

Report

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Part 1

Date: 7 April 2021

Subject School Admission Arrangements 2022/23

Purpose To consider the responses received during the recent consultation exercise and as a result to determine the Council's school admission arrangements for the academic year commencing September 2022

Author School Admissions Manager

Ward All

Summary In accordance with Welsh Government's statutory School Admissions Code, the Council is required to undertake an annual consultation on admission arrangements in the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.

Accordingly, a consultation was launched on 1st December 2020 and concluded on 12th February 2021 in relation to the proposed admission arrangements for September 2022 onwards. A consultation report has now been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received.

Whilst the consultation report is attached at Appendix 1 for reference, this decision report references the content and recommends that the admission arrangements be determined as outlined in the consultation document. In accordance with the statutory code, these arrangements must be determined by 15th April 2021.

Proposal To determine and set the Council's school admission arrangements for September 2022 as outlined in the recent consultation with stakeholders, incorporating the revised wording in the section on home to school distance.

Action by Chief Education Officer

Timetable These arrangements must be determined by 15th April 2021

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Corporate Management Team
- Education Senior Management Team
- Senior HR Business Partner
- Senior Finance Business Partner

Signed

Background

Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Council has responsibility for the discharge of the school admissions function for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport. As an admission authority, the Council acts in accordance with the Welsh Government School Admissions Code and the School Admissions Appeals Code.

It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. The consultation must conclude by 1st March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15th April in the determination year. The determination year is the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.

Consequently, a consultation was launched on 1st December 2020 and concluded on 12th February 2021 in relation to the proposed admission arrangements for September 2022 onwards. **No changes were proposed.** A consultation report has been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received. There is now a requirement to consider the feedback received to these proposals and as a result to determine the Council's school admission policy for September 2022.

A copy of the Consultation Report is attached at Appendix 1.

Stakeholder Engagement

The School Admissions Code provides lists of bodies that admission authorities must and should consult with on changes to admission arrangements. A list of the statutory and non-statutory consultees with whom the Council engaged in relation to this consultation is included within the Consultation Report at Appendix 1. The consultation was also publicised through the Council's 'Have your say' web page and via agreed social media channels.

Consultation Responses

In total, 3 responses raising various points were received during the consultation period as detailed in the consultation report at Appendix 1. It is proposed that none of the responses will result in a policy change.

Learner Voice

The Council is keen to gain the views of learners when proposing policy changes. As a result, whilst the School Admissions Code does not stipulate that consultation should include engagement with learners, a questionnaire was developed and distributed to the Newport City Youth Council (who did not respond) and to school pupils for whom English is an additional language. The latter was facilitated by bilingual teaching assistants from Gwent Education Minority-ethnic Service.

32 valid responses were received by the deadline date. Further information about this feedback is included within the Consultation Report at Appendix 1.

Additional considerations

Since launching the consultation, there has been a national change to the Ordnance Survey data sets used to measure home to school distances. As a result, the wording of the policy must now change to reflect this as follows:

Home to school distance

3.32 Within each set of oversubscription criteria, if the number of applications in any one category exceeds the published admission number, priority will be based on those residing closest to the preferred school.

3.33 The distance between home and school is measured as the shortest available route, determined using the nationally supplied Ordnance Survey OS MasterMap® Highways Network – Roads and OS MasterMap® Highways Network – Paths route network layers, which is updated

quarterly to reflect any changes. In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all applicants, this is the only software that is used by the Council.

3.37 The shortest available route will be measured from the geospatial mapping centroid coordinates of the applicant's home address to the nearest official open gate of the school.

3.40 Where two or more applicants are being considered for the last available place and the addresses use the same geospatial mapping centroid (i.e. are within the same block), the route assessment will be determined from the logical order and start point of Flat 1 (or Flat A) followed by Flat 2 (or Flat B) and so on.

Financial Summary

There are no costs associated with this proposal.

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?
Failure to determine the admission arrangements for 2022 by the required date	M	L	This is an annual process, and consultation has already been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the statutory code.	Chief Education Officer

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
 NCC Wellbeing Objectives
 Corporate Plan
 Education Service Plan

Options Available

Option 1: To determine and set the Council's school admission arrangements for September 2022 as outlined in the recent consultation with stakeholders.

Option 2: To determine and set the Council's school admission arrangements for September 2022 as outlined in the recent consultation with stakeholders but with modifications to take account of software changes.

Preferred Option and Why

The preferred option is Option 2 as this will ensure compliance with the Welsh Government School Admissions Code.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no financial implications to this report.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The Council has a statutory duty under section 20 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Admissions Regulations to undertake consultation on its proposed admission arrangements during the period from 1st September to 1st March in the school year which is two years before the commencement of the school year in which the arrangements are to take effect. Therefore, the Council has carried out consultation on proposed amendments to its admission

policy for maintained schools, which will apply as from September 2022. The outcome of the consultation and the responses received are set out in the Report. The consultation process has been carried out in accordance with the Welsh Government's statutory School Admissions Code, which prescribes the various statutory consultees who had to be engaged in the process and the details that had to be included in the proposed admissions policy/arrangements. The statutory consultation process is fully compliant with the Council's general equalities and well-being duties and consistent with the Children and Families Measure. The purpose of the public consultation process is to maintain openness and transparency and to ensure that admission arrangements are fair and equitable. The proposed admission policy for 2022 does not include any substantive changes to the current policy. However, following the consultation process, there has been a national change to the Ordnance Survey data sets used to measure home to school distances and, therefore, the wording of the policy has been change to reflect this and clarify the basis for measuring the shortest available walking distances to the school. The Cabinet Member is now required determine the final School Admission Arrangements for September 2022, in the light of the consultation responses, by 15th April 2021

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

The annual consultation on schools admissions arrangements help to meet sustainable development duties under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015, in particular the duty to 'involve' stakeholders and work collaboratively. Effective consultation with a range of stakeholders can help assess the adequacy and acceptability of the arrangements. Following stakeholder consultation the report recommends that the 2022 admission arrangements be taken forward, incorporating revised wording home to school distance measurements.

There are no human resources implications in this report.

Local issues

None identified.

Scrutiny Committees

None

Equalities Impact Assessment

A Fairness & Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) was developed in relation to the 2021 admissions policy but this exercise has not been repeated for 2022 as no changes are proposed. The FEIA is attached at Appendix 2.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

As outlined, the Council is keen to gain the views of learners when proposing policy changes. As a result, whilst the School Admissions Code does not stipulate that consultation should include engagement with learners, a questionnaire was developed and distributed to the Newport City Youth Council and to school pupils for whom English is an additional language. The latter was facilitated by bilingual teaching assistances from Gwent Education Minority-ethnic Service. 32 valid responses were received by the deadline date. Further information about this feedback is included within the Consultation Report at Appendix 1.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- Long term: As an admission authority, the Council acts in accordance with the Welsh Government School Admissions Code (and the School Admissions Appeals Code). As imposed by the Codes the Council annually sets out its own local admission arrangements, known as the Newport School Admissions Policy, following consultation with stakeholders. Admission to all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport is governed by this policy (each Governing Body derives the school admissions policy for voluntary-aided schools). These policies are in place to ensure that access to education is managed fairly and equitably,

whilst ensuring that no one school is forced to admit more children than it can reasonably accommodate.

- **Prevention:** The School Admissions Policy gives the highest priority for admission to the most vulnerable children in our communities; including children looked after by a local authority and those with additional learning needs. Additionally, whilst the key theme of the WG Code is parental preference of school, the school admissions policy is largely centred on local catchment areas, which give priority for school places to local children over those who live further away. Not only does this support families in managing the home to school journey, but it also facilitates effective transition through the various stages of education.
- **Integration:** This proposal supports the following well-being goals and NCC well-being objectives:
 - ✓ 'a more equal Wales' – through access to education pupils are enabled to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances;
 - ✓ 'a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language' – the Welsh language is protected and promoted by the establishment of new Welsh-medium schools;
 - ✓ 'to improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities' through access to education;
 - ✓ 'to build cohesive and sustainable communities' through the application of catchment area priority for admission.
- **Collaboration:** The school admissions policy was established and is regularly reviewed collaboratively with colleagues in Education and Social Services, with local schools, governing bodies and diocesan representatives and with neighbouring local authorities.
- **Involvement:** It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements between 1 September and 1 March each year, beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply. In Newport, both statutory and non-statutory consultees are consulted, the latter including engagement with learners. Following conclusion of the consultation, a consultation report is drafted to describe the consultation process and feedback received (Appendix 1).

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

Stakeholder consultation has been carried out and is outlined in some detail in the attached consultation report.

Background Papers

Consultation Report (Appendix 1)

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix 2)

Dated: March 2021

Appendix 1: Consultation Report

Newport City Council School Admission Arrangements 2022/23 Consultation Report

Legislation

It is a statutory requirement of the Welsh Government School Admissions Code that Newport City Council, as the admissions authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport, carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. The consultation must conclude by 1st March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15th April in the determination year.

The determination year is the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply. Consequently, Newport City Council recently undertook public consultation on the admission arrangements that will become effective from September 2022, even though no changes were proposed.

Consultation Period

Whilst the School Admissions Code states that consultation on admission arrangements must be carried out between 1st September and 1st March in the determination year, the actual length of the consultation period is not specified. Newport City Council's consultation on admission arrangements for 2022 therefore commenced on 1st December 2020 and closed on 12th February 2021. This afforded a consultation period of ten weeks.

Purpose of the report

To inform consultees and other interested parties of the outcome of the consultation on admission arrangements for the academic year 2022/23.

This consultation report includes the following sections:

- Stakeholder engagement
- Consultation responses
- Learner Voice
- Recommendations

Stakeholder Engagement

In accordance with Welsh Government's School Admissions Code, formal consultation was undertaken with the following statutory and non-statutory consultees:

Statutory consultees	
The governing body of relevant schools	The governing bodies of all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport
All neighbouring local authorities	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Caerphilly County Borough Council Cardiff City Council Monmouthshire County Council Torfaen County Borough Council

Admission authorities for all other maintained schools in the area	The governing bodies of all voluntary aided schools in Newport
In the case of schools with a religious character, such body or person representing the religion or religious denomination in question	Diocesan Director, Church in Wales Diocesan Director, Roman Catholic
Non-statutory consultees	
The admission forum serving the area	Newport School Admissions Forum
Headteachers	The Headteachers of all schools in Newport
Elected members	All Newport City Council elected members
Community councils	All community councils in Newport
Other organisations	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations Newport Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership
Newport City Council Teams	Children & Young People's Services Law & Regulation Family Information Service Flying Start Housing & Regeneration Integrated Transport Vulnerable People Relocation Project

The consultation document was also publicised through the Council's 'Have your say' web page and via their social media channels.

Consultation Responses

In total, 3 responses were received during the consultation period from 2 members of the public and one community council.

A breakdown of the points raised, along with the Council's responses, is summarised as follows:

Point raised	Council Response
<p>Over subscription criteria: where the council moves the catchment area for a given school. This can have consequences to families living in the catchment area being moved. I cannot see anywhere in the document that this is taken into account. An example could be: 2 older children are in a particular school, the 3rd child applies for a place in the same school. However the council have opened a new seedling school and as such changed the catchment area. As the over subscription criteria stands: the 3rd child is likely to get a place in the catchment area seedling school. If this happens, the other 2 children cannot be moved to the new seedling school as the older classes do not exist. Further to this, it is unlikely that any child within the family will be entitled to school transport, making travel</p>	<p>In terms of developing Welsh-medium education in Newport, the Council's preferred method of growth is via a seedling school arrangement, which allows a school to grow incrementally over a number of years, protecting existing schools from mass pupil migration and potential loss of staff to the new school. It is acknowledged that there may be some challenges to families during this interim period.</p> <p>However, the parents of pupils affected by a catchment area change (including as a result of a new school opening) are still able to apply for a place at the elder siblings' school, albeit as an out-of-catchment applicant. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those with relevant siblings already attending the preferred school will have</p>

<p>logistics impossible. Therefore you must take this case into account for over subscription criteria. If, even if this is taken into account, there is still not enough space, free transport should be provided to all children to allow them to attend class on time and reduce car journeys.</p>	<p>a higher priority in terms of securing a place, as follows:</p> <p>Oversubscription criteria</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looked-after children (children in public care) and previously looked-after children; 2. Pupils living within the catchment area making an application on medical grounds; 3. Pupils living within the catchment area with relevant siblings; 4. Pupils living within the catchment area; 5. Pupils living outside of the catchment area making an application on medical grounds; 6. Pupils living outside of the catchment area with relevant siblings; 7. Pupils living outside of the catchment area. <p>If the application was refused, parents would be offered the right to an independent appeal where all extenuating circumstances could be aired for consideration.</p> <p>Furthermore, the home to school transport policy provides free transport to those pupils that meet the qualifying distance when attending their catchment or nearest available school. This includes pupils who continue to attend a school that was their catchment school when admitted but has since changed. It would also include children attending a new, seedling school, provided it was the catchment/nearest-available school.</p> <p>Additionally, in some circumstances where there is no entitlement, parents have the opportunity to purchase vacant seats on existing contracted vehicles.</p>
<p>Home address: There should be some allowances in [the] policy for those that are moving into a new build estate and trying to apply for the school within that estate. [Applicants are] unfairly considered as although [they have] exchanged contracts on the purchase [they] cannot physically move in until it is built.</p>	<p>Within the context of Newport, i.e. where the demand for school places is particularly high, the Council does not consider it appropriate to award priority for a place to those who intend to move into the area over those that already reside within Newport at the closing date for applications.</p>
<p>Evidence: Concerned about tightening up loopholes - i.e. if renting a house then evidence of proof of address should be shown year on year. Within the admissions policy there is no follow-up.</p>	<p>The Council requires specific proof of home address for each school admission application in order to be able to assess a pupil's eligibility within the published oversubscription criteria. This assessment is only required where the Council receives more applications than there</p>

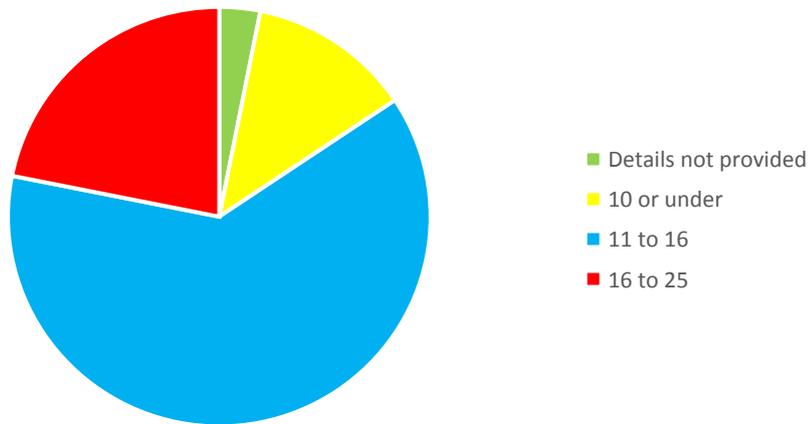
	<p>are places available and the current process of evaluating evidence is considered satisfactory.</p> <p>However, once a pupil has qualified for a place in a school and has subsequently been added to the school roll there are very limited circumstances in which the place can be withdrawn and therefore there is no value in continuing to monitor home address once a pupil has enrolled at the school.</p>
<p>Siblings: Year 12 & Year 13 siblings should be considered relevant siblings when processing a sibling application.</p>	<p>Legislation directs the Council, as the admission authority, to define the term 'relevant sibling' within its school admissions policy. In doing so, the Council does not consider students in years 12 and 13 to be relevant siblings given that when processing a sibling application during the normal admissions round, there is no guarantee that these pupils will move to or remain in post-16 education as they are of non-statutory school age. Therefore, applicants are not awarded priority on this basis.</p>
<p>Nurseries: In the west of the city, we feel that we're greatly lacking in nursery places compared to the rest of the city.</p>	<p>All community-maintained primary schools operate under 3-11 models and therefore have an attached nursery unit.</p> <p>The availability of non-maintained settings is monitored through the Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership. A tender exercise was carried out in the 2019/20 financial year, with eligible settings being commissioned from September 2020 for a new 5-year period. This tender exercise included work to ensure availability and equality of provision across all parts of the city.</p>
<p>Secondary school numbers: Admission number - is this intended intake or capacity figures? If this is intended intake then a list with capacity figures would be a good idea.</p>	<p>The admission numbers included within the consultation document and the resulting school admissions policy represent the total number of pupils that can be admitted into the year group. The figure is derived from the physical capacity of the school and is calculated using the Welsh Government formula specified by the document 'Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales'.</p>

Learner Voice

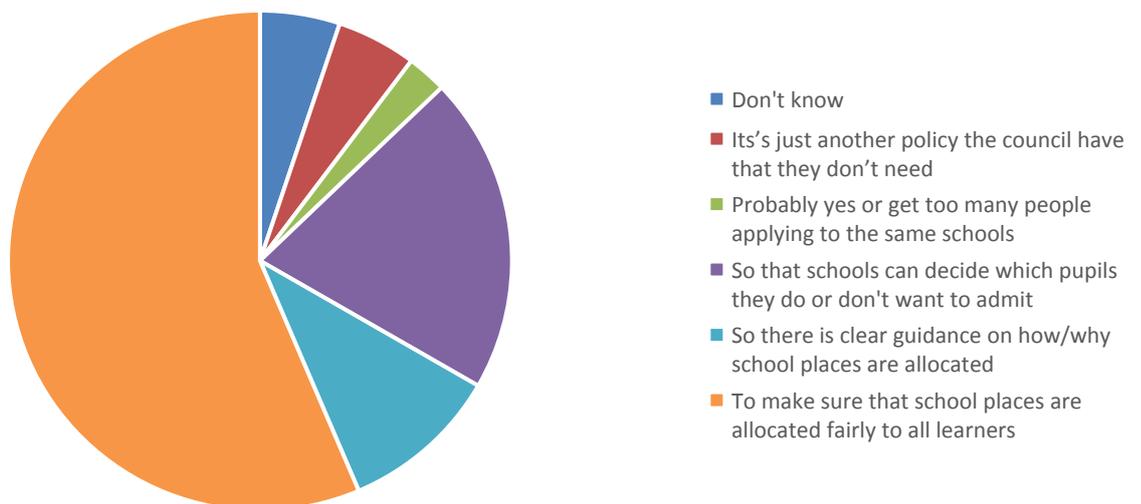
The Council is keen to gain the views of learners when proposing policy changes. As a result, whilst the School Admissions Code does not stipulate that consultation should include engagement with learners, a questionnaire was developed and distributed to the Newport City Youth Council (who did not respond) and to school pupils for whom English is an additional language. The latter was facilitated by Bilingual Teaching Assistants from Gwent Education Minority-ethnic Service (GEMS). A copy of the questionnaire is appended to this report.

The questionnaire was taken in 11 different languages and 32 valid responses were received by the deadline, the details of which are as follows:

Age range of respondents



Why do you think it necessary to have a school admissions policy?



- 21 pupils (66%) had not previously heard of the school admissions policy but all thought it was necessary to have one;
- After having read a summary of the policy, 29 pupils (91%) believe there is enough choice available to meet their personal preference of school; 1 pupil believes that there are not enough schools with special classrooms for children with extra needs;
- Within the oversubscription criteria:
 - 22 pupils (69%) agree that the highest priority for a school place should be given to children with additional learning needs and those who are in the public care system;
 - 22 pupils agree that priority should be given to those pupils living within the catchment area/nearest the school, over those who live outside/further away;
 - 25 pupils (78%) think a child should be offered a place in a school if they have a sibling that already attends
- When asked if they thought the school admissions policy was clear and contained all the information needed to make an informed decision on school preference, 20 pupils (63%) did not know. 3 pupils considered that the policy should be translated into other languages;

however, at the front of the parents' booklet, there is an introductory paragraph in 16 different languages to advise applicants of the support available from GEMS;

- Only 4 (13%) pupils felt that the school admissions policy affected them.

Additional considerations

Since launching the consultation, there has been a national change to the Ordnance Survey data sets used to measure home to school distances. As a result, the wording of the policy must now change to reflect this.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the admission arrangements be taken forward for implementation with effect from September 2022, incorporating revised wording in the section on home to school distance.

This decision will be now referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

Appendix

Newport City Council School Admissions Policy

Introduction

Newport City Council is the 6th largest of 22 authorities in Wales. It covers a geographical area of just over 73.5 square miles (**which is 5,000 times as big as the Principality Stadium in Cardiff!**).

At the last count in January 2020, there were 26,562 children and young people attending a nursery or school across Newport.

For all those children and young people Newport has:

- 2 separate nursery schools
- 43 primary schools (most of which have a nursery attached)
 - 3 are Welsh-medium schools and a fourth Welsh-medium primary school will open in September 2021
 - 8 are faith schools
 - 6 Roman Catholic schools
 - 2 Church in Wales schools
- 9 secondary schools
 - 1 of which is a Welsh-medium school
 - 1 of which is a Roman Catholic faith school
- 2 special schools for pupils with additional learning needs

An application must be made for every child that needs a school place and, with the exception of the seven Roman Catholic schools and one of the Church in Wales primary schools, the Council manages all applications for admission to these schools. **Almost 7,000 applications were received during the 2019/20 academic year!**

As each school has a maximum number of learners that it can physically accommodate comfortably and safely, and to ensure that school places are allocated fairly, admission arrangements are carried out in accordance with a school admissions policy, which specifically sets how an application should be made and will be processed. A school admissions policy has 2 functions:

1. To ensure that no school takes more learners than it can accommodate. An oversubscribed school cannot effectively provide efficient education for its learners.
2. To ensure that places are allocated fairly and equitably for all groups of children and young people

In simple terms, the school admissions process requires a parent or carer to submit an application for their child to go to school and the Council offers a place at the preferred school, if available. Sometimes though, a particular school can receive more applications than there are places available and it is then the Council's job to apply a set of criteria to decide which learners are given a place. The **oversubscription criteria** below is in order of priority and ensures that the most eligible are allocated a place first.

1. Children or young people with additional learning needs
2. Children or young people looked-after (or previously looked-after) by the local authority (in care)
3. Children or young people living within the catchment area with specific medical grounds
4. Children or young people living within the catchment area with a sibling already attending the school
5. Children or young people living within the catchment area
6. Children or young people living outside of the catchment area with specific medical grounds
7. Children or young people living outside of the catchment area with a sibling already attending the school
8. Children or young people living outside of the catchment area

After considering the above categories, or if a tie-break is necessary, priority is given to those living nearest the school. Those that are refused a place at a school are given the right to appeal against this decision to an independent panel.

Questionnaire

1. What age group are you?
10 and under
11 to 16
16 to 25
2. What language are you using to complete the questionnaire?
3. Do you think there is enough choice available to you when selecting a school to meet your personal preference (e.g. Welsh Medium, faith schools)? **Yes / No**
If no, please explain why.
4. Have you ever heard of a school admissions policy? **Yes / No**
5. Why do you think it is necessary to have a school admissions policy? Please choose one of the following options or add your own reason below:
 - **So that schools can decide which pupils they do or don't want to admit?**
 - **To make sure that school places are allocated fairly to all learners**
 - **Its's just another policy the council have that they don't need**
 - **So there is clear guidance on how/why school places are allocated.**
 - **Other, please specify:**
6. Look at the oversubscription criteria, which shows the order of priority given for a school place.
 - Do you agree that the highest priority for a school place should be given to children with additional learning needs and those who are in the public care system? **Yes / No / Don't Know**
 - Do you think it's a good idea to give a higher priority to children living nearest the school? **Yes / No / Don't Know**
 - Do you think priority should be given to those applying for a school that their sibling attends? **Yes / No / Don't Know**
 - Or, do you think you should be offered a place in a school if you have a sibling that already attends? **Yes / No / Don't Know**
 - Would you change the order of the criteria or add any other priorities? **Yes / No / Don't Know**If yes, please explain:
7. Each property in Newport has an English-medium and a Welsh-medium catchment school and priority is given to those pupils living within the catchment area over those who live outside. Do you agree with this? **Yes / No / Don't Know**
If not, why?
8. Do you think the policy has is clear and has all the information needed to enable you to make an informed decision on the school you want to apply for? **Yes / No / Don't Know**
If no, please explain.
9. Does the school admissions policy affect you? **Yes / No / Don't Know**
If yes, please explain how and what you feel about this?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire
School Admissions Team School.admissions@newport.gov.uk

Appendix 2: Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment

Version 3.6 May 2017

The purpose of this assessment is to provide balanced information to support decision making and to promote better ways of working in line with equalities (Equalities Act 2010), Welsh language promotion (The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011), sustainable development (Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015), and the four parameters of debate about fairness identified by the Newport Fairness Commission (NFC Full Report to Council 2013).

Completed by: Deborah Weston **Role:** Service Manager

Head of Service: Chief Education Officer **Date:** 05/03/2020

I confirm that the above Head of Service has agreed the content of this assessment

Yes / No

When you complete this FEIA, it is your responsibility to submit it to
impact.assessments@newport.gov.uk

1. Name and description of the policy / proposal being assessed. Outline the policy's purpose.

Newport City Council School Admissions Policy 2021/22

Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Council has responsibility for the discharge of the school admissions function for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport. As an admission authority, the Council acts in accordance with the Welsh Government School Admissions Code and the School Admissions Appeals Code.

It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. The consultation must conclude by 1st March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15th April in the determination year. The determination year is the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.

Consequently, a consultation was launched on 8th January 2020 and concluded on 28th February 2020 in relation to the proposed admission arrangements for September 2021 onwards, and a consultation report has been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received. There is now a requirement to consider this feedback and as a result to determine the Council's school admission policy for September 2021.

The proposals for change are as follows:

1. To redefine the Caerleon Comprehensive School catchment area to align with the Newport City Council boundary, thereby removing all areas of Monmouthshire and Torfaen from the catchment area;
2. To move Somerton Primary School from the Lliswerry cluster and catchment area to the Llanwern cluster and catchment area;
3. To replace the guaranteed school place for children of UK service personnel in any school of their choice with the catchment school;
4. To remove the specific priority for children who are on the child protection register.

2. Outline how you have/will consult with stakeholders who will be affected by the policy/proposal.

It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. The consultation must conclude by 1st March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15th April in the determination year. The determination year is the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.

In September 2019, and in advance of the proposal being launched, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis. In November 2019, the proposed changes were presented to the Newport School Admissions Forum, a statutory committee that has a key role in ensuring a fair admission system.

Subsequently, in accordance with the Code, formal consultation was carried out between 8th January 2020 and 28th February 2020 with the following list of statutory and non-statutory consultees:

Statutory consultees	
The governing body of relevant schools	The governing bodies of all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport
All neighbouring local authorities	Caerphilly County Borough Council Cardiff City Council Monmouthshire County Council Torfaen County Borough Council
Admission authorities for all other maintained schools in the area	The governing bodies of all voluntary aided schools in Newport
In the case of schools with a religious character, such body or person representing the religion or religious denomination in question	Diocesan Director, Church in Wales Diocesan Director, Roman Catholic
Non-statutory consultees	
The admission forum serving the area	Newport School Admissions Forum
Parents of children attending the primary schools likely to be affected	Parents of children attending: <i>Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary</i> <i>Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Goytre Fawr Primary</i> <i>Langstone Primary</i> <i>Ponthir Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Somerton Primary</i> <i>Usk Church in Wales Primary</i>
Headteachers	The Headteachers of all schools in Newport plus the following affected schools in Monmouthshire and Torfaen: <i>Goytre Fawr Primary</i> <i>Ponthir Primary</i> <i>Usk Church in Wales Primary</i>
Elected members	All Newport City Council elected members
Community councils	All community councils in Newport
Representatives of UK Service Personnel	The Regional Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officer Newport Armed Forces Champion UK Service families attending Newport schools

Other organisations	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations Newport Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership
Newport City Council Teams	Children & Young People's Services Law & Regulation Family Information Service Flying Start Housing & Regeneration Integrated Transport Vulnerable People Relocation Project
Pupils attending the primary schools likely to be affected	Pupils attending the following schools: <i>Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary</i> <i>Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Goytre Fawr Primary</i> <i>Langstone Primary</i> <i>Ponthir Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Somerton Primary</i> <i>Usk Church in Wales Primary</i>
Pupils attending the relevant secondary schools	Pupils attending the following schools: <i>Caerleon Comprehensive</i> <i>Llanwern High</i> <i>Lliswerry High</i>

The consultation document was also publicised through the Council's 'Have your say' web page and via their social media channels.

The Council is keen to gain the views of learners when proposing policy changes. As a result, whilst the School Admissions Code does not stipulate that consultation should include engagement with learners, attempts were made for this to be undertaken. This was the first year that this has been attempted in relation to the annual consultation on admission arrangements and was facilitated via an on-line SNAP survey that was circulated via the schools listed in the section above.

Some of these surveys were issued late in the consultation period, and the Education Service acknowledges therefore that this engagement was not as effective as it was intended. As a result, the Learner Voice is difficult to assess effectively in this case. Notwithstanding this, 66 responses were received by the deadline date.

Following conclusion of the consultation, a consultation report has now been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received. The report recommends that the changes proposed via this consultation be taken forward for implementation. This decision will be now referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

3. What information/evidence do you have on stakeholders? e.g. views, needs, service usage etc. Please include all the evidence you consider relevant.

The School Admissions Code provides lists of bodies that admission authorities must and should consult with on changes to admission arrangements. A consultation document was prepared and distributed to these stakeholders. Comments and questions arising were submitted to the Council and are reflected within the consultation report.

Evidence used to complete the consultation report includes:

- Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data

- School specific data relating to Caerleon and Somerton (e.g. ALN and BAME data, LA projections and admissions trends)
- Consultation responses
- Online pupil survey responses

4. Equalities and Welsh language impact

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The proposal will affect children and young people of school age.</p> <p>Negatively: The proposal seeks to change secondary school catchment areas. This will likely impact negatively on primary-aged children currently living in the affected areas as the catchment area priority they are currently benefitting from will no longer apply. This could particularly affect pupils whose older siblings are already attending the preferred school and were admitted when it was their catchment school. Such pupils will however continue to be able to make an application for the school and could qualify for other priorities in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria, e.g. sibling priority or home to school distance, depending upon individual family circumstances.</p> <p>School-aged children of UK Service Personnel families that are moving to Newport as a result of the parent's discharge from service will no longer be given the advantage of a guaranteed a place at the school of their choice and, if the school is already full in the relevant year group, the application will be refused. However, they will be subject to the same conditions as all other applicants under the school admissions policy and as such, any refusal of a school place will trigger the applicant's right to appeal against the decision to an independent panel.</p> <p>Positively: Reducing the size of the Caerleon Comprehensive School catchment area, and thereby the number of in-catchment pupils, will increase the number of places available for non-catchment applicants, either from within or outside of Newport. This means that Newport pupils will no longer be designated a lower priority than non-Newport pupils. In addition, given that a significant proportion of Somerton pupils already elect a preference for</p>

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
				Llanwern High School, the change in catchment will have a positive impact on the success of their application. Neither: As the Council has various arrangements in place to serve the interests of vulnerable children, it is anticipated that the proposal to remove the Child Protection statement will have a neutral impact on this protected characteristic.
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic. This proposal applies to mainstream admission only and not to pupils placed in specialist learning resource bases. All Newport secondary schools run internal in-house provision to support mainstream pupils with a range of difficulties but these are funded from within school budgets. Consequently, all schools are able to provide the same standard of mainstream provision for pupils with additional learning needs.
Gender reassignment/transgender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Marriage or civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Pregnancy or maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic. Gwent Education Minority Ethnic Service is able to provide the same standard of language support in all schools as such support is dependent upon need and languages available, regardless of school base.
Religion or Belief or non-belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The schools will continue to follow the National Curriculum including Cwricwlwm Cymraeg. In addition, from September 2020, Welsh Second Language A-level courses will be on offer at Caerleon Comprehensive School and Llanwern High School. Students on roll at Liswerry High School wishing to take A-level Welsh can access this through the collaboration with St Julians School.</p> <p>However, the proposal is unlikely to make a meaningful contribution to Newport's 5-Year Welsh Language target of increasing the number of Welsh speakers across the city.</p>

5 How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable development principle in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term needs</p>	<p>Newport's population is continuing to increase and with it the number of school age children. There has been a rise of 1,949 children in Newport schools between 2011 and 2019. Pupil population forecasts indicate that by 2024 there will be 14,097 primary school and 12,260 secondary school children in Newport, which represents an additional 2,038 children compared with 2019.</p> <p>Primary and secondary cohorts for the September 2019 annual admissions round were the largest to date with an unprecedented demand for Year 7 English-medium places across the city as a whole. In response to this demand, the Council negotiated additional Year 7 places across four English-medium secondary schools for this specific year group. A similar issue has since arisen in relation to the September 2020 Year 7 cohort, with additional provision created at two English-medium secondary schools.</p> <p>Welsh Government recommends 10% as the optimum level of surplus school places. In terms of English-medium places, Newport schools have only a 7.6% surplus at primary level and a 9.6% surplus across secondary schools. Whilst it would appear that this surplus at secondary level is broadly in line with Welsh Government's recommendation, it is worth noting that a significant element of this surplus is located in just two schools, both of which are located in the East of the City (Llanwern High and Lliswerry High). In addition, the actual number of surplus places are much lower in Years 7 and 8 than they are in Years 9, 10 and 11.</p> <p>This is also a concern in the context of the significant number of in-year school applications traditionally received in previous years. The Council is therefore seeking to maximise the number of school places available to Newport pupils across the city, through a variety of methods.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Working together to deliver objectives</p>	<p>Welsh Government has confirmed that the responsibility for designating alternative catchment schools lies with the Local Authority (LA) in which a pupil is resident. As a result, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified in September 2019 that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis. Both LAs subsequently responded to the formal consultation. Torfaen noted that they would be unable to make provision for the displaced (Ponthir) pupils in readiness for September 2021. In response, Newport noted that they had made Torfaen aware of the proposal in September 2019, thus giving almost two-years notice of the change.</p> <p>Having already considered similar changes in 2019 to take effect in 2020, Monmouthshire was broadly in favour of Newport's proposal. However, they asked that consideration be given to two matters as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An area within Monmouthshire's boundary that currently falls within the catchment area for Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary School (this is a voluntary aided school responsible for its own admission arrangements). This area was omitted from Monmouthshire's proposal and therefore is now in danger of being without a denoted secondary catchment school. This was not identified as an issue by any party prior to the launch of Newport's consultation, and • That additional priority be afforded to pupils whose older siblings were admitted to Caerleon Comprehensive School when it was their catchment school. <p>Whilst sympathising with the issues raised in relation to the first point, this would lead to some disparity with other areas of Monmouthshire and Torfaen, and therefore after consideration it does not seem reasonable to accommodate this request. In response to the comment about sibling links, the Council would advise that the parents of pupils affected by this proposal would still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-catchment applicants. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those with relevant siblings already attending the preferred school will have a higher priority in terms of securing a place</p> <p>Advance engagement took place with the governing bodies of Caerleon Comprehensive, Llanwern High, Lliswerry High and Somerton Primary but no formal responses were received during the consultation.</p> <p>The proposal was the subject of full public consultation between 8th January 2020 and 28th February 2020, in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government statutory school admissions code.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. The consultation must conclude by 1st March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15th April in the determination year. The determination year is the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.</p> <p>In advance of the proposal being launched, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified in September 2019 that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis. In November 2019, the proposed changes were presented to the Newport School Admissions Forum, a statutory committee that has a key role in ensuring a fair admission system.</p> <p>Subsequently, in accordance with the Code, formal consultation was carried out between 8th January 2020 and 28th February 2020 with the list of statutory and non-statutory consultees outlined in the response to question 2. The consultation document was also publicised through the Council's 'Have your say' web page and via their social media channels.</p> <p>The Council is keen to gain the views of learners when proposing policy changes. As a result, whilst the School Admissions Code does not stipulate that consultation should include engagement with learners, attempts were made for this to be undertaken. This was the first year that this has been attempted in relation to the annual consultation on admission arrangements and was facilitated via an on-line SNAP survey that was circulated via the schools listed in the section above.</p> <p>Some of these surveys were issued late in the consultation period, and the Education Service acknowledges therefore that this engagement was not as effective as it was intended. As a result, the Learner Voice is difficult to assess effectively in this case. Notwithstanding this, 66 responses were received by the deadline date.</p> <p>Following conclusion of the consultation, a consultation report has now been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received. The report recommends that the changes proposed via this consultation be taken forward for implementation. This decision will be now referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p data-bbox="233 797 333 824">Prevention</p> <p data-bbox="145 853 432 981">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p data-bbox="459 302 1398 495">Newport's population is continuing to increase and with it the number of school age children. There has been a rise of 1,949 children in Newport schools between 2011 and 2019. Pupil population forecasts indicate that by 2024 there will be 14,097 primary school and 12,260 secondary school children in Newport, which represents an additional 2,038 children compared with 2019.</p> <p data-bbox="459 533 1398 797">Primary and secondary cohorts for the September 2019 annual admissions round were the largest to date with an unprecedented demand for Year 7 English-medium places across the city as a whole. In response to this demand, the Council negotiated additional Year 7 places across four English-medium secondary schools for this specific year group. A similar issue has since arisen in relation to the September 2020 Year 7 cohort, with additional provision created at two English-medium secondary schools.</p> <p data-bbox="459 835 1398 1167">Welsh Government recommends 10% as the optimum level of surplus school places. In terms of English-medium places, Newport schools have only a 7.6% surplus at primary level and a 9.6% surplus across secondary schools. Whilst it would appear that this surplus at secondary level is broadly in line with Welsh Government's recommendation, it is worth noting that a significant element of this surplus is located in just two schools, both of which are located in the East of the City (Llanwern High and Lliswerry High). In addition, the actual number of surplus places are much lower in Years 7 and 8 than they are in Years 9, 10 and 11.</p> <p data-bbox="459 1205 1398 1326">This is also a concern in the context of the significant number of in-year school applications traditionally received in previous years. The Council is therefore seeking to maximise the number of school places available to Newport pupils across the city, through a variety of methods.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>This proposal supports the well-being objective to improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities and the following well-being goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>a resilient Wales;</i> • <i>a more equal Wales;</i> • <i>a Wales of more cohesive communities;</i> • <i>a globally responsible Wales.</i> <p>These will be achieved by improving access to education across the city through the adoption of an improved, fair and consistent admissions policy, by aligning primary catchments and secondary clusters to support effective partnership working and effective transition, and through ensuring sufficiency of school places for Newport pupils.</p> <p>During the consultation, responses referred to concern over community cohesion in the wider-Caerleon area. Whilst the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School has traditionally extended into the areas of Usk, Goytre and Ponthir, the demand for school places amongst Newport residents means that this is no longer sustainable. Notwithstanding this, parents will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School albeit as an out-of-catchment applicant.</p>

6 Will the proposal/policy have a disproportionate impact on a specific geographical area of Newport?

Whilst the proposed catchment area changes will specifically affect certain wards (Alway, Caerleon and Lliswerry), the proposed changes in relation to Armed Forces families and children on the child protection register are Citywide.

7 How does the proposal/policy relate to the parameters of debate about Fairness identified by the Newport Fairness Commission?

Parameter 1: Equal treatment while recognising difference

The proposal to change the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School removes the priority that non-Newport pupils currently have over Newport pupils. If the proposal is approved, all non-catchment pupils whether resident within or outside of Newport will be deemed equal in terms of priority for admission to this school. It is important to note that this proposal does not exclude any applicants from expressing a preference for Caerleon Comprehensive School. Reducing the size of the catchment area simply increases the opportunity for out-of-catchment applications to be successful. As a result, such applicants may continue to apply for a place at this school, and some applications will undoubtedly be successful based on sibling priority and/or home to school distance.

The proposal in relation to Somerton Primary School is logical to enable the two schools within the Eveswell and Somerton Primary School Partnership to work within one single cluster. In taking this forward, consideration was given to two options – moving Eveswell into Lliswerry or moving Somerton into Llanwern. However, the latter is preferred due to the geographic location of Somerton Primary School, and the fact that the combined admission number of the year 6 cohorts in the current Lliswerry cluster primary schools exceeds the admission number of the secondary school.

The proposal in relation to children of UK service personnel aligns Newport's policy with the guidance outlined in the statutory School Admissions Code. Notwithstanding this change, it is anticipated that the revised policy will continue to support those specific personnel that are required to move at short notice and, as a result, cannot comply with the usual school admission procedures.

In terms of the proposal in relation to pupils on the child protection register, admission authorities must ensure that their arrangements will not unfairly disadvantage a child from a particular social group. As the Council has various arrangements in place to serve the interests of vulnerable children there is no requirement for a specific priority for children who are on the child protection register.

Parameter 2: Mutual obligations between citizens and local government

Welsh Government has confirmed that the responsibility for designating alternative catchment schools lies with the Local Authority (LA) in which a pupil is resident. As a result, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified in September 2019 that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis.

Parameter 3: Interdependency and reciprocity within community relations

Whilst the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School has traditionally extended into the areas of Usk, Goytre and Ponthir, the demand for school places amongst Newport residents means that this is no longer sustainable. Notwithstanding this, parents will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School albeit as an out-of-catchment applicant.

Parameter 4: Transparency and accountability in decision-making

This proposal has been subject to consultation in line with the guidance outlined in the School Admissions Code. It is recommended that the changes proposed via this consultation be taken forward for implementation with effect from September 2021. This decision will be now referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

8. Equality Impacts and Actions

In total, 52 responses were received during the consultation period, all of which related to the proposal to amend the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School. Of these, 47 responses raised concerns regarding the proposal. The remaining five responses neither supported nor objected to the proposal but merely raised questions in relation to their particular circumstances. Respondents included pupils, parents and carers, members of the public, Community Councils, Governing Bodies, Members of Parliament, Elected Members, neighbouring Local Authorities and the Diocese of Monmouth. Whilst some respondents raised more than one issue in their response, a breakdown of the number and type of objections, along with the Council's responses, is summarised as follows:

Impact identified	Who does it affect?	What will you do to mitigate the impact? If you plan to take no action, please justify your rationale	Who is responsible?
Impact on local community cohesion and pupil wellbeing	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	Whilst the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School has traditionally extended into the areas of Usk, Goytre and Ponthir, the demand for school places amongst Newport residents means that this is no longer sustainable. Notwithstanding this, parents will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School albeit as an out-of-catchment applicant.	Newport City Council Torfaen County Borough Council Monmouthshire County Council
Distance to an alternative school and safety of home to school transport routes	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	The parents of pupils affected by this proposal will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-catchment applicants. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those closer to the school will have a better chance of securing a place. In terms of alternative schools, your home local authority may provide home to school transport in accordance with their agreed policy.	Newport City Council Torfaen County Borough Council Monmouthshire County Council
Impact on transition and siblings	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living	The parents of pupils affected by this proposal will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-catchment applicants. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-	Newport City Council Torfaen County Borough Council

	within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those with relevant siblings already attending the preferred school will have a higher priority in terms of securing a place. Transition arrangements will continue to be facilitated between primary and secondary schools after the offer of a secondary school place has been made.	Monmouthshire County Council
Environmental impact and wellbeing of future generations	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	Caerleon has been designated an air quality management area due the elevated levels of pollution caused by road traffic. Any reduction in the number of vehicles that travel through Caerleon will help elevate some of the pressure causing the high pollution levels. Furthermore, in the recent Centre for Cities report (https://www.centreforcities.org/city/newport), Newport has been identified as the third highest emitter of the greenhouse gas Carbon Dioxide per head of population. A reduction in the distance of the school commute will likely result in a reduction in the generation of greenhouse gases. Whilst both reductions (air pollution and carbon dioxide) are relatively minor in the grand scheme of things, every little action that can be taken to reduce commuting distances can contribute to an overall improvement. Given that there is no intention to increase the overall capacity of the secondary school, the number of pupils travelling to the school from outside Caerleon will not significantly change.	Newport City Council
Consultation process and methodology	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area	The consultation is compliant with Welsh Government's statutory School Admissions Code and is in line with similar arrangements in previous years.	Newport City Council

	for Caerleon Comprehensive School		
Impact on educational standards	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	There is no negative impact on standards anticipated because of this proposal at any of Newport's primary or secondary schools.	Newport City Council
Cost of alternative home to school transport	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	Each Local Authority is responsible for agreeing an individual Home to School Transport policy to support access to school. Newport's policy provides free transport to those pupils living three miles or more from their catchment school or their nearest available school. If parents apply for their child to attend a school that is not their catchment or nearest available school, parents are fully responsible for all transport costs and arrangements. It is not anticipated therefore that the costs to Newport will increase because of this proposal but it is acknowledged that there may be an impact for other LAs.	Newport City Council Torfaen County Borough Council Monmouthshire County Council

9. Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing

In accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code, the Council's School Admissions Policy is reviewed and consulted upon annually. The effectiveness of admission arrangements is monitored by the Newport School Admissions Forum, which meets on a termly basis. An annual Admission Forum report is submitted to Welsh Government each Autumn term.

10. Involvement

As outlined, the admission arrangements for 2021 have been subject to consultation with stakeholders and a consultation report has been drafted which outlines the method of consultation and the feedback received.

The report recommends that the changes proposed via this consultation be taken forward for implementation with effect from September 2021. This decision will be now referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

In accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code, these changes must be determined by 15th April and confirmed to stakeholders by 29th April. The new policy will be published on the Newport City Council by this date.