

# Report



## Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for City Services Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development

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### Part 1

Date: 22 January 2021

**Subject** “LLwybr Newydd – New Path” Wales Transport Strategy Consultation

**Purpose** Approval of the Council’s response to “LLwybr Newydd – New Path” the draft Wales Transport Strategy consultation.

**Author** Head of City Services  
Head of People & Business Change

**Ward** All wards

**Summary** On 17th November 2020, Welsh Government published its new draft transport strategy pledging a major reduction in carbon emissions from the transport network in Wales. The draft strategy, “LLwybr Newydd – New Path”, aims to shape Wales’ transport system over the next two decades. It sets out a range of new ambitions to reshape transport in Wales, including a new sustainable transport hierarchy that will help shape investments towards greener transport options. A consultation has been launched which runs until 25 January 2021. The council has drafted a response to the consultation process for approval and this is attached as Appendix to the report.

Transport emissions for Newport are higher than the Wales average therefore sustainable transport is a key area of focus for the Newport area and the draft consultation response proposes that the Council agrees with ethos of LLwybr Newydd – New Path.

**Proposal** For Cabinet Members to review the strategy and approve the consultation response.

**Action by** Cabinet Members

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Head of Finance
- Head of Law & Regulation

**Signed**

## Background

Transport currently makes up 17% of Wales' carbon emissions and Welsh Government has committed to set new and stretching five year priorities to tackle carbon emissions as it seeks to meet decarbonisation targets.

On 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Welsh Government published its new draft transport strategy pledging a major reduction in carbon emissions from the transport network in Wales. The draft strategy, "*Llwybr Newydd – New Path*", aims to shape Wales' transport system over the next two decades. It sets out a range of new ambitions to reshape transport in Wales, including a new sustainable transport hierarchy that will help shape investments towards greener transport options.

Welsh Government has already outlined its long-term ambition for 30% of the workforce to work from home or remotely, achieved by giving people more choice over how and where they work. The strategy recognises that more local services and more active travel can mean fewer people needing to use their cars daily.

"*Llwybr Newydd – New Path*" sets out a **20-year vision**:

***An accessible, sustainable transport system.***

and four **long-term ambitions**:

- ***good for people and communities,***
- ***good for the environment,***
- ***good for the economy and places in Wales,***
- ***good for culture and the Welsh language.***

Contributing to each of the seven national well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

This will be delivered through a set of **five-year priorities**:

***Priority 1: reduce greenhouse gas emissions by planning ahead for better physical and digital connectivity, more local services, more home and remote working and more active travel, so that fewer people need to use their cars on a daily basis.***

Priority 1 also includes a sustainable travel hierarchy

- 1) Walking and Cycling
- 2) Public Transport
- 3) Ultra Low Emission Vehicles
- 4) Other Private motor vehicles

But where people and businesses do need to travel, we will:

***Priority 2: grow public transport use in Wales by providing services that everyone can use, wants to use, and does use, based on:***

***Priority 3: safe, accessible, well-maintained and managed transport infrastructure that is also future-proofed to support public transport and electrification especially walking and cycling.***

It is not enough to just support sustainable transport services and infrastructure. We also need to drive modal shift and behaviour change by:

***Priority 4: making sustainable transport choices more attractive and affordable to more people and businesses, whilst respecting the fact that many people including those in rural areas or disabled people, may not have options, and***

***Priority 5: supporting innovations that help more people and businesses adopt more sustainable transport choices.***

“Llwybr Newydd – New Path” also contains **nine ‘mini-plans’** for modes and sectors:

- **Active travel;**
- **Rail;**
- **Bus;**
- **Roads (including streets and parking);**
- **The third sector;**
- **Taxis and private hire vehicles;**
- **Freight and logistics;**
- **Ports & maritime transport**
- **Aviation.**

## Consultation

A consultation has been launched which runs until 25 January 2021. The council has drafted a response to the consultation process for approval and this is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

As outlined in the draft response for the Newport area transport emissions are considerably higher than the Wales average therefore sustainable transport is a key area of focus. The draft strategy will further facilitate the move to sustainable travel options the council are advocating. This will improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions both locally and nationally and will support the local Air, Noise & Sustainability Action Plan and the local Carbon Reduction Plan. In addition, this will support the implementation of the Newport Local Well-being Plan.

Newport City Council agrees with ethos of Llwybr Newydd – New Path.

## Financial Summary

There are no financial implications to this report. However, there will be cost implications locally to implementation of this strategy and funding will need to be sought to undertake these changes.

## Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	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?
Welsh Government retain objectives within the strategy that are unsupported by the authority	M	M	Seek to maintain a strong voice at both a local and national level on the implementation and impact of measures in the strategy. Maintain position that national strategies must also consider local circumstances and impact	Head of City Services
A road network that gives greater priority to public transport and Active Travel	M	M	Ensure that improved public transport services and infrastructure are delivered in a timely manner and with sufficient capacity to accommodate/encourage modal change	Head of City Services

## Links to Council Policies and Priorities

[One Newport Public Services Board Local Well-being Plan 2018-23](#)

The Local Well-being Plan has five cross cutting interventions that support the priorities and well-being objectives of the Public Services Board (PSB). Sustainable Travel is one of the five cross-cutting interventions. The PSBs’ sustainable travel vision is:

*“Efficient, safe, and healthy travel, accessible to all, with overall low impact on the environment, prioritising walking, cycling and integrated public transport and also considering car sharing and ultra-low emission vehicles”.*

The intervention sets out 3 steps that the PSB will be working on for the life of the plan.

**Steps**

1. *PSB to become champions of sustainable travel, leading by example and reducing the public sector’s contribution to air pollution.*
2. *Create an environment where public transport, walking and cycling is prioritised.*
3. *Encourage the use of ultra-low emission vehicles.*

There is a clear link between the sustainable travel intervention of the Local Well-being Plan and *“Llwybr Newydd – New Path”*.

Corporate Plan 2017-22 & the Strategic Recovery Aims

The Corporate Plan runs to 2022 and has a primary vision to *‘Improving People’s Lives’*. It has four well-being objectives:

- 1) *To improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities*
- 2) *To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment*
- 3) *To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient*
- 4) *To build cohesive and sustainable communities.*

The Covid-19 health emergency has posed a significant and unprecedented challenge to the way in which we deliver our services and our way of life. Since March 2020, the Council’s focus has been to preserve life, minimise the spread of the virus, and support our communities and the vulnerable. Newport City Council strategic recovery aims have been drafted to reflect the work undertaken by the Council in response to the crisis while also considering the Council’s long-term aims to ‘build a better Newport’ and support the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Each of the strategic aims links in to the Corporate Plan objectives as below:

<b>Well-being Objective</b>	<b>Strategic Recovery Aim</b>
1. To improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities.	1. Understand, and respond to, the additional challenges, which Covid-19 has presented, including loss of employment, impact on business and on the progress, achievement and wellbeing of both mainstream and vulnerable learners.
2. To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	2. Understand and respond to the impact of Covid-19 on the city’s economic and environmental goals to enable Newport to thrive again.
3. To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient.	3. Promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people, safeguarding the most vulnerable, and building strong, resilient communities
4. To build cohesive and sustainable communities.	4. 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

*“Llwybr Newydd – New Path”* will support the four well-being objectives and all four strategic recovery aims. Sustainable travel is key in:

- Enabling people to attend education and employment opportunities;
- Promoting economic growth and regeneration whilst minimising travel carbon emissions and air pollution;
- Enabling people to travel more actively and therefore being more physically active which benefits individual and population health;

- Supporting our communities to be sustainable;
- Connecting people and communities for social and cultural activities.

### Sustainable Travel Strategy (Air, Noise & Sustainability Action Plan)

The Council's Sustainable Travel Strategy (Air, Noise & Sustainability Action Plan) was designed, to outline the various actions the council will progress to reduce the level of pollution from road traffic and provide a framework to develop local plans to target known areas of poor air pollution known as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). "*Llwybr Newydd – New Path*" will support the improvement of air quality by reducing travel and when people need to travel increasing healthy travel choices.

### Carbon Reduction Plan 2018-22

The Carbon Reduction Plan has a vision to be net carbon neutral by 2030. One of the objectives that supports this vision is to "*Reduce our business travel, fuel consumption and transition our fleet to electric or alternatively fuelled vehicles*" which will support "*Llwybr Newydd – New Path*".

### **Options Available and considered**

#### **Option 1**

For Cabinet Members to review the strategy and approve the consultation response.

#### **Option 2**

For Cabinet Members to review the strategy and approve the consultation response after making amendments.

### **Preferred Option and Why**

Option 1 - for Cabinet Members to review the strategy and approve the consultation response in line with other Council plans and strategies as outlined in the report.

### **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

This report seeks approval for the consultation process and as such has no financial implications. Implementation of the strategy will need to be funded and identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

### **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

There are no specific legal issues arising from the report at the present time, as the Council is only being asked to respond to the Welsh Government consultation documents on the proposed New Wales Transport Strategy. The principle and intention of the Strategy is to be welcomed as it is consistent with the Council's corporate aims and well-being objectives in relation to sustainability and environmental improvements. It should improve air quality by reducing carbon emissions and, as such, will support the Council's Air, Noise & Sustainability Action Plan and the local Carbon Reduction Plan. The Transport Strategy is also consistent with the sustainable travel provisions within the Newport Local Well-Being Plan.

### **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

From an HR perspective, there are no staffing implications to this report.

"*Llwybr Newydd – New Path*" supports the ethos of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The report fully considers the Act, the well-being goals and the sustainable development principle along with the council's well-being objectives and the Well-being Plan well-being objectives. This has been summarised in the appropriate section of this report.

### **Local issues**

N/A

## Scrutiny Committees

N/A

### Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 contains a Public Sector Equality Duty which came into force on 06 April 2011. The Act identifies a number of 'protected characteristics', namely age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; marriage and civil partnership. The new single duty aims to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the regular business of public authorities. Compliance with the duty is a legal obligation and is intended to result in better informed decision-making and policy development and services that are more effective for users. In exercising its functions, the Council must have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The Act is not overly prescriptive about the approach a public authority should take to ensure due regard, although it does set out that due regard to advancing equality involves: removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics; taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these differ from the need of other people; and encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

### Children and Families (Wales) Measure

In recent years Newport Youth Council has emphasised the importance young people place on sustainable transport. This was reflected in them selecting 'safe and affordable transport' as a priority theme back in 2018. During budget consultation work in 2019 facilitated by Newport Fairness Commission young people (through the Youth Council) made clear that young people are often highly dependent on public transport networks to access education and training as well as for social reasons. Furthermore the Youth Council continue to take an interest in all aspects of sustainability and how transport links with public health and wellbeing.

The Youth Council took part in the 2019 Welsh Government consultation on Improving Public Transport Across Wales which has informed the draft transport strategy.

### Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 seeks to improve the social, economic environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Public bodies should ensure that decisions take into account the impact they could have on people living in Wales, in the future. The five main considerations of the Act that we need to consider are:

Looking to the Long Term:	In the long term, an accessible, sustainable transport system will help to improve air quality, reduce carbon emission and have a positive impact on climate change, which will affect future generations.
Prevention:	An accessible, sustainable transport system will help to prevent poor air quality, which impacts on people's health and the wider environment we live in.
Taking an Integrated Approach:	An accessible, sustainable transport system meet all of the Well-being Goals: <u>A prosperous Wales</u> : They support economic growth and enable people to access education and employment. <u>A resilient Wales</u> : They improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions and have a positive impact on climate change. <u>A healthier Wales</u> : They improve health by reducing carbon emissions, improving air quality and enabling people to travel more actively. <u>A more equal Wales</u> : They will enable all people and communities to fulfil their full potential no matter what background and circumstances they come from. <u>A Wales of cohesive communities</u> : They can connect communities.

	<p><u>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language</u>: They can connect people and communities for social and cultural activities and the strategy has a long-term ambition to be good for culture and the Welsh language.</p> <p><u>A globally responsible Wales</u>: They will not only improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of Newport and Wales, it will also make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>
Collaboration:	Delivering on “ <i>Llwybr Newydd – New Path</i> ” will need to be in collaboration with the Welsh Government, Transport for Wales, other transport providers, local authorities, other public and third sector bodies and the private sector.
Involvement:	A consultation has been launched for people to have their say on the plans, launched on the 17 <sup>th</sup> November and running until 25 January 2021.

### **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

### **Consultation**

A consultation has been launched for people to have their say on the plans, launched on the 17<sup>th</sup> November and running until 25 January 2021.

### **Background Papers**

[“Llwybr Newydd – New Path” – Wales Transport Strategy](#)

Consultation Response attached.

One Newport Public Services Board [Local Well-being Plan 2018-23](#)

[Sustainable Travel Strategy \(Air, Noise & Sustainability Action Plan\)](#)

[Carbon Reduction Plan 2018-2022](#)

Dated: 14 January 2021