

Report

Cabinet



Part 1

Date: 16 December 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
Head of People and Business Change

Ward All

Summary The Covid-19 health emergency has been ongoing since March 2020 and has impacted all communities and businesses across Newport as the City has continued to adapt and respond to the necessary restrictions to minimise the spread of the virus. Newport Council's response has been to ensure continuity of services with our strategic partners, support vulnerable residents across communities, support businesses and ensure the safety of staff. This report provides an overview of what action the Council has taken to date and the progress against the Strategic Recovery Aims.

Since the last Cabinet Report and 'Fire Break' in November 2020 community spread of Covid-19 has remained prevalent across Newport and South East Wales. With the current restrictions in place the Council's Civil Contingencies 'Gold Team' alongside Strategic Coordination Group and Incident Management Teams have taken necessary actions and shared communications supporting communities and businesses to reinforce the requirements.

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 on 11th November 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 (WG) and Public Health Wales partners.

Covid-19 Response (12th November 2020 to 7th December 2020) and Restrictions in place over the Festive period

Since the 'Fire Break' that was in place for two weeks (23rd October to 9th November 2020), the spread of Covid-19 remains prevalent across communities in Newport and across South East Wales and unfortunately families have continued to lose loved ones as a result of the virus. The Welsh Government (WG) has continued to keep a number of national measures in place following the end of the national firebreak period which include:

- Two household's bubbles can be formed;
- Non-essential business can remain open;
- 15 people can meet indoors for organised activities;
- 30 people can meet outdoors for organised activities;
- No travel restrictions within Wales; and
- Work from home where possible.

In addition to the measures above, the WG introduced new national restrictions for the hospitality and indoor entertainment sectors including:

- Pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes will have to close by 6pm and will not be allowed to serve alcohol.
- After 6pm pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes they will only be able to provide takeaway services.
- Indoor entertainment venues, including cinemas, bingo halls, bowling alleys, soft play centres, casinos, skating rinks and amusement arcades, must close.
- Indoor visitor attractions, such as museums, galleries and heritage sites will also have to close.
- Travel between Wales and areas in the UK with high rates of coronavirus will not be allowed

Welsh Government will formally review these restrictions by December 17 and then every three weeks.

Between 23rd and 27th December the Welsh Government in conjunction with the other three nations (England, Scotland and Northern Ireland) has relaxed the restrictions to enable households and their families to come together over the festive period. This will mean that families can:

- Form an exclusive 'Christmas bubble' composed of no more than three households;
- You can only be in one Christmas bubble;
- You can travel anywhere within the UK for the purposes of meeting your Christmas bubble;
- You must not form a Christmas bubble if you are self-isolating.

Whilst these rules have been relaxed, all Governments are urging households to keep to the social distance guidelines, to take sensible and common sense approaches to meeting in their Christmas Bubbles. All Nations have also indicated that there may be further restrictions after this period to prevent further large outbreaks as the restrictions have been relaxed.

Covid-19 Vaccine

In the last month, significant steps have been taken by medical science and pharmaceutical companies to roll out the vaccines across the country. WG alongside the Health Boards and Local Authorities are making arrangements to support this rollout on a priority basis as soon as the vaccine is received. As stated by UK and WG, the vaccine programme will take some time to reach all demographics and Covid-19 will remain. This will still mean that as restrictions will remain in place for the foreseeable future and it is encouraged for individuals, households and work places to keep necessary social distancing measures in place.

Newport Council Activity and Progress in delivering Strategic Recovery Aims

Newport Council through its Covid Gold team and Incident Management Team have continued to monitor the Covid-19 cases and to ensure new cases are being processed through the Track, Trace and Protect service. As summarised in the table below, service areas are still delivering services to the communities and supporting the most vulnerable and marginalised during this winter period. 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 November 2020 as follows:

Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across Newport schools, Covid-19 cases remain and schools are taking necessary self-isolation action as per the Welsh Government guidance issued. As per the Welsh Government guidance issued, all secondary school pupils in Newport are now required to wear face masks in communal areas. • As at 13th November, 698 Supermarket vouchers in total had been issued in relation to self-isolating pupils and 7,501 to support free school meals provision over the recent half-term and firebreak periods. • School attendance data for the first half term of the academic Year (Sept/Oct 2020) highlights similar rates of attendance in both primary and secondary schools. The rate of attendance at special schools was significantly lower than that of primary and secondary sectors. • Community Regeneration is working in partnership with Digital Communities Wales to deliver a Welsh Government project which will loan IT equipment and provide data for eligible clients on the Communities for Work (CFW) and CFW Plus projects. • The Reach/Restart project continues to offer support to refugees across the city via virtual meetings, email, phone service. • Pilot project being rolled out by WG and Digital Communities Wales to provide free BT Wi-Fi vouchers to asylum seekers and refugees across Newport, providing six months of unlimited internet access. • BAME specific business support proposal being progressed with Business Wales and independent consultant.
Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 25 grant applications approved for Transforming Towns Fund to support businesses to trade throughout the winter with Covid 19 restrictions. • We have been successful in securing over £1million of additional funding for affordable housing in Newport. This will support the development of units on two RSL developments. • Newport City Council along with a range of Public Services Board Partners have signed up to the Gwent Healthy Travel Charter. • To support businesses in Newport, all NCC owned car parks are free over December and January to encourage visitors to safely shop and eat in the run up to Christmas.
Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Support has been extended to assist homeless people to move into temporary accommodation. • Carers Rights Day was on the 25th November and an information bulleting will be sent to over 500 people registered as part of the carer's network. • The Commissioning team will administer the additional payments to social care providers (SSP enhancement scheme) to ensure any staff member required to self-isolate will receive their full pay. • The Museum Central Library and larger branch libraries have re-established the appointment only access system as per the pre firebreak arrangements. • Internally, the workforce has continued to be supported through provision of DSE assessment and provision of equipment where necessary, in addition to a range of wellbeing toolkits, support and training.
Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 2 capital project progressing with regular communications between partners and WG • Ongoing support and pathway activities to homeless people in Newport to establish long term solutions. • Foodbank working group, Disability Group and EU Citizens forum continue to meet virtually • WG hate crime in schools project being delivered across schools, raising awareness of identity based bullying and equipping children with critical thinking skills

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of activities and services continue to be delivered across Community regeneration facilities in the City within current social distancing requirements. • The perception survey is currently being extended using the 'bus wifi' technology which will increase responses and broaden the demographic spread. Results should be available in December. • Participatory budget is now underway across the City.
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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 2 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. The fund also includes loss of income compensation; again, within a set criteria. The fund excludes 'Council Tax loss of income' which is currently under significant strain and 'Council Tax Reduction Scheme costs reimbursement' – both of which are monitored carefully. The fund will run to the end of the current financial year. It is continually developing and evolving to support specific initiatives as and when required.

In essence, Covid related, eligible expenditure are predominantly funded by the WG. A revenue budget monitor to end of September reported to November Cabinet confirmed a positive overall position for the Council and includes the impact of the financial assistance provided from the Hardship Fund as well as the normal and routine budget issues that affect the Council.

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 October 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 fire-break lock-down and the continuing restrictions in the lead up to the Christmas period. There continues to be an increase in the Test, Trace Protect contact tracing work, with numbers of cases and positivity rates rising throughout Gwent. Extra grant funding has been secured from Welsh Government to recruit additional contact tracers and contact advisers to deal with the increasing cases.

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 as new restrictions are implemented.

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.

The HR implications are as outlined in the report as we continue to support the workforce through provision of equipment and a range of wellbeing measures.

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: 8th December 2020

Appendix 1 – Progress of Delivery against Strategic Recovery Aims (as at end of 30th November 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 (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
Support schools and other educational establishments to safely reopen for staff and pupils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 19th October, 18 primary schools have had positive cases and 24 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. Seven secondary schools have had positive cases and 13 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. One special school has reported a case and one contact group has been required to self-isolate. There have been no recorded cases of children attending NCC nursery schools. • Schools have been providing either face to face or distance learning to pupils in line with guidance for the National 'fire-break' lockdown from Friday 23rd October to 9th November. • A hot school meal service reinstated on all primary school sites from 2nd November 2020. • Arrangements to support free school meal entitlement for pupils unable to attend school due to self-isolation have now been implemented via a £19.50 per week supermarket voucher scheme, similar to that used to support eligible families during the summer term. • There continues to be a variable position regarding Breakfast Clubs. Head teachers are aware that Welsh Government's view is that there should be a return to pre-Covid arrangements however individual decisions regarding the reinstatement of this provision have been taken by Head teachers and Governing Bodies following completion of risk assessments and, where appropriate, fairness and equality impact assessments. Where provision has been reinstated, this also varies with some schools offering a traditional but reduced service, with others implementing a classroom-based approach. • There continues to be a variable position regarding Breakfast Clubs. Head teachers are aware that Welsh Government's view is that there should be a return to pre-Covid arrangements however individual decisions regarding the reinstatement of this provision have been taken by Head teachers and Governing Bodies following completion of risk assessments and, where appropriate, fairness and equality impact assessments. Where provision has 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 4th December, 37 primary schools have had positive cases and 91 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. 9 secondary schools have had positive cases and 75 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. 2 special schools have reported a case and 4 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. There have been no recorded cases of children attending NCC nursery schools. • Following reinstatement of a hot meal service, Chartwells is working with primary and secondary schools to identify ways in which the traditional and popular Christmas Dinner can be provided on all sites during December. • The supermarket voucher scheme was used to support free school meal pupils during October half-term and the recent firebreak, and will also be used to support the forthcoming Christmas holiday period. This is in addition to the provision being made for free school meal pupils who are unable to attend school due to self-isolation requirement. As at 13th November, 698 vouchers in total had been issued in relation to self-isolating pupils and 7,501 to support free school meals provision over the recent half-term and firebreak periods. • As at 13th November, 27 schools across the primary and special school estate have reinstated breakfast club provision in some capacity. • Concessionary seats are now available for purchase on contracted home to school transport vehicles. • As at 13th November, the Education Service has received no requests from schools for priority testing for symptomatic pupils. • Additional PPE has been procured to support our specialist provisions this includes Perspex masks to enable deaf staff and pupils with communication difficulties to be able to communicate effectively. • A Health Care Plan task & finish group has been established with Head Teachers; to ensure the health care needs of our most vulnerable pupils in mainstream school are supported through advice and training from Health care colleagues and appropriate co-constructed Health Care Plans. • Links have been established with Maindee Unlimited who are seeking to provide digital devices to primary pupils in Maindee Primary School

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	<p>been reinstated, this also varies with some schools offering a traditional but reduced service, with others implementing a classroom-based approach. As at 19th October, 26 schools across the primary and special school estate have reinstated breakfast club provision in some capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home to School transport arrangements are operating successfully and thus enabling learners to access school. Concessionary seats will be made available from November 2020. • Newport Norse is continuing to meet the Cleaning SLA requirements in relation to the 24 schools that purchase this provision. • Head teachers are now able to submit priority test requests for symptomatic pupils who are unable to secure tests in the usual way. These requests are sent to the central Education Service who act as the conduit in submitting this information to ABUHB. Details of missed tests are shared with Head teachers who will then ensure that appropriate welfare checks are carried out. 	<p>and Lliswerry Primary School. The project was officially launched at the start of December with the schools participating in an interview with BBC Wales as part of this event.</p>						
<p>Work to prevent and reduce inequality of progress and outcomes in education for mainstream and vulnerable learners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings are ongoing with schools, college and Careers Wales to identify school leavers who are not currently in education, employment or training and are at risk of becoming NEET. Follow up with the young people identified is completed by staff from the Education Services and Regeneration Investment & Housing teams. • The average attendance rate across all schools in September 2020 was 80%. All learners, including those that were previously shielding were expected to return to their school from 14th September 2020. However, in most schools, a minority of pupils have not returned as a result of parental concerns about transmission of the Covid-19 virus. These concerns are initially being followed up by the school. Concerns are then escalated to the Education Welfare Service after the school has made every attempt to engage the family. The use of Fixed Penalty Notices or proceedings for non-attendance is not currently available for local authorities / schools. • An increasing number of families are notifying schools and the local authority of their intention to home educate their children. As of 31st August 2020, 130 children were recorded as being home educated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School attendance data for the first half term of the academic Year (Sept/Oct 2020) highlights similar rates of attendance in both primary and secondary schools. The rate of attendance at special schools was significantly lower than that of primary and secondary sectors. <table border="1" data-bbox="1301 986 2145 1098"> <thead> <tr> <th>Primary Schools Half Term 1</th><th>Secondary Schools Half Term 1</th><th>Special schools Half Term 1</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>89%</td><td>88.4%</td><td>78.8%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the week ending 23/10/20 attendance at schools in Newport was recorded at 87.2% which ranked the local authority at 5th position in Wales, falling below Ceredigion, Monmouthshire, Vale of Glamorgan and Gwynedd. It must be noted though that with their schools on half term, no data was available for Conwy, Powys or Pembrokeshire during this period. • The ABUHB Whole School Approach team has begun engaging with Newport schools to develop bespoke training and interventions, with a specific focus on Wellbeing and Covid recovery. • Through WG funding Newport has commissioned the Talking Zone Counselling service to expand their support for Secondary and primary 	Primary Schools Half Term 1	Secondary Schools Half Term 1	Special schools Half Term 1	89%	88.4%	78.8%
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Supports Wellbeing Objective 1 – To improve skills, education and employment opportunities.

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
	in Newport. This increased to 156 by the end of September 2020. Education Welfare Officers are contacting all families within 10 days of this notification to provide reassurances about the mitigations schools are putting into place to help reduce the transmission of the Covid-19 virus and to ensure that families understand the requirements related to home education.	age pupils and parents. Their service now provides community counselling and drop-in session for pupils up to the age of 19, tele-play therapy and virtual sessions for pupils aged 6-19 years, and parent consultations and block therapy.
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">• Work to improve the IT infrastructure is continuing. 14 schools have migrated to the SRS Schools Edu network to date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. The project was officially launched at the start of December with the schools participating in an interview with BBC Wales as part of this event.• Work to improve the IT infrastructure is ongoing. 19 schools have migrated to the SRS Schools Edu network to date.
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">• Adult Community Learning courses have recommenced but will be paused during the firebreak period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult Community Learning courses are operating again after the firebreak. Additional funding has been sourced from the Welsh Government for a pilot loan scheme to provide IT equipment and data to eligible ACL students.• Community Regeneration is working in partnership with Digital Communities Wales to deliver a Welsh Government project which will loan IT equipment and provide data for eligible clients on the Communities for Work (CFW) and CFW Plus projects.
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">• NCC continue to offer redundancy support to employers and their staff whose jobs are under threat. NCC Employer liaison officers are in regular contact with them to arrange appointments with employment mentors so they can help them to secure subsequent employment.• Plans are in place to create new delivery locations in the city centre to offer employability support. We have existing locations across the city to offer assistance with additional locations ready for any surges in referrals.• The Reach/Restart project continues to source tablets and WIFI dongles so we can continue to offer support to refugees in Newport. We're working closely with partner organisations, offering integration and employability advice and guidance. This includes equipment that is used to attend ESOL classes and accredited work related qualifications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NCC are completing a bid for DWP's Kickstart Scheme which is designed to improve employability and chances of sustained employment for those at risk of long term unemployment in the 16-24-year-old age group. It provides grant funding to employers to support the creation of new jobs that would not otherwise exist.• Face to face appointments for work and skills support has also recommenced after the firebreak, on an appointment basis. Support remained available via virtual meetings and telephone calls during the firebreak.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CfW+ Programme - Additional £142k funding secured from WG to support with the increased numbers of unemployed when Furlough Ends. Four x Employment Mentors and One Employment Liaison officer to be employed on a 6 month contract.• I.T. Loan scheme to be launched in October – 10 Laptops with internet for each hub to support CfW and CfW+ customers who are seen to be job ready.	
Ensure our diverse communities are appropriately supported through tailored interventions specific to their needs, including consideration of language, culture and points of access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Reach/Restart project continues to source tablets and WIFI dongles so we can continue to offer support to refugees in Newport. We're working closely with partner organisations, offering integration and employability advice and guidance. This includes equipment that is used to attend ESOL classes and accredited work related qualifications.• BAME specific business support proposal currently being considered by Business Support/Connected Communities Team.• Representative Workforce group established and scheduled to meet in November.• Leader's BAME forum continues and members engaged with work across the council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pilot project being rolled out by WG and Digital Communities Wales to provide free BT Wifi vouchers to asylum seekers and refugees across Newport, providing six months of unlimited internet access.• BAME specific business support proposal being progressed with Business Wales and independent consultant.• Representative workforce group has met and agreed an action plan/priorities.• Leader's BAME forum continues and support has been provided to the Newport Cultural Hub in preparation for launch on 23rd November.• Work in partnership with EYST has commenced in relation to supporting BAME and other vulnerable communities to develop digital literacy skills, supported by Digital Communities Wales.• The Reach/Restart project continues to offer support to refugees across the city via virtual meetings, email, phone service. Face to face appointments were suspended during the firebreak but have now recommenced for clients who do not have I.T equipment. Android Tablets and WIFI dongles are being provided to some clients but this is not suitable for all. The Reach project has started a peer-mentoring scheme called Perthyn. The aim of the scheme is to coach clients so they can offer support and advice and help to fellow refugees who are new to the city.• The Families First and Flying Start programmes supporting a range of services to underrepresented groups have restarted, including the following: -• Language and Play team delivering speech and language support in polish (6-week evidence based programme) and delivering chatty children; a speech, language and communication group as a bilingual service.• Currently working within the North Hub with Gwent Police as a partnership engaging with survivors of sexual and domestic violence,

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		<p>using their lived experiences and feedback to change and improve the service the police force provides. We will be linking up with the Survivor Engagement Co-ordinator for Gwent Police.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to support early identification of mental health through the ante natal and post-natal mental health support within the Flying Start initiative as part of the Healthy Child Wales programme. The FS programme funds a Clinical Psychiatric Nurse who supports the Health offer undertaking listening visits and implementing the Edinburgh Post Natal Depression assessment. • Families First contract Newport Mind, Serennu and Barnados all continue to provide services both via group and one to one support (post firebreak) to underrepresented groups across the City

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 (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
<p>Maintain our focus on regenerating Newport to deliver existing and new investment projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses are submitting their applications for approval for the Transforming Towns funding which seeks to make the City Centre Covid-safe. This involves funding for canopies, awnings and outdoor heaters to increase outdoor customer space over the winter period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction work on Market Arcade continued over the firebreak period. • Planning application submitted for the Information Station Building to operate as co-working office & creative space. • A total of 25 grant applications approved for Transforming Towns Fund to support businesses to trade throughout the winter with Covid 19 restrictions. • A larger Transforming Town Fund supporting the renovation of city centre properties to improve or bring back in to use empty properties as commercial or residential units has applications submitted for approval.
<p>Enable and support the construction industry to re-establish the supply of new and affordable housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to deliver the planned development programme and have been working with RSL partners to identify schemes that could be brought forward at short notice to meet current demand should additional funding become available. We have been engaging with a number of national house builders to offer support in bringing developments forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been successful in securing over £1million of additional funding for affordable housing in Newport. This will support the development of units on two RSL developments. • We have continued to deliver the planned development programme and together with RSL partners have submitted a list of schemes to

Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy

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Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
Enable and support businesses to re-establish normal operations whilst maintaining the health and safety of their workers and customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses are submitting their applications for approval for the Transforming Towns funding which seeks to make the City Centre Covid-safe. This involves funding for canopies, awnings and outdoor heaters to increase outdoor customer space over the winter period. • The Business Support Team continue to process Welsh Government support grants, including the Freelancer grant and the pending third phase of the Economic Resilience Fund. 	<p>the Welsh Government that we have identified as priorities for slippage funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support businesses in Newport, all NCC owned car parks are free over December and January to encourage visitors to safely shop and eat in the run up to Christmas.
Enable and support businesses to prepare for future trade arrangements resulting from Brexit negotiations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the previous Brexit update provided to Cabinet in October 2020, the UK Government and the EU have continued to negotiate a future trade agreement. However, it is now likely that the UK will leave the EU Single Market on 31st December 2020 without an agreement in place. • The Council's Brexit Task & Finish group is awaiting the outcomes of the negotiations and are already increasing communication to businesses to prepare for new arrangements and to continue to encourage EU Citizens living in UK before 31st December to apply for EU Settled Status. • A separate Brexit report is being presented to Cabinet in November with an update on the Council's preparations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brexit preparations is provided in a separate Cabinet Report for December. • The Council's Brexit Task & Finish group is continuing to monitor the position and prepare for post transition at the end of the year. • Newport Council is collaboratively working with WLGA, Gwent Councils and other public bodies to understand the risks and issues to the EU transition at the end of the December 2020.
Protect and improve the environment, including air quality and decarbonisation of the city for its residents, businesses and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric Vehicle Charging Points - Discussions and site visits have taken place to plan for the installation of the infrastructure. • Solar Installation - All phase 1 & 2 sites are now complete. Further sites are being scoped for suitability for solar PV. The long term aim to install solar PV on 100% of our suitable sites. • Building efficiency programme - A soft market test for an energy efficiency partner has been completed, internal approvals / consultation ongoing. • Public Electric Vehicle Charging Points - Commissioning will be complete and charge points will be in operation in November. Three further sites developed by the Carbon Reduction Team – Installation to be managed by City Services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newport City Council along with a range of Public Services Board Partners have signed up to the Gwent Healthy Travel Charter. Twenty-one organisations across the Gwent area have signed up to the charter so far. Organisations who sign up to the charter sign up to 15 commitments and four targets promote active travel, public transport and agile working for staff with the view of reducing carbon emissions. • The community solar installations have come to an end. A further method of delivery within current restrictions on smaller sites is being identified. • Work on the Public Electric Vehicle Charging Points project has progressed over the firebreak period and contracts are now being finalised.
Continuing support and safe delivery of the Council's City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results from the Covid-19 perception survey with Citizen's Panel that communities have valued refuse and recycling services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Services continue to operate normally, though response times may be longer than normal.

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 (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
services including waste, cleansing and highways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">during this period, and also the maintenance of cleansing services.City Services continue to operate normally, though response times may be longer than normal.HWRC has reopened via a booking system only to manage social distancing requirements (though will close for 2 weeks during firebreak)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Plans are in place for prioritisation of essential services (waste collections, HWRC highway and drainage essential maintenance and winter service response) over the Christmas period and beyond should it be needed.To support businesses and encourage safe shopping in Newport, parking at NCC car parks will be free for visitors in December and January.

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 (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
Support people to remain living independently in their homes and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Home First continue to support people to return home if they do not need to be admitted to hospital at RGH and NHH. The Grange Hospital is anticipated to open in November and Home First will be expanded to provide a service from the new A&E based there.The First Contact teams works in a flexible way and provides face to face assessment when necessary and social distancing requirements and when required use of PPE is strictly adhered to.The OT service is experiencing some staffing challenges and recruitment is underway. They continue to provide urgent assessments and provide an IAA service with First Contact. DFG work continues but only for the most urgent adaptations.There has been a significant increase in the number of people need assessment under the Mental Health Act which is statutory requirement. We are monitoring this situation carefully and working closely with colleagues in ABUHB.A range of support for people with difficulties with their mental wellbeing in the context of the pandemic has been developed in partnership with ABUHB and the voluntary sector and through Housing Support.Carer breakdown is a concern as the pandemic continue into the winter. Social Workers are in contact with the people we support and their Carers and are closely monitoring the situation.	<p>Further to the updated provided in November:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Housing Support has been extended to assist homeless people to move into temporary accommodation. NCC's Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator has facilitated co-ordination of outreach services and partnership working across has been strengthened through the multi-agency response.Carer breakdown is a concern as the pandemic continue into the winter. Social Workers are in contact with the people we support and their Carers and are closely monitoring the situation.Carers Rights Day was on the 25th November and an information bulleting will be sent to over 500 people registered as part of the carer's network.

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

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

Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Day Opportunities based in Bryn Glas continues to support people in the community rather than providing a building based service.• We are able to access domiciliary care and support and are able to broker new packages.	
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">• The in-house care homes have a small number of vacancies and are able to take admissions.• We are looking at the availability of emergency respite as a number of care homes are reluctant to accept short term placements unless the person has tested negative for COVID19.• The Social Services Training Team continues to support the teams and services including new starters to access any essential training through on-line courses and in-person training when necessary e.g. moving and handling.• Community Support for those people who have been shielding remains in place and we have extended the contract with Volunteering Matters who can provide support for people who for example, live some distance from their family and need help with shopping etc.• Community Connectors are also active in the communities and in particular the hard to reach groups who may need additional support to access TTP for example.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No further update.
Assess the impact and the long-term sustainability of the social care sector in Newport informing future service requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Contracts & Commissioning Team work closely with colleagues in Environmental Health, PHW and ABUHB to support the Care Homes in Newport to manage the stringent requirements on infection control and PPE to keep their residents safe.• The £500 payment to frontline social care staff had been distributed to all those who meet the Welsh Government criteria. We have also gathered the names of staff across the sector who will be a high priority group to receive the vaccination when it becomes available. Access to the flu vaccine are restricted as supplies are limited but it is hoped this will change in the coming weeks and we can support frontline staff to access the vaccine via their community pharmacy.• Newport is working collaboratively with the other Local Authorities in Gwent to support the sector mitigate the impact through the distribution of the COVID Hardship Fund.	<p>In addition to the update provided in November 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Commissioning team will administer the additional payments to social care providers (SSP enhancement scheme) to ensure any staff member required to self-isolate will receive their full pay.• In order to enable visits to care homes to be reinstated, further guidance is being developed to assist homes to safely facilitate visits for relatives. Commissioning are maintaining regular contact with Domiciliary Care providers and agencies to monitor capacity.

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Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visiting to Care Homes has been limited to essential only visits such as end of life since Newport was placed under further restrictions by WG. We have supported the homes to use technology.	
Safeguard and support children and young people to remain safely with their families.	<p>November 2020 – No further updates since September 2020</p> <p><i>September 2020 update:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Children Services are now conducting their work with families and young people applying necessary social distancing measures.</i>• <i>Children's homes / settings have remained open and the team continues manage caseload accordingly.</i>• <i>Development of Windmill Farm and Rosedale developments are still proceeding.</i>	No further update.
Improve opportunities for Active Travel and work towards improved air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Active Travel schemes being delivered this financial year are ongoing and the review of the Active Travel network map is also continuing.• The Council is also awaiting the report from SEWTC which will be released in November.	<p>Public Service Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Gwent Healthy Travel Charter was launched across 21 organisations committing to promote active travel across the region. <p>SEWTC Final Recommendations Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The SEWTC Final Recommendations November 2020 Report has now been published with specific recommendations for Ministers. The overarching recommendations are for a “network of Alternatives” in South East Wales, delivered through 5 work packages (infrastructure, policies, behavioural change, governance and land use planning)• There is capacity through all 5 work packages for the delivery of active travel and subsequent air quality improvements for the city. <p>Active Travel Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numerous Active travel schemes are being developed, implemented and completed this year. This includes Coed Melyn route, Devon place Footbridge, Monkey Island bridge, Gaer fort link, Tredegar park and former golf course.• Covid response Active travel schemes are being implemented throughout the city centre this winter including additional cycle provision and wider footways. Schemes are being implemented as part of suite of measures.• As part of the sustainable access to the city centre further Electric Vehicle charging points are being implemented and new lighting in

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		areas such as under George Street Bridge and Heidenheim drive to provide safe walking and cycling connections. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development and stakeholder engagement has begun and the consultation exercise on the new Active travel Network Map will begin in late January 2021 and run for two months. This will take the form of interactive on line mapping which has been developed externally, to enable people to have their say in the development of new and improvement of existing walking and cycling routes across the city. Further consultations will be held in the summer and the final mapping will be submitted to the Welsh Government in December 2021.
Regulate businesses and support consumers / residents to protect and improve their health.	<u>Last update October 2020</u> <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.	No further update.
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">• The Riverfront theatre remains closed during this period.• Newport Centre has remained partially open until the firebreak announced by the Welsh Government. The centre will close for the 2 weeks.• The Museum and Art Gallery have remained open for visits via an appointment system but will close on 23rd October as required by Welsh Government.• The Transporter Bridge is a seasonal attraction and has now closed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Museum Central Library and larger branch libraries have re-established the appointment only access system as per the pre firebreak arrangements.• The Riverfront theatre remains closed during this period.• Newport Centres are open and Newport Centre is partially open.
Sustain a safe, healthy and productive workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further to the progress reported in October, additional training has been sourced to provide longer term support for remote working. The objective is to provide support on keeping connected with others and maximising productivity whilst remote working.	Internally, the workforce has continued to be supported through provision of DSE assessment and provision of equipment where necessary, in addition to a range of wellbeing toolkits, support and training.

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 (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December 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">• Additional units of emergency temporary accommodation are being sourced and allocated to meet continuing demand.• Resources made available to project manage homelessness phase 2 capital projects.• Proposals for phase 2 revenue funding, to deliver mental health and substance misuse services agreed being progressed with partners• Working with private sector accommodation providers to ensure the supply and use of accommodation during fire breaker,• We continue to work with our third sector support partners to support the ongoing provision of temporary accommodation at Mission Court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foodbank working group has been established, bringing together foodbanks working across the city to develop a cohesive approach to support and maximise resources.• Ongoing acquisition of further temporary accommodation units to meet demands.• Phase 2 capital project progressing with regular communications between partners and WG• Psychological support post being recruited within ABUHB with phase 2 revenue funding• Ongoing delivery of an Assertive Outreach team within substance misuse services to support homeless clients• Hotels and B&B's now open following firebreak and being utilised as emergency accommodation• Ongoing use of Mission Court and other units of accommodation to support homeless clients with complex needs• Accommodation pathway developed in partnership with RSL partner and 3rd sector organisation to provide move on accommodation for those granted asylum and those with No Recourse to Public Funds• Partnership working with RSL's to facilitate move on accommodation into social housing tenancies• Winter provision arrangements for rough sleepers explored and further meetings set with other Welsh cities to determine best practice• Continuation of rough sleeping services coordination, incorporating humanitarian groups.
Assess and address the inequalities that Covid 19 has highlighted or contributed to within our communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BAME specific business support proposal currently being considered by Business Support/Connected Communities Team• Representative Workforce group established and scheduled to meet in November• Leader's BAME forum continues and members engaged with work across the council• People & Business Change finalising the Community Impact Assessment (CIA) following the stakeholder engagement work completed with the Fairness Commission. A Participatory Budgeting Steering Group has been formed and included nearly 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pilot project being rolled out by WG and Digital Communities Wales to provide free BT Wifi vouchers to asylum seekers and refugees across Newport, providing 6 months of unlimited internet access• BAME specific business support proposal being progressed with Business Wales and independent consultant• Representative workforce group has met and agreed an action plan/priorities• Leader's BAME forum continues and support has been provided to the Newport Cultural Hub in preparation for launch on 23/11• Work in partnership with EYST has commenced in relation to supporting BAME and other vulnerable communities to develop digital literacy skills, supported by Digital Communities Wales

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 (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
	people, most of who are representatives of the most affected groups (Covid19).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Impact Assessment complete and informing decision making through the equality impact assessment process – further work to be undertaken to embed findings across service areas• PB steering group now receiving training in preparation for funding scheme• Work re-commencing around promotion of EUSS and wider support for migrant communities who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic• No Recourse to Public Funds group has been established with partners
Identify, develop and seek to sustain any positive developments emerging during the crisis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One Newport (Public Services Board) bulletin has been highlighting the positive work of the Council and its partners in supporting the city to recover and various initiatives across communities. This has been re-enforced by ongoing promotion of partners' work through the One Newport Twitter and Instagram accounts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One Newport (Public Services Board) bulletin has been highlighting the positive work of the Council and its partners in supporting the city to recover and various initiatives across communities. This has been re-enforced by ongoing promotion of partners' work through the One Newport Twitter and Instagram accounts.
Developing opportunities for people to access suitable and affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newport has been accepted onto Welsh Governments Private Rented Sector pathfinder project and have obtained grant funding to acquire units of accommodation to facilitate move on from temporary accommodation.• We continue to deliver the planned development programme and have been working with RSL partners to identify schemes that could be brought forward at short notice to meet current demand should additional funding become available.• Bids have also been submitted to the Innovative Housing Programme (phase 4) which supports developments that use modern methods of construction to meet identified housing need. No further updates since October 2020.• Additional Phase 2 funding received and will allow the Team to progress schemes submitted as part of the Phase 2 bid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have been successful in securing over £1million of additional funding for affordable housing in Newport. This will support the development of units on two RSL developments.• Despite the current challenges, we have continued to deliver the planned development programme and together with RSL partners have submitted a list of schemes to the Welsh Government that we have identified as priorities for slippage funding.
Deliver a community cohesion programme that effectively responds to community tensions and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black History Wales supported during October with the launch of a yearlong programme of activities, anti-racism resources developed and shared with schools, Q&A sessions with BLM and Dragons Rugby and themed internal staff news	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hate crime training delivered to staff by Victim Support• Online hate speech event hosted in partnership with Hope not Hate and Centre for Countering Digital Hate• Ongoing messaging provided to communities in a range of formats and languages

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 (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
creates a shared sense of identity across the city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hate Crime Charter signed and publicised, with training planned for staff in November• Collaboration with Hope not Hate and Centre for Countering Online Hate to deliver a seminar for communities and professionals focussing on addressing online hate speech and the hostile environment• Ongoing messaging and support is being provided to BAME communities, including the development of multilingual voice notes• Foodbank working group, Disability Group and EU Citizens meeting continue to meet virtually• Hate crime community training sessions and school workshops scheduled for November.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work in partnership with PHW and ABUHB to ensure TTP is developed in a way that caters for socially vulnerable groups• School workshops delivered in partnership with Puppet Soup focussing on valuing and embracing difference• Hate crime workshops in Hungarian and Polish planned for December• Foodbank working group, Disability Group and EU Citizens forum continue to meet virtually• WG hate crime in schools project being delivered across schools, raising awareness of identity based bullying and equipping children with critical thinking skills
Prevent and address instances of antisocial behaviour impacting upon the residents and the business community of Newport	<p>Safer Pill</p> <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. Initial focus will be adult exploitation, ASB, violent crime, fly-tipping and waste.• 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">• This year during Halloween/Bonfire Night the usual outreach work and diversionary activities will be curtailed due to Covid 19. Due to government guidelines, large organised gatherings are also restricted. The concern is some communities will proceed regardless. The police and fire service are taking a "zero tolerance" approach to this period. The Council Community Safety Wardens are working with SWF&R to identify bonfire sites to take	<p>Safer Pill</p> <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. Initial focus will be adult exploitation, ASB, violent crime, fly-tipping and waste.• 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">• During the Halloween/Bonfire night period, "zero tolerance" was followed, along with the offer of diversionary support on a 1:1 basis through Youth Services (remotely) and Newport Live working with referred individuals on a 1:1 basis.• The Op Bang report has not been finalised. However, initial feedback is that there were was not a significant increase on the previous year. The

Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19

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Strategic Aim Step	Update (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
	<p>preventative action. Positive Futures will provide some targeted outreach activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urgent work will 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.• Youth Justice Service is picking up all ASB referrals and are working with the police to offer this as a diversionary intervention on a preventative basis.	<p>SWFRS also show that there was no increase on calls for deliberate fire setting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff from NCC, NCH, SWFRS and Police were attacked, through the use of throwing of stones and fireworks. A referral process is in place to help identified Young People at risk of offending or being involved with Anti-social behaviour.• The partners felt that Op Bang was a success this year, due to strong partnership working, improved communication and a “zero tolerance” approach to the period. It has also provided an opportunity to look at how we work with communities during the same period next year and understanding what Young People want as alternative activities.• Additional feedback from the ASB Opps Group, for 2021 further work is required to look at alternative events for communities, adopting the same zero tolerance approach and the earlier use of social media as a partnership.
<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">• Community Regeneration services have restarted in a limited and safe way. Face to face services have been provided for employment support and the Aspire and Youth Academy work.• Play scheme for Flying start age and 5-12yrs will be offered to identified groups for October half term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aspire and youth academy projects resumed and operating at pre firebreak levels.• During the National Lockdown, we were unable to deliver any face-to-face parenting support or groups. An online provision has been developed and Family Intervention Workers have attended training with Family Links on Delivering the Nurture programme via Teams. This has enabled staff to provide a menu of online support to families in Newport in the future. Currently we have 15 virtual parenting groups being offered across the City.• Speech and Language Support continued to be carried out over the firebreak period, via telephone consultation, including welfare calls to our most vulnerable families.• During the firebreak staff supported families by delivering food parcels. We also linked in with Save the Children to provide Baby Boxes to those in need and provided crisis grants via Save the Children to those affected by the Covid crisis.• Flying Start childcare continued to be offered in the second half of the firebreak period. We currently offer 712 childcare spaces during term time for 2-3 year olds across the City. Play provision for vulnerable children was offered during the first week of firebreak (half term).

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 (November Cabinet 2020)	Update (December Cabinet 2020)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Families First - A range of projects continue to be offered through Families First referrals. Allocations have increased compared to last year 183 referrals were reported in October 2019 with 228 referrals within 2020.
Develop opportunities for community involvement and participation and engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The survey suggests that public perception of the Council's pandemic response was in the main positive, particularly in terms of support for households, the wider community and in maintaining service provision. Responses were particularly favourable in terms of refuse and recycling services, support for people shielding and key workers and maintaining/cleansing the public realm. The more negative responses focussed on the closure of parks, cemeteries, libraries and public toilets. There was a mixed response towards the information provided on services and public health messages.The survey is currently being extended using bus Wi-Fi technology which should greatly increase the responses received to dateThe participatory budgeting programme commenced in October with the formation of a Steering Group mostly made up of representatives of the most affected communities, who will oversee the running of the PB process in terms of eligibility, funding decisions, fairness and participation.This process now follows a strategic path from the Community Impact Assessment, to community engagement, participation of stakeholder and ultimately involvement in decision making and funding new projects to tackle Covid19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The perception survey is currently being extended using the 'bus wifi' technology which will increase responses and broaden the demographic spread. Results should be available in December.The participatory budgeting (PB) programme is now underway with the formation of a Steering Group mostly made up of representatives of the most affected communities, who will oversee the running of the PB process in terms of eligibility, funding decisions, fairness and participation. Training has commenced on a cohort of individuals who will be able to run their own PB projects in the future.Discussions are underway to identify additional sources of funding and support for community and voluntary organisations/projects who take part in the PB programme.Steps are being taken to reduce digital exclusion and allow more people to participate in the PB programme whilst Covid-19 restrictions remain in place.

Appendix 2 – Covid 19 Prevention and Response Structure

