

Report

Cabinet



Part 1

Date: 7 April 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.

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Head of People and Business Change

Ward All

Summary The Covid-19 health emergency has been ongoing for over a year when Newport received its first reports in February 2020. This crisis 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 in March, restrictions have been easing with the Council and its partners continuing to monitor 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.

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 10th March 2021, Newport Council and its partners have continued to monitor 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.

NCC Covid-19 Response

In March Wales had continued to see further reductions in the Covid-19 case rate falling below 50 per 100,000 across Wales and the continued success of the vaccine rollout across the priority groups in Wales. The latest figures relating to Covid-19 cases and vaccination rollout can be accessed through the [Public Health Wales Covid-19 Dashboards](#). Over 1.2 million people in Wales have received their first dose of the vaccine and it will be important that those who have received their vaccination to have the second dose. The Council, alongside Newport Live have been supporting the NHS with volunteers and facilities to help with the rollout of the vaccine. It is important that everyone including the City's BAME communities receive their vaccine and to also continue to follow the restrictions in place. Further information about the vaccine programme can be obtained from [Public Health Wales](#) and also includes Accessible information [here](#).

On 23rd March, Newport Council joined in with the national day of remembrance for those who have died from Covid-19 and to mark the one year anniversary since the first lockdown. The Civic Centre clock tower was lighted up in yellow and we asked residents to place daffodils and a yellow heart in their window as part of the national day of reflection.

In consideration of the scientific data and as part of WG three week review process, further restrictions have been eased enabling the economy, schools and other sectors to re-open in conjunction with WG guidance. The timetable outlined by the Welsh Government and has been delivered over March and April include:

- Stay Local rule for 2 weeks until 27th March when people will be allowed to travel anywhere in Wales.
- From 13th March up to four people from a maximum of two households will be able to socialise together outdoors including gardens.
- Care home visits resume from 13th March on the basis of a single designated visitor
- 15th March, primary school pupils will return to face to face teaching as will exam year students in secondary schools.
- Wholesale school re-opening to take place after the Easter break in April.
- 15th March, hairdressers and barbers re-opened with Non-essential retail in supermarkets and garden centres re-opening from 22nd March.
- All remaining non-essential retail re-open from 12th April.

Newport Council's services have continued to operate adhering to the restrictions in place. Many areas of the Council's buildings remained closed but front line services have remained operational. Residents and businesses can access the necessary information from the Council's [website](#) or contact the Council's contact centre.

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 continuing to regularly meet to monitor and report on emerging Covid-19 issues; and to support the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales in implementing necessary legislative changes. In June 2020, this Cabinet agreed its Strategic Recovery Aims that have enabled the Council to recover its services and support the City's communities and economy to recover in addition to its commitment in delivering against its Wellbeing Objectives set in the Corporate Plan 2017-22. As part of the Council's Performance Framework, service areas aligned their Service Plans 2020/21 to the four Strategic Recovery Aims as well as providing monthly updates to Cabinet on their ongoing response to the Covid crisis.

At the end of every financial year, service areas provide their end of year review of its performance which are presented to the Council's Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet. Service area reviews also support the Council's Annual Report which self-reflects back on its performance in the year, lesson learned and its plans moving forward. This year's Annual Report 2020/21 will include a reflection back on the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and how we have delivered against our Strategic Recovery Aims, how we will move forward in the final year of delivering this Corporate Plan and developing the next iteration of the Corporate Plan from 2022. Remaining actions and work from the Strategic Recovery Aims will be incorporated into their service plans for 2021/22.

Summarised below and also in Appendix 1 of this report, is a summary (by exception) of Council work to 1st April 2021:

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 1 st April 2021
Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils in primary school settings have returned full time and secondary school pupils taking exams also returned. After Easter break all schools are expected to be fully returned. • NCC will received £850k as part of Welsh Government's Ed Tech initiative to provide devices and improve IT connectivity in education. • Newport will be trialling 10 KOMP devices aimed at senior residents to enable them to make video calls, share photos and send messages to their relatives in a safe, secure and inclusive manner. • NCC and partners in Newport supporting Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership (CCRSP) has coordinated the delivery of two virtual careers fairs for South East Wales (September 20 and March 21).
Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Government funding has also been awarded for the delivery of the Leisure Centre project. • Regulatory services will be supporting businesses reopening as restrictions are eased. • Welsh Government confirmed £1.5m to support the Transporter Bridge project. • Elected Members and officers participated in climate change training. • First Electric Refuse vehicle in Wales was delivered and is in operation.
Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vaccination programme delivered 2nd doses to the majority of social care staff and to all older people in care home settings. • Lateral flow tests are being distributed to providers and to NCC front facing social care staff to support recovery plans. • Donations of laptops and iPads from local companies to children in residential homes and in foster care. • Integrated Care Funding confirmed for the development of a third residential home in Newport to ensure looked after children can be cared for in the city and closer to their families. • Newport Live's Sport Wales additional 'recovery' funding (21/22) will create a new engagement programme aimed at increasing physical activity levels and improving mental wellbeing as part of Covid recovery; building on the #happyandhealthyathome campaign.
Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's Chief Executive contributed towards the Audit Wales review on the 'importance of kindness' and how we worked together in the Council, our partners and with communities. • Participatory Budgeting will be enabling local community groups to bid for funding that will enable them to deliver projects for their communities across Newport. • Newport's Positive Futures programme delivered by Newport Live, funded predominantly by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, supports ASB groups and Safer Newport, engaging and supporting young people 8-19 years.

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 3 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 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 was reported to January Cabinet and confirmed a positive overall position for the Council and included 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 previous 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. Since the last report, the numbers of cases being referred to TTP for contact tracing and the positivity rates have continued to reduce significantly, with the impact of the lock-down restrictions and the roll-out of increased testing and the vaccination programme. Additional TTP staff are being recruited utilising the WG grant funding, which means that redeployed staff can be released to their substantive posts and other services can be re-commenced. Therefore, we are beginning to move to the first stages of recovery, albeit with a degree of caution.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

Newport Council has continued to build on the strong collaborative work through 2020/21. The Strategic Recovery Aims alongside the Council's Corporate Plan has enabled the Council to focus on its core delivery requirements whilst ensuring we comply with the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales legislation. The role of Civil Contingencies, emergency planning, and the Council's Test, Trace and Protect has been vital to ensure the risk to the City's communities are minimised and that the Council continues to deliver its services to residents and businesses.

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, also considered by Scrutiny Committee in February.

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

Overview and Management Committee received and considered a report on the 'New Normal' at their meeting in February 2021. This report considers the changes that the Council has made for office based staff since March 2020.

The Committee welcomed the report and discussed the positive changes including active travel miles of staff. The Committee requested that there is a further report once the way forward options are developed and that this comes back to the Committee to consult, before it goes to Cabinet.

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

[Responding to the ‘New Normal’ Report to Overview and Management Scrutiny Committee](#)

Dated: 7 April 2021

Appendix 1 – Progress of Delivery against Strategic Recovery Aims (to 1st April 2021)

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
<p>Support schools and other educational establishments to safely reopen for staff and pupils.</p>	<p>From Monday 15th March, primary, special and secondary schools and PRUs will provide onsite education provision for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all primary aged learners • vulnerable learners • critical worker's children • learners undertaking essential exams or assessments • learners in years 11 and 13 <p>Secondary schools and PRUs may also provide access to onsite education provision for learners in exam years and years 10 and 12. They have the flexibility to provide learners in years 7, 8 and 9 with the opportunity of a check-in focused on support for wellbeing and readiness for a return to their onsite learning after Easter.</p> <p>The school meals service through Chartwells was reinstated for all Foundation Phase pupils and children attending primary school hub provisions from 1st March. This was extended to include Key Stage 2 pupils immediately on their return to face-to-face learning from 15th March. The supermarket voucher scheme for free school meal learners in these key stages therefore ceased on 26th February and 12th March respectively.</p> <p>However the schools meals service in secondary schools will not recommence until April 2021, and thus secondary age learners who are eligible for free school meals will continue to receive supermarket vouchers until the end of the spring term.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, all pupils who are eligible for free school meals will receive supermarket vouchers to cover the Easter holiday period which runs from 29th March to 9th April.</p> <p>Where appropriate and supported by individual risk assessments, Breakfast Club provisions have been reinstated across primary and special schools.</p> <p>The Passenger Transport Unit has confirmed that home to school transport will be available for eligible learners across Key Stage 2 – 5 from their return to school.</p>

Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment.

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

Strategic Aim Step	April'21 Update (By Exception)
	<p>School cleaning services procured through Newport Norse are continuing to operate appropriately to support the requirements of face-to-face learning.</p> <p>As at 11th March 2021, there have been no requests to the Education Service from schools for priority testing for symptomatic pupils.</p> <p>Newport Live Community Sports Development and Health and Wellbeing staff supporting pupils and individual Primary Schools on an individual basis with digital sport, leadership and wellbeing content; with direct support in school (outdoors) March / April onwards to support pupil health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>Work to prevent and reduce inequality of progress and outcomes in education for mainstream and vulnerable learners.</p>	<p>Vulnerable learners have been able to access on-site education during the current lockdown and will continue to be able to attend throughout the partial reopening of secondary schools for the remainder of the spring term.</p>
<p>Support schools to enhance and develop digital skills; digital teaching and learning platforms; and enhanced support for digitally excluded learners</p>	<p>As of 5th March 2021, out of the 3714 digital devices ordered using the WG EdTech funding, 2906 have been delivered to schools. This includes: 1746 chrome books, 369 laptops, 381 Apple devices and 207 PCs. A further delivery of 606 laptops is expected on 15th March 2021. The SRS will be working to configure these devices and deliver them to schools by the end of the Spring Term 2021.</p> <p>The Welsh Government has also secured additional funding for devices. This means that schools in Newport will benefit from an additional 3043 chrome books which will be delivered to the local authority in May. The Welsh Government has confirmed that Newport will receive £850,846 Hwb EdTech grant funding for 2021-2022 which will be used to further increase the number of digital devices available to pupils and schools.</p> <p>Schools were provided with 1,300 MiFi devices in June 2020. These devices provide a 4G internet connection to pupils who do not have access to the internet at home. The carrier charges on these devices have been funded from the EdTech grant until 31st March 2021.</p> <p>From 1st April 2021, EdTech funding is available to pay the carrier charges on 500 MiFi devices up to 31st July 2021. To support pupils who need access to connectivity and do not have a MiFi device, Welsh Government has negotiated mobile data uplifts with a number of mobile network operators (BT Mobile, EE, SMARTY, Tesco Mobile, Three, Virgin Mobile and Vodafone). Parents who have existing contracts with these providers are able to apply for mobile data uplifts via the school and local authority.</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.

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

Strategic Aim Step	April'21 Update (By Exception)
Support and enable people that are digitally excluded to access community IT programmes, Council services and other public services.	<p>Rural Development Programme Digital Transformation Project will run until the end of September 2021. Targeted at Seniors and using the KOMP device, it is a one button computer. KOMP will allow family members to make video calls, share photos and send messages to their relatives in a safe, secure and inclusive manner. This will help address loneliness for those unable to use more complex devices. Newport will be trialling 10 of these devices and we are in the process of identifying potential users.</p> <p>Tablets and dongles have also been provided for those residents most in need via the REACH Programme (Refugee Integration).</p> <p>Through the Child Development Fund, Flying Start has purchased 50 Tablets and 30 WiFi packs, to loan to families who would otherwise be digitally excluded from accessing these services. The first kits are due to go out w/c 8th March 2021 to families.</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>Employment support continues to be offered digitally via employment programme teams.</p> <p>A meeting with Admiral Group is planned for late March to discuss a recruitment routeway for future employment.</p> <p>The NCC Kickstart Scheme has recruited its first employees and is providing 30+ opportunities for young people in the City.</p> <p>In partnership with Careers Wales, Working Wales, JCP, the National Training Federation Wales, FE and HE institutions, the Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership (CCRSP) has coordinated the delivery of two virtual careers fairs for South East Wales (September 20 and March 21). The free events provided an opportunity to match those in need of employability support across the region with employers, employment support organisations and training providers.</p>
Ensure our diverse communities are appropriately supported through tailored interventions specific to their needs, including consideration of language, culture and points of access.	<p>Rural Development Programme Digital Transformation Project will run until the end of September 2021. Targeted at Seniors and using the KOMP device, it is a one button computer. KOMP will allow family members to make video calls, share photos and send messages to their relatives in a safe, secure and inclusive manner. This will help address loneliness for those unable to use more complex devices. Newport will be trialling 10 of these devices and we are in the process of identifying potential users.</p> <p>Tablets and dongles have also been provided for those residents most in need via the REACH Programme (Refugee Integration).</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.

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

Strategic Aim Step	April'21 Update (By Exception)
	<p>Through the Child Development Fund, Flying Start has purchased 50 Tablets and 30 WiFi packs, to loan to families who would otherwise be digitally excluded from accessing these services. The first kits are due to go out w/c 8th March 2021 to families.</p> <p>Speech and Language/Parenting interventions continue to be delivered virtually.</p> <p>Newport Live's Alternative Education programme (vulnerable learners) is in full operation, with full-time and part-time pupil placements (30+ young people) via Bridge Achievement Service, and various Secondary Schools. Positive Futures continue to engage with identified families 'on their doorsteps' working with children in a mentoring capacity, with children 15 children per week being met from Tredegar Park, Alway, Maindee and Pillgwennlly Primary Schools – linked to Safer Newport.</p> <p>The Levelling the Playing Fields project in Newport, part of a national programme with Alliance of Sport and the London Marathon Trust, using sport to engage and improve health / life outcomes of BAME children and young people who are at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System locally by Newport Live in partnership with Youth Justice Service.</p>

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
<p>Maintain our focus on regenerating Newport to deliver existing and new investment projects.</p>	<p>Cabinet have agreed to progress the development of the new City Centre Leisure and Wellbeing Centre. Welsh Government funding has also been awarded for the delivery of the project.</p>
<p>Enable and support the construction industry to re-establish the supply of new and affordable housing.</p>	<p>Social Housing Grant slippage funding has been secured for 9 neutral tenure flats to be developed by Melin Homes at Hubert Road in St. Julians. Shared ownership slippage funding has also been secured to support the building of additional shared ownership units at the Pobl development at Herbert Road.</p>

Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy

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

Strategic Aim Step	April'21 Update (By Exception)
Enable and support businesses to re-establish normal operations whilst maintaining the health and safety of their workers and customers.	Through the CCG childcare sustainability grant we have supported 31 childcare providers with grant funding to ensure their future sustainability following the effects of Covid-19.
Enable and support businesses to prepare for future trade arrangements resulting from Brexit negotiations.	Regulatory Services will be supporting businesses reopening as restrictions are eased over the next two months.
Protect and improve the environment, including air quality and decarbonisation of the city for its residents, businesses and visitors.	<p>The CCR Skills Partnership has endorsed the inclusion of 'Green Skills' qualifications within the Personal Learning Account (PLA) programme to help support Welsh Government's decarbonisation agenda.</p> <p>Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) kick-off meeting held with WG and the pilot study is now underway to assess the carbon emissions from energy use within Newport.</p>
Continuing support and safe delivery of the Council's City services including waste, cleansing and highways.	In March, City Services introduced its first electric refuse vehicle. The first one in Wales. The City Services are also making good progress installing new solar panels / farm to enable clean energy power its electric fleet. For Newport these are major steps in its work to becoming net zero carbon by 2030.

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
Support people to remain living independently in their homes and communities.	For the first time there are no Newport care homes in incident and plans are being developed to safely resume indoor visits. Monitoring systems remain in place.
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.	The vaccination programme has delivered 2 nd doses to the majority of social care staff and to all older people in care home settings. Lateral flow tests are being distributed to providers and to NCC front facing social care staff to support recovery plans.

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
Assess the impact and the long-term sustainability of the social care sector in Newport informing future service requirements.	WG hardship funding to support the social care sector has been extended for 6 months. The terms of this funding is not yet known - the detail will influence our 21/22 fee negotiations.
Safeguard and support children and young people to remain safely with their families.	Local companies in the City donated laptops and iPads to children in residential homes and foster care to help them with their school work. Welsh Government Integrated Care Fund has awarded capital funding for Project Perthyn which is aimed at bringing children back into the City where they can receive better standards of care and be closer to their families. The funding will be used towards the development of a third home in the City which can be used by other Councils in Gwent for children with complex needs.
Improve opportunities for Active Travel and work towards improved air quality.	In collaboration with Network Rail further development has been made with the installation of a new accessible walkway from Devon Place to Queensway. Network Rail have announced that this winter they will close the line that will enable the necessary works to take place. The new footbridge will provide a safer route for pedestrians and improve access for disabled people in the city.
Regulate businesses and support consumers / residents to protect and improve their health.	Regulatory Services will be supporting businesses reopening as restrictions are eased over the next two months.
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.	Transporter Bridge Main Capital Works programme will be initiated during this period subject to Welsh Government confirmation of matched funding. Newport Live's leisure, fitness, and cultural provision only digital and online keeping people active and supporting their wellbeing with community programmes operational. Facilities not open other than the tennis courts outdoors, and open to elite sport in the velodrome, and vulnerable young people through alternative education programme at the Connect Centre. Newport Centre being used for the successful Mass Vaccination Programme supporting Public Health and Newport City Council. Newport Live's <i>#happyandhealthyathome</i> campaign is to grow into a wider programme citywide to include Home, Facilities, Parks, Communities, Workplaces, and Schools with activation opportunities, social prescribing, health checks, and engagement through physical activity to support mental wellbeing and increases in being active amongst all ages over the next 6-12 months.
Sustain a safe, healthy and productive workforce.	Risk assessment for the Civic Centre has been reviewed and an audit will be undertaken by the end of the month by the Health and Safety Manager.

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
	With advice that shielding will pause on 31 st March, guidance will be reissued to managers to enable them to bring staff back to work safely from 1 st April.

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
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"> • HSG spend plan finalised to include a number of supported housing projects, posts and research that will help reduce homelessness • HSG funding to prioritise services developed during the pandemic and to support WG phase 2 capital projects • Emergency accommodation continues to be reviewed and has been secured for a further 6 months to ensure continuity of service.
Assess and address the inequalities that Covid 19 has highlighted or contributed to within our communities.	The Policy, Partnership and Involvement Team has been leading on 'Our Voice, Our Choice, Our Port' Participatory budgeting project. This project is focused on enabling community projects to access health funding to help support their work. Using the NCC Community Impact Assessment on Covid 19, we identified eight vulnerable groups to have been highly affected and five cross cutting themes were identified as affecting multiple groups. The Participatory Budget Steering Group (consisting of public sector, third sector and community members) to support the development of videos and bids. Over 80 applications have been received. On 27 th and 28 th March, Newport residents will be able to vote for the community projects that they would like to support and receive the funding.
Identify, develop and seek to sustain any positive developments emerging during the crisis.	The Council's Chief Executive contributed towards the Audit Wales review on <i>the 'importance of kindness'</i> and how we worked together in the Council, our partners and with communities.
Developing opportunities for people to access suitable and affordable housing	Social Housing Grant slippage funding has been obtained for the development of 9 affordable flats by Melin Homes which will be prioritised for homeless households.
Deliver a community cohesion programme that effectively responds to community tensions and creates a shared sense of identity across the city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to Newport App under development in partnership with Cardiff University and Software Academy; design being led by refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and focussed on creating a share narrative of living in Newport • Hate Crime training delivered to Hungarian and Polish communities in community languages. • Hong Kong Citizens Support steering group established in preparation to welcome newcomers to the city and anticipate demand for services.

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
<p>Prevent and address instances of antisocial behaviour (ASB) impacting upon the residents and the business community of Newport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Citizens Rights session delivered with partners to around 80 professionals working across NCC and other organisations, focussed on reducing risk of discrimination experienced by EU citizens in Newport <p>The continued work to support the reduction in ASB includes:- Working closely with partners when young people are identified as being involved with ASB. The identification of the young people continues to be a challenge as some young people are following the Covid guidelines and wear masks. However, there has been an increase in referrals recently. These are being managed through the Youth Justice Service.</p> <p>The ASB Operations Group has met to discuss plans for being post Covid ready and how this will look in relation to diversionary alternatives for Young People. Partners include Newport Live, Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue, Housing and Community Hubs</p> <p>The ASB Group has continued with discussions on the sharing of data and also a consistent social media response. We are hoping that the data shared will help form the needs for diversionary support moving forward. A consistent approach to social media messages from the partnership will help with understanding the needs of the City. This work continues. A further meeting is planned this month to discuss how the voice of the community can be heard to improve the response to ASB.</p> <p>Newport Live's Positive Futures programme, funded predominantly by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, supports ASB group, Police and Community Partners, and will link to Safer Newport. The team are engaging and supporting children 'on doorsteps' with their families, identified through Early Intervention Youth Project in partnership with Youth Justice Service, engaging children identified at Pillgwenlly and Maindee Primary Schools, linked to community safety and youth justice partners (other schools include Alway and Tredegar Park).</p>
<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"> • Flying Start: all playgroups operating as normal, adhering to protective measures set out by WG. Interventions being offered virtually. • Families First: strands are continuing to work with service users as needed, in a virtual capacity or via telephone contact. Plans are being developed in preparation for reopening face-to-face delivery when possible. SPACE panel has seen a 25% increase compared to this time last year. • Neighbourhood Hubs: remain open in a reduced capacity with contact with service users mainly being via email, phone and Teams where possible. North Hub (Bettws Community Centre) – maintenance work is in progress, including roof and window repairs, painting and branding, to establish the centre as the new home of the north community hub.

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	April'21 Update (By Exception)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play Development: holiday provision has continued to run in October and February half terms but limited to vulnerable children only. Intended to be repeated during the Easter holidays. <p>Hubs and Libraries will prepare for gradual opening up of services with Welsh Government restrictions.</p>
Develop opportunities for community involvement participation and engagement.	The Council's Policy, Partnership Team has been working with Newport Communities as part of the Participatory Budget work with Health enabling Community groups to submit bids to deliver local projects. Using the NCC Community Impact Assessment the work has been focused on the City's most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. With bids being submitted they will be assessed and awarded.

Appendix 2 – Covid 19 Prevention and Response Structure

