

Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 8 January 2021

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, the 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. The Newport area is currently at the highest alert level.

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 16th December 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 (December 2020) and Restrictions for January 2021 (Subject to Change)

Throughout November and December 2020, South East Wales including Newport saw significant increases in the number of positive Covid-19 cases. Based upon scientific advice it was highly probable that the increase in cases was attributed to a new strain of Covid-19. This meant that the disease was able to pass more easily from person to person.

In light of this information the Welsh Government went into Alert Level four restrictions, from Midnight Sunday morning 20th December 2020. These restrictions mean that all non-essential retail; close contact services, gyms and leisure centres and hospitality had to close at the end of trading on Saturday 19th December and "stay-at-home" restrictions came into effect.

Rules which allowed two households to bubble for Christmas only applied on Christmas Day and not five days as previously hoped. Throughout the alert level four period, a single person household will be able to join with one other household.

A summary of the changes that have come into place can be found on the Welsh Government's website [here](#). These will be reviewed every three weeks by the Welsh Government.

For Newport Council, front-line services will remain operational but will be adhering to the restrictions in place. Waste and recycling services will continue as planned over the Christmas period. The [household waste recycling centre](#) will also remain open as planned. Parks and [cemeteries](#) remain open. [Libraries](#) will operate a click and collect service only and the Newport Museum and art gallery will be closed.

Residents and businesses will continue to be encouraged to contact the Council through its contact centre and use its online services.

Rollout of the Covid-19 Vaccine

In December, the UK started to rollout the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 to NHS & Social Care workers, over 80s and care home residents. On 30th December the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine was approved and the mass vaccination of the vaccine will commence from 4th January 2021. It will be important for all residents including the City's BAME and vulnerable communities to receive the vaccine that will enable society to get back to some form of normality and help rebuild the economy. Some Council services may be disrupted and/or reduced at times in the New Year.

Newport Council Activity and Progress in delivering Strategic Recovery Aims

Newport Council's Recovery Group (consisting of the Chief Executive and Heads of Service) are monitoring and reporting ongoing issues and incidents throughout the Christmas period and into the New Year. In addition to this the group has also been monitoring the Brexit situation as the UK Government and EU tried to get a deal in place before the 31st December. Service areas have continued as much as possible to deliver business as usual services albeit from home and if required front line to residents and service users (in line with social distancing restrictions). Summarised below and also in Appendix 1 of this report, is a summary (by exception) of Council work to 21st December 2020:

Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As of 18th December, 38 primary schools have had positive cases and 154 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. 9 secondary schools have had positive cases and 107 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. 2 special schools have reported a case and 8 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. There has been 1
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	<p>nursery with a recorded case and 1 contact group has been required to self-isolate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As at 16th December 2020 (last day of face-to-face learning in primary and special schools), there have been no requests to the Education Service from schools for priority testing for symptomatic pupils. • During the first week of term in January 2021, schools will offer distance learning. The first two days of term are for schools to review risk assessments and determine availability of staff. On-site provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable learners will begin from Wednesday 6th January. Newport schools are aiming to have pupil back on site for face to face learning from 11th January. • Welsh government has given schools up to 18th January to return to face to face learning. • DWP have confirmed Newport is a Kickstart Scheme employer. • Flying Start provision has been operating as normal and will continue to do so throughout the new lockdown. Priority will be given to vulnerable and key worker children where necessary.
<p>Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction work is continuing on key projects in the City Centre. • Two Registered Social Landlord (RSL) developments have been successful in securing Innovative Housing Programme funding to develop around 90 units of accommodation using modern methods of construction • Newport City Council were successful with their application for the Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) Pilot funded by Welsh Government.
<p>Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Museum has been closed as a result on the new lockdown and open libraries will operate a click and collect service only in line with Welsh Government regulations.
<p>Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foodbanks continue to be supported and emergency food provision is supplemented by the Neighbourhood hubs. • Two RSL developments have been successful in securing Innovative Housing Programme funding to develop around 90 units of accommodation using modern methods of construction. These will include a range of property types in order to meet current housing need. • Hate Crime workshops for Polish and Hungarian communities have been delivered and well received. • One-to-one support for referred clients will operate during the lockdown, working online wherever possible. • Families will continue to be supported by the hubs through the delivery of emergency food parcels where necessary.

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 briefings.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

Welsh Government have been supporting local authorities through the pandemic with a Hardship Fund intended to reimburse for all Covid related spend over and above existing budgets and within a set criteria. The fund also includes loss of income compensation; again, within a set criteria. The fund excludes 'Council Tax loss of income' which is currently under significant strain and is 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 is predominantly funded by the WG. A revenue budget monitor to end of November is being reported to January Cabinet and confirms 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 December 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 throughout 2020 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: 4th January 2020

Appendix 1 – Progress of Delivery against Strategic Recovery Aims (as at end of 31st December 2020)

<p>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.</p>	
<p>Supports Wellbeing Objective 1 – To improve skills, education and employment opportunities.</p>	
<p>Strategic Aim Step</p>	<p>January '21 Update (By Exception)</p>
<p>Support schools and other educational establishments to safely reopen for staff and pupils.</p>	<p>January '21 Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 18th December, 38 primary schools have had positive cases and 154 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. 9 secondary schools have had positive cases and 107 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. 2 special schools have reported a case and 8 contact groups have been required to self-isolate. There has been 1 nursery with a recorded case and 1 contact group has been required to self-isolate. The supermarket voucher scheme continues to support free school meal pupils. Over the autumn term 2020, 12,150 vouchers in total have been issued to pupils eligible for free school meals who have been unable to attend school for a specified period because of a requirement to self-isolate. A further 6,065 two-week vouchers have been issued to support the Christmas holiday period and, despite the relatively short notice, 1,897 additional vouchers were issued to secondary school pupils in respect of the last week of the autumn term when secondary schools moved from face-to-face teaching to a blended learning model. Arrangements have also been made for a one-off £10 voucher to be paid to 3,291 primary and special school pupils in lieu of the Council's decision to move to blended learning over the last two days of the autumn term. As at 16th December 2020 (last day of face-to-face learning in primary and special schools), there have been no requests to the Education Service from schools for priority testing for symptomatic pupils. During the first week of term in January 2021, schools will offer distance learning. The first two days of term are for schools to review risk assessments and determine availability of staff. On-site provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable learners will begin from Wednesday 6th January. Newport schools are aiming to have pupil back on site for face to face learning from 11th January. Welsh government has given schools up to 18th January to return to face to face learning. <p>December '20 Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

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****January '21 Update (By Exception)**

- 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 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 prevent and reduce inequality of progress and outcomes in education for mainstream and vulnerable learners.

January '21 Update

- There has been a significant increase in the number of learners eligible for free school meals (eFSM). As of 2nd December there were 6221 eFSM learners attending Newport schools.
- Attendance continues to be monitored closely. An average of 78.4% of pupils were present in schools in Newport during the week ending 20/11/20 (ranked 22nd in Wales.) An average of 73.3% of pupils were present in schools in Newport during the week ending 13/11/20 (ranked 22nd in Wales). An average of 76.2% of pupils were present in schools in Newport during the week ending 04/12/20 (ranked 17th in Wales).
- Attendance data relates to pupils who are physically present on the school premises for at least one school session each day. Pupils who are learning from home due to Covid-19, including distance learning, or are otherwise not on the school premises, are counted as 'not present' in this context. This approach allows us to understand the number of pupils that do and do not have direct contact with staff and other pupils at school during the pandemic and the impact of contact group self-isolation on overall rates of attendance.

December '20 Update

- 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.

Primary Schools Half Term 1	Secondary Schools Half Term 1	Special schools Half Term 1
89%	88.4%	78.8%

- 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 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.

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	January '21 Update (By Exception)
<p>Support schools to enhance and develop digital skills; digital teaching and learning platforms; and enhanced support for digitally excluded learners</p>	<p><u>January '21 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to improve the IT infrastructure in schools is ongoing. 24 schools have migrated to the SRS Schools Edu network to date. <p><u>December '20 Update</u></p> <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.
<p>Support and enable people that are digitally excluded to access community IT programmes, Council services and other public services.</p>	<p><u>January 2021 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Community Learning will be delivered online w/c 4th January and resume as normal w/c 11th January. <p><u>December 2020 Update</u></p> <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.
<p>Support people who have been affected by unemployment to access new opportunities through training and re-employment required for post Covid 19 businesses.</p>	<p><u>January 2021 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWP's have confirmed Newport is a Kickstart Scheme employer. • DWP announced its first contract under the CAEHRS Framework. The new £2.9 billion Restart Scheme announced at the Spending Review on 25 November 2020, will give Universal Credit claimants who have been out of work for at least 12 months enhanced support to find jobs in their local area • Providers will work with employers, local government and other partners to deliver tailored support for individuals. <p><u>December 2020 Update</u></p> <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.
<p>Ensure our diverse communities are appropriately supported through tailored interventions specific to their needs, including consideration</p>	<p><u>January '21 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAME Business Support focus group is scheduled for early in January, facilitated by Business Wales • NCC supported the Race Council Cymru's launch of the Cultural Hub, and Zero Tolerance to Racism campaign • Regular messaging in community languages, written and voice notes, continues to be cascaded on a regular basis

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	January '21 Update (By Exception)
of language, culture and points of access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flying Start provision has been operating as normal and will continue to do so throughout the new lockdown. Priority will be given to vulnerable and key worker children where necessary.

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	January '21 Update (By Exception)
Maintain our focus on regenerating Newport to deliver existing and new investment projects.	<p>January '21 Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A summary progress to date are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market Arcade on programme and scheduled for completion summer '21 Mill St Hub scheduled for completion Jan '21 Change of Use applications submitted for Information Station and Museum and Library building Thematic Winter Trading works commenced Covid support to businesses ongoing - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 158 Cultural Freelancer grants paid (£395k) Full allocation of 397 Lockdown Restrictions Grants paid (£716k). Total of 1,306 jobs protected. Construction work on Market Arcade continued over the firebreak period. <p>December '20 Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Enable and support the construction industry to re-establish the supply of new and affordable housing.	<p>January '21 Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two RSL developments have been successful in securing Innovative Housing Programme funding to develop around 90 units of accommodation using modern methods of construction <p>December '20 Update</p> <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 the Welsh Government that we have identified as priorities for slippage funding.

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	January '21 Update (By Exception)
<p>Enable and support businesses to re-establish normal operations whilst maintaining the health and safety of their workers and customers.</p>	<p><u>January '21 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Further Update <p><u>December '20 Update</u></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.
<p>Enable and support businesses to prepare for future trade arrangements resulting from Brexit negotiations.</p>	<p><u>January '21 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the time of this update, the UK Government and European Union were still negotiating a future Trade Deal. The Council’s Brexit Task & Finish Group met in December and discussed the different scenarios and also an update from the Gwent Local Resilience Forum on their preparations in Gwent. Separate Brexit Report will be presented at Cabinet in January '21. <p><u>December '20 Update</u></p> <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.
<p>Protect and improve the environment, including air quality and decarbonisation of the city for its residents, businesses and visitors.</p>	<p><u>January '21 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newport City Council were successful with their application for the Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) Pilot funded by Welsh Government. A number of Welsh Local Authorities applied for the opportunity, but only Conway and Newport were successful. Early discussions are taking place with Welsh Government regarding the type of resource/support that will be expected of Newport Council. Work expected to commence at end of January 2021. The community solar installations have won 2 separate accolades in December; the best Local/Community Energy project at the “Solar and Storage Live Awards 2020”, and the best project for Demonstrating Environmental Sustainability at the “Ystadau Cymru 2020 Awards”. The estimated savings from the solar panels to date is £45k for FY 2020-21. The Public Electric Vehicle Charging Points went live on 4th December 2020. <p><u>December '20 Update</u></p> <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.

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	January '21 Update (By Exception)
Continuing support and safe delivery of the Council’s City services including waste, cleansing and highways.	<p>January '21 Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further update <p>December '20 Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Services continue to operate normally, though response times may be longer than normal. • 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	January '21 Update (By Exception)
Support people to remain living independently in their homes and communities.	<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.
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.	<p>January '21 Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Further update and operating business as usual
Assess the impact and the long-term sustainability of the social care sector in Newport informing future service requirements.	<p>January '21 Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Further Update <p>December '20 Update</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.

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	January '21 Update (By Exception)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioning are maintaining regular contact with Domiciliary Care providers and agencies to monitor capacity.
Safeguard and support children and young people to remain safely with their families.	January '21 Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further update and operating business as usual
Improve opportunities for Active Travel and work towards improved air quality.	January '21 Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further update December '20 Update Public Service Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Gwent Healthy Travel Charter was launched across 21 organisations committing to promote active travel across the region. SEWTC Final Recommendations Report <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. Active Travel Schemes <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 areas such as under George Street Bridge and Heidenheim drive to provide safe walking and cycling connections. 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.	January '21 Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further update and operating business as usual
Work with key partners to safely re-open cultural and leisure facilities including the promotion of the city's	January '21 Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Museum has been closed as a result on the new lockdown and open libraries will operate a click and collect service only in line with Welsh Government regulations.

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	January '21 Update (By Exception)
parks, open spaces and coastal paths.	<u>December '20 Update</u> <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.	<u>January' 21 Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further update <u>December '20 Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	January '21 Update (By Exception)
Work together with our partners to reduce poverty, address homelessness and support our most vulnerable people as a priority.	<u>January '21 Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foodbanks continue to be supported and emergency food provision is supplemented by the Neighbourhood hubs. • Temporary accommodation units continue to be sourced and offered to meet demand. • Rough Sleeper Support Group has met and support provided to ensure consistent and coordinated offer. • 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

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****January '21 Update (By Exception)**

- 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.

January '21 Update

- 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
- Black and Minority Ethnic (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
- 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.

January '21 Update

- No further update

December '20 Update

- 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

January '21 Update

- Two RSL developments have been successful in securing Innovative Housing Programme funding to develop around 90 units of accommodation using modern methods of construction. These will include a range of property types in order to meet current housing need.
- We have continued to deliver the planned development programme with a residential development in the St. Julians area recently completing. We are also working with our RSL partners to explore ways in which we can support them to return empty properties in their ownership back to use.

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	January '21 Update (By Exception)
	<p><u>December '20 Update</u></p> <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.
<p>Deliver a community cohesion programme that effectively responds to community tensions and creates a shared sense of identity across the city.</p>	<p><u>January '21 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hate Crime workshops for Polish and Hungarian communities have been delivered and well received. <p><u>December '20 Update</u></p> <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 • 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
<p>Prevent and address instances of antisocial behaviour impacting upon the residents and the business community of Newport</p>	<p><u>January '21 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South Wales Fire and Rescue Service reported very little change in the number of deliberate fire setting during the Op Band period as a comparison to 2019. However, there was a slight increase in the attacks on fire crews. • A report is being produced on the overall impact to the community over the Op Bang period and this will be presented to Safer Newport at the next meeting. • Services have found it a challenge in identifying children and young people involved with Anti-social behaviour. They are aware of the availability of services to support the partnership with reducing incidences in ASB and that partners can provide family support to those involved. • The ASB Group will be reviewing Op Bang at the next meeting. The group will also be looking to establish priorities for 2021/2022 financial year and set the appropriate plan of work. • The work required to improve reduction in ASB includes:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of social media • Understanding the data • Supporting Victims and the voice of the community.

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****January '21 Update (By Exception)**

December '20 Update

Anti-social Behaviour

- 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 was not a significant increase on the previous year. The SW Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS) also show that there was no increase on calls for deliberate fire setting.
- 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.

Safer Pill

- 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.

Re-establish Community Regeneration facilities and services where it is safe to do so for staff and its service users.

- 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.

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****January '21 Update (By Exception)**

- 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).
- 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.
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Develop opportunities for community involvement participation and engagement.

- The perception survey is currently being extended using the 'bus Wi-Fi' 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

