Cabinet 2020)	Update (October Cabinet 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Home Office are using this and the wider SOC work in Newport as a case study and sharing it as best practice across other police forces • There have been ongoing neighbourhood issues in regards to the Pillgwenly area of the city. A task and finish group with a range of partners and the community has been set up to work collaboratively to combat the issues faced in the area. The group will have the capability to direct resources to tackle problems and support opportunities to improve the area, with problem solving plans in place. 	<p>much as possible. This would include Diversionary activities with the Community Hubs, Housing and also Newport Live. This has resulted in reduction of incidents year on year for the last few years. 2020 is likely to be different.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach work and diversionary activities may be curtailed due to Covid 19. Due to government guidelines, large organised gatherings are also restricted. The concern is for some communities to proceed regardless. The police and fire service are taking a “zero tolerance” approach to this period. • Urgent work needs to be carried out via the Corporate Communications team to ensure that the message encourages a safe Halloween and Bonfire night period. We are likely to see a rise in ASB complaints. • Pillgwenly – Safer Pill has been established with Partners, co-chaired by the police and Newport City Council. Safer Pill will report directly to Safer Newport.
<p>Re-establish Community Regeneration facilities and services where it is safe to do so for staff and its service users.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Hubs have reopened by appointment only. • Flying Start have been providing childcare for key worker’s children. • Providing advice and support for people that are at risk of redundancy or have lost their job during Covid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions surrounding Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) offering services from the Hubs are underway planned for the near future • Play services will be offered in October half term • Low level engagement for parenting / early language programmes ‘outdoors’ are planned in the near future • Welfare visits will restart in Hubs in the near future
<p>Develop opportunities for community involvement participation and engagement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving the Council’s Citizens Panel to assess the public perceptions of the Council’s response to Covid 19 (up to July 2020) and how the Council supported households and wider communities, provision of information and delivery of services. • This will be followed up by bus WI-FI surveys which will reach a wider audience and demographic. • Involved the Fairness Commission to examine the Council’s Community Impact Assessment and the Council’s Strategic Covid 19 recovery work. • In the autumn the Council will be delivering its Participatory budget programme funded through Public Health Wales (inc. Fairness Commission) that will enable communities to decide on commissioning a range of projects, initiatives and activities to support Covid 19 recovery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception survey was undertaken during July-Aug. Results are being analysed. Initial findings are positive in terms of the support provided to households, the wider community and how well the Council maintained essential services. Final results will be available in October. • A bus wi-fi survey will be scheduled for November to increase the demographic and number of responses. • The Fairness Commission has collaborated with NCC to run eight engagement sessions in August with the most affected groups identified in the Community Impact Assessment. A report of the findings is currently being drafted and will inform the CIA the Strategic Recovery work and the participatory budgeting programme. • The participatory budgeting programme will commence in October and will be jointly run with the Fairness Commission as ‘trusted intermediaries’ and to ensure strong community representation and participation. The actual PB event is planned for January given the challenges in running inclusive engagement activities in the current climate.

Appendix 2 – Covid 19 Prevention and Response Structure

