

# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: 8 September 2021

**Subject** Newport City Council Covid-19 Response and Recovery Update

**Purpose** To present to Cabinet an update on the Council's progress being made towards recovering services and supporting Newport's communities as part of its Strategic Recovery Aims.

**Author** Chief Executive  
Head of People and Business Change

**Ward** All

**Summary** The Covid-19 health emergency has been ongoing for over 18 months since Newport received its first reports of cases in February 2020. During this time, the crisis has impacted all communities, businesses and services delivered by the Council and partners across Newport. Newport as a City has had to adapt and respond as necessary to the restrictions to minimise the spread of the virus. The Council's priority has been to ensure the continuity of services with our strategic partners, supporting the most vulnerable residents, support businesses and ensure the safety of staff and customers. This report provides an overview of what action the Council has taken to date progress against its Strategic Recovery aims and Wellbeing Objectives.

Since the last Cabinet report in July 2021, restrictions have been eased to Level 0 by the Welsh Government with some measures still in place to reduce the spread of the virus. However, the Covid (predominantly Delta) virus remains prevalent in the community but the vaccination programme and ongoing monitoring of the virus is reducing the impact of the virus in the community and hospital settings.

**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 and the City.

**Action by** Corporate Management Team

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Gold Recovery Group
- Corporate Management Team

**Signed**

## Background

Since the last Cabinet Report on [7<sup>th</sup> July 2021](#), Newport Council and its partners have continued to monitor the Covid-19 cases in the City through its role at the multi-agency Gwent Incident Management Team the Council's Emergency Response and Recovery Group (Covid Gold) and liaison with Welsh Government (WG), Public Health Wales and ABUHB partners.

## Wales Covid-19 Update

From 7<sup>th</sup> August Welsh Government moved to alert Level 0 which resulted in:

- Removal of legal restrictions on the number of people who can meet indoors including private homes, public places or at events; and
- All businesses and premises opened including nightclubs.

The Welsh Government kept the legal requirement for face coverings to be worn indoors except for hospitality premises and will be kept under review. They are also encouraging people to work from home wherever possible and for fully vaccinated adults, under 18s and vaccine trial participants not requiring to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone with coronavirus.

The vaccination programme continues to be a success across Wales with over 2.3 million people receiving their first dose of the vaccine and 2.1 million receiving their second dose which has clearly contributed towards reducing the impact of the Delta variant across communities.

However, the pandemic is not over, and the virus continues to spread and we are likely to see cases increase as we mix more with others. Therefore, it is important to maintain physical distancing where possible, especially with those we don't live with.

The Delta variant of the virus remains the most prevalent across Wales and people who suspect they have symptoms should still get tested and should take all necessary safeguards to and restrict their movements and contacts with vulnerable people.

## Newport City Council Update

Throughout the pandemic the vast majority of Newport City Council staff have continued to deliver front line services throughout the pandemic. In August, the Welsh Government advice continues to be that if staff can work from home they should do so. This message has been relayed to staff via regular staff communications. This equally applies to Members and access to the Civic Centre and the democratic functions of the Council continue to be undertaken virtually.

Risk assessments are in place for all work that we do, and these take into consideration work environment and task, health and safety legislation and current Government guidance. In this way we can ensure that staff can safely undertake their duties. Now that restrictions are relaxed it is appropriate to relook at this work and consider opportunities for more functions to be undertaken from our buildings as we adjust to the new reality of living with Covid 19. It is important that we undertake this in a planned and cautious way, whilst also maintaining the benefits achieved by working flexibly to this point (these benefits are set out in the [New Normal report](#) previously discussed at Cabinet).

Over the coming weeks we will set out this planned and phased approach that manages the interim between now and the implementation of the New Normal business model. This will include:

1. Utilisation of our estate to undertake a broader set of functions
2. Public access to the estate
3. Member access and meeting the requirements of the Local Government and Elections Act (hybrid meetings)

This approach will be detailed in the October Covid Recovery report.

A summary of the Council's activity since the last Cabinet Report is outlined below with a full update provided in appendix 1.

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021
<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 1</b> – Supporting Education & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supermarket vouchers continued to be offered to pupils throughout the summer holidays</li> <li>• Request for additional devices has been submitted using the Hwb EdTech grant funding for 2021/22. This will provide schools with a further 2,408 digital devices, 105 digital screens, 106 projectors and 86 charging trolleys.</li> <li>• Newport Live Development staff are working with NCC colleagues on the School Holiday Enrichment programme (SHEP), as well as delivering with Education 2 x week long Transition Camps for St Josephs and John Frost school clusters around emotional wellbeing, leadership, confidence, and physical activity readying pupils going to high school in September.</li> <li>• Newport Live are also delivering regular opportunities for ethnically diverse community groups via Newport Live's Positive Futures, Levelling the Playing Field, and Sport Wales funded projects and staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 2</b> – Supporting the Environment and the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ERF 1 Spring Restrictions Grant supported 325 businesses with a grant of between £2,500 and £10,000 in this round. £831,000 has been defrayed, protecting a reported 375 jobs in the city.</li> <li>• ERF 2 Summer Restrictions Grant opened on the 26th July. NCC Business Development Fund 2021/22 to launch August 2021</li> <li>• Developing a Local Area Energy Plan for Newport which will be a significant opportunity for the public and private sector to work with communities to support the decarbonisation of Newport's power, heat, and transport needs for the future. Two stakeholder workshops have taken place.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 3</b> – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demand is growing for care home placements. There is sufficient capacity within the market to accommodate the need, but staffing is an issue. The holiday period, sickness and positive covid cases are having an impact.</li> <li>• Domiciliary care is also being impacted by staff shortages, agencies are unable to recruit, and some staff are leaving to find better paid jobs in hospitality and retail. Consequently, there is no capacity within the market and hospital discharges are being affected. These issues are being experienced across the region</li> <li>• The following libraries are proposed to re-open without any limit on visitor numbers being put in place as they are larger sites and well ventilated: Central, Malpas, Bettws, Rogerstone, Ringland, Tredegar House.</li> <li>• Numbers of library visitors to Caerleon, Pillgwenlly &amp; St Julian's will remain limited due to the size of the venue and ventilation available but will not be subject to prior booking. Instead numbers of users will be monitored by staff.</li> <li>• Newport Live's Riverfront theatre opened 2nd August, having been closed since March 2020. Leisure Facilities at NISV, ALC, and Newport Centre are open and being utilised by the public, with demand high.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 4</b> – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG hardship funding is continuing to be used to support the additional pressures on temporary accommodation due to the pandemic. The authority is awaiting guidance from WG in relation to our ongoing responsibilities to provide temporary accommodation to all homeless persons.</li> <li>• The increase in Social Housing Grant funding has meant several new schemes have been brought into the development plan. As well as general needs accommodation, several specialist schemes have been funded which will provide residents with the support to sustain and manage in their own accommodation.</li> </ul>

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newport Live's Positive Futures staff are working with referred young people from police and community safety partners with good affect (e.g. Youth Justice), as well as referred groups from Primary Schools at an early intervention age (e.g. Maindee, Maesglas, Always, etc..) over the Summer in the day time as well as at events.</li> <li>• Budget allocation for £500k over 2 years has been made for a Covid Recovery Fund to support grass roots groups and projects. A participatory budgeting approach will be adopted to help build social capital, deliver social value and bottom-up recovery.</li> </ul>

### Financial Summary (Capital and Revenue)

The Council's financial (revenue and capital update is reported separately as part of the Council's monthly budget reports to Cabinet. The Covid-19 impact(s) are considered in the finance reports and are closely monitored as part of the Council's financial management processes.

### Risks

Through the Council's Risk Management process, the Covid risk has been monitored every quarter to the Council's Cabinet and Audit and Governance Committee. Below is the latest update taken from Quarter 1 (April to June '21) 2021/22 risk report update.

Risk Title / Description	Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (1-5)	Risk Probability of risk occurring (1-5)	Risk Mitigation Action(s) What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?	Risk Owner Officer(s) responsible for dealing with the risk?
Covid 19 Pandemic Risk (Corporate Risk)	5	3	Mitigation actions outlined in the report and managed by the Council's Covid Gold Group.	Head of People & Business Change

### 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 ran for the entire 20/21 financial year and has recently been confirmed to continue until the end of March 2022.

In essence, Covid related, eligible expenditure is predominantly funded by the Welsh Government but the eligibility criteria is under ongoing review. The revenue outturn for 20/21 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, this trend continues into 21/22 with current July 2021 forecasts showing a positive position again.

### **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 Covid-19 Response and 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 move the alert level zero and the relaxation of most restrictions have changed the nature of both the TTP contact tracing work and the work of the Environmental Health officers in managing clusters and containing transmission. The TTP team have taken on more of a "warning and informing" role with the reduction in requirements for self-isolation of contact cases and Environmental Health are focussing on closed care setting and support for schools, given the removal of strict social distancing requirements and the opening-up of community contacts. Enforcement staff are also focussing on providing advice and assistance in relation to the individual risk assessments that are now required in relation to retail and licensed premises and also larger organised events.

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

Since the previous report in July there has been significant progress made by NHS Wales, Public Health Wales and the Council to deliver the vaccination programme and to deliver the Test, Trace and Protect services. All of this has meant the impact on communities and the health service has been minimised.

As part of the Council's New Normal project, we will continue to encourage as many office based staff that are not required to work either on the frontline or in Council buildings to work from home in line with the Welsh Government. We will eventually move towards a hybrid approach for the Council that will provide flexibility for staff and mitigate the number of people in office spaces.

Building on what we have learned over the last 18 months, the Council's Human Resource team is developing new approaches to manage staff's wellbeing and delivery of services.

### **Scrutiny Committees**

Not Applicable

### **Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:**

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, 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**

Not Applicable

## **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: 1 September 2021**

## Appendix 1 – Progress of Delivery against Strategic Recovery Aims (to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021)

<p><b>Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education &amp; Employment.</b> Understand, and respond to, the additional challenges, which Covid19 has presented, including loss of employment, impact on business and on the progress, achievement and wellbeing of both mainstream and vulnerable learners.</p>	
<p><b>Supports Wellbeing Objective 1 – To improve skills, education and employment opportunities.</b></p>	
<b>Strategic Aim Step</b>	<b>September 2021 Update (By Exception)</b>
Support schools and other educational establishments to safely reopen for staff and pupils.	Supermarket vouchers, at a value of £19.50 per child per week, were distributed to support free school meal eligible pupils over the period of the school summer holidays.
Work to prevent and reduce inequality of progress and outcomes in education for mainstream and vulnerable learners.	Education Welfare Officers continue to work closely with schools. The recorded rates of attendance up to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary schools – 92.7%</li> <li>• Secondary schools – 89.4%</li> <li>• Special schools – 87.7%</li> </ul>
Support schools to enhance and develop digital skills; digital teaching and learning platforms; and enhanced support for digitally excluded learners	An order for additional devices has been submitted using the Hwb EdTech grant funding for 2021/22. This order will provide schools with a further 2408 digital devices, 105 digital screens, 106 projectors and 86 charging trolleys. Delivery dates are as yet unconfirmed but most items are anticipated during the Autumn Term.
Support and enable people that are digitally excluded to access community IT programmes, Council services and other public services.	Public access to IT is now available in libraries following further relaxation of the restrictions.
Support people who have been affected by unemployment to access new opportunities through training and re-employment required for post Covid 19 businesses.	We continue to work with the Celtic Manor to recruit. They have also introduced them to the Serco Employment Engagement Manager to share with other providers of the Restart Programme.  First referrals to Restart scheme received and we are working in partnership with DWP on the warm handover induction.
Ensure our diverse communities are appropriately supported through tailored interventions	Tablets and WIFI packs are still being used by Flying Start and Families First families who are experiencing digital poverty.

**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.

<b>Strategic Aim Step</b>	<b>September 2021 Update (By Exception)</b>
specific to their needs, including consideration of language, culture and points of access.	Newport Live Update – Development staff are working with NCC colleagues on the School Holiday Enrichment programme (SHEP), as well as delivering with Education 2 x week long Transition Camps for St Josephs and John Frost school clusters around emotional wellbeing, leadership, confidence, and physical activity readying pupils going to high school in September. Regular opportunities being provided for ethnically diverse community groups via Newport Live’s Positive Futures, Levelling the Playing Field, and Sport Wales funded projects and staff.

**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.

<b>Strategic Aim Step</b>	<b>September’21 Update (By Exception)</b>
Maintain our focus on regenerating Newport to deliver existing and new investment projects.	ERF 1 Spring Restrictions Grant supported 325 businesses with a grant of between £2,500 and £10,000 in this round. £831,000 has been defrayed, protecting a reported 375 jobs in the city.  ERF 2 Summer Restrictions Grant opened on the 26th July. NCC Business Development Fund 2021/22 to launch August 2021
Enable and support the construction industry to re-establish the supply of new and affordable housing.	The affordable housing development programme for 2021/22 has been approved by Welsh Government. The programme totals £12.5 million and supports the creation of 523 units of affordable housing.
Enable and support businesses to re-establish normal operations whilst maintaining the health and safety of their workers and customers.	Regulatory Services are continuing to will be supporting businesses reopening as restrictions are eased over the next few months.
Enable and support businesses to prepare for future trade arrangements resulting from Brexit negotiations.	See Brexit Report presented at Cabinet in September 2021.
Protect and improve the environment, including air quality and decarbonisation of	ReFit tender will be launched. Planning application submitted for NCC solar farm development. As part of our wider role as a council in shaping Newport and Wales’ transition to a low-carbon society we are developing a Local Area Energy Plan for Newport which will be a significant opportunity for the public and private sector to work with

**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	September'21 Update (By Exception)
the city for its residents, businesses and visitors.	<p>communities to support the decarbonisation of Newport's power, heat, and transport needs for the future. Two stakeholder workshops have taken place.</p> <p>Work is continuing to develop the Councils' Climate Change Strategy to deliver its commitment towards being net-zero carbon by 2030.</p>
Continuing support and safe delivery of the Council's City services including waste, cleansing and highways.	Studies are ongoing to integrate further electric vehicle charging and renewable energy to support zero emission transportation.

**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	September'21 Update (By Exception)
Support people to remain living independently in their homes and communities.	<p>Fee negotiations are concluded.</p> <p>Demand is growing for care home placements. There is sufficient capacity within the market to accommodate the need, but staffing is an issue. The holiday period, sickness and positive covid cases are having an impact.</p> <p>Domiciliary care is also being impacted by staff shortages, agencies are unable to recruit, and some staff are leaving to find better paid jobs in hospitality and retail. Consequently, there is no capacity within the market and hospital discharges are being affected. These issues are being experienced across the region</p> <p>Providers are implementing contingency measures to maintain current caseloads. Social Workers have been directed to prioritise requests to the most urgent cases.</p>
Fully restore Children and Adult Services, supporting partners that have been impacted by Covid 19 and ensuring service users and staff are supported and protected.	<p>We continue to work with citizens and providers to build confidence and reinstate services as circumstances change. The relatively small number who have not returned are being reviewed and options discussed.</p> <p>Work is ongoing with partners to ensure additional Housing Support Grant funding is fully utilised to develop sustainable accommodation solutions for people who have been homeless and/or with complex needs such as mental health and substance misuse issues</p>
Assess the impact and the long-term sustainability of the social	The hardship fund will remain in place until the end of September on an as is basis. We await confirmation of what will happen thereafter, but it is expected that financial support will start to reduce.

**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	September'21 Update (By Exception)
care sector in Newport informing future service requirements.	Demand for all services is at higher than normal levels and the biggest risk to sustainable provision is currently around staffing. It is hoped that there will be some improvement in September when the holiday period is over and when the furlough arrangements come to an end.
Safeguard and support children and young people to remain safely with their families.	Business as usual operations are in place.
Improve opportunities for Active Travel and work towards improved air quality.	<p>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.</p> <p>The Council also received fantastic news that it will have £9.4m to deliver Active Travel schemes in Newport in 2021/22.</p>
Regulate businesses and support consumers / residents to protect and improve their health.	Regulatory Services are continuing to will be supporting businesses reopening as restrictions are eased over the next few 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.	<p>Following Welsh Government's move to alert level 0, open access to larger libraries and the museum and art gallery are being prepared for. It will be recommended that social distancing is maintained, and visitors will be reminded the masks should still be worn in enclosed settings. Some hands-on exhibits in the Museum will not be returned to display to avoid surface contamination. Levels of cleaning will be maintained.</p> <p>The following libraries are proposed to re-open without any limit on visitor numbers being put in place as they are larger sites and well ventilated: Central, Malpas, Bettws, Rogerstone, Ringland, Tredegar House. Numbers of library visitors to Caerleon, Pillgwenlly &amp; St Julian's will remain limited due to the size of the venue and ventilation available but will not be subject to prior booking. Instead numbers of users will be monitored by staff.</p> <p>Newport Live's Riverfront theatre opened 2<sup>nd</sup> August, having been closed since March 2020. Leisure Facilities at NISV, ALC, and Newport Centre are open and being utilised by the public, with demand high. MVC continues to utilise the Newport Centre. Summer of Fun funding via NCC will support and kickstart a wide range of arts development projects, performances, and cultural activities to get the population of Newport back to the theatre and the arts.</p> <p>Newport Live' are proactively engaging and supporting children, families and young people to increase physical activity levels and support mental wellbeing this Summer (Happier Healthier Newport). 18 events in parks and open green</p>

**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**

<b>Strategic Aim Step</b>	<b>September'21 Update (By Exception)</b>
	spaces (Pop Up Sport, Sport in the Park) over 1,000 participants in first 10 events, free access and free packed lunches for all in communities such as Pillgwennlly, Ringland, Lliswerry, Underwood, Maindee, Bettws, Somerton, etc..). Positive Futures are engaging young people in similar outdoor spaces in evenings in Maindee, Maesglas, Pillwgennly, Always, Duffryn, Ringland, Beechwood Park, Belle Vue Park, etc. working alongside community safety partners.
Sustain a safe, healthy and productive workforce.	With the relaxation of restrictions as confirmed by Welsh Government in early August, the Council is reviewing the Civic Centre risk assessment to reflect any possible adaptations, whilst being mindful that as an employer we are accountable to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and will continue to be required to protect the workforce from any infectious disease transmission wherever possible. The removal of the legislative requirement for social distancing does not remove our obligation to seek to prevent transmission of infectious disease and our mitigation measures may alter as a result. In the meantime the Council continues to advise staff to work from home wherever possible, which remains in line with Welsh Government guidance.

**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**

<b>Strategic Aim Step</b>	<b>September'21 Update (By Exception)</b>
Work together with our partners to reduce poverty, address homelessness and support our most vulnerable people as a priority.	WG hardship funding is continuing to be used to support the additional pressures on temporary accommodation due to the pandemic. The authority is awaiting guidance from WG in relation to our ongoing responsibilities to provide temporary accommodation to all homeless persons. Additional funding has been provided by WG to prevent homelessness for those living in the private rented sector who have rent arrears because of the pandemic.
Assess and address the inequalities that Covid 19 has highlighted or contributed to within our communities.	<p>The Policy, Partnership and Involvement team will be conducting a survey with the Citizens Panel and the wider public through the bus WiFi on the impacts of the second lockdown measures, the Council's (including partners) response and communication with Newport's communities.</p> <p>Inequalities highlighted by COVID-19 are included in the focus of work ongoing to embed the Socio-economic Duty in council decision-making processes. This will ensure longer term planning and policy aims to reduce inequalities that have arisen as a result of both socio-economic disadvantage and for minority/marginalised communities and encourage more effective engagement with those groups who are affected by council decisions.</p>

**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**

<b>Strategic Aim Step</b>	<b>September'21 Update (By Exception)</b>
Identify, develop and seek to sustain any positive developments emerging during the crisis.	The Policy, Partnership and Involvement team will be conducting a survey with the Citizens Panel and the wider public through the bus wifi on the impacts of the second lockdown measures, the Council's (including partners) response and communication with Newport's communities.
Developing opportunities for people to access suitable and affordable housing	The increase in Social Housing Grant funding has meant several new schemes have been brought into the development plan. As well as general needs accommodation, several specialist schemes have been funded which will provide residents with the support to sustain and manage in their own accommodation.
Deliver a community cohesion programme that effectively responds to community tensions and creates a shared sense of identity across the city.	Welsh Government have confirmed funding for continuation of community cohesion work until March 31st 2022. Recent activity includes a virtual Ramadan learning project for schools and the development of the 'Faces of Welshness' project, focussed on celebrating difference and recognising commonality across diverse communities in Newport.
Prevent and address instances of antisocial behaviour (ASB) impacting upon the residents and the business community of Newport	<p>Now that citizens are venturing out into communities we are likely to see an increase in Anti Social Behaviour. Over the last few months, we have seen a significant increase in demand on the preventative services with referrals into the SPACE wellbeing panel.</p> <p>Education report a higher level of exclusions over the last 12 months due to incidents of violent behaviour and acknowledge that this may impact on poor behaviour in the community increasing ASB and Crime. This also raises the concern for the siblings of those involved and how it has an impact on their future.</p> <p>There is an increase in referrals where the child is experiencing poor mental health.</p> <p>We are also seeing an increase in waiting lists across services for families waiting for support.</p> <p>Services are starting to provide more 1:1 support face 2 face. However, with the backlog of families needing support, it will take time.</p> <p>Newport Live's Positive Futures staff are working with referred young people from police and community safety partners with good affect (e.g. Youth Justice), as well as referred groups from Primary Schools at an early intervention age (e.g. Maindee, Maesglas, Always, etc..) over the Summer in the day time as well as at events. The team are also delivering evening diversionary sport and youth engagement provision and sessions on Corporation Road Chem Park MUGA, Alway MUGA, Pill Mill Centre, Ringland, and in Duffryn (Friday Night Projects) and are working reactively with partners and NCC to engage young people in hotspot areas (e.g. Beechwood Park, Belle Vue Park where there have been issues this Summer).</p>

**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**

<b>Strategic Aim Step</b>	<b>September'21 Update (By Exception)</b>
Re-establish Community Regeneration facilities and services where it is safe to do so for staff and its service users.	The move to alert level 0 has allowed for near normal delivery of service. Community Centres have returned to near normal operation and bookings made available for hirers supported by relevant risk assessments. Hiring schedules have also been reduced to allow adequate cleaning and preparation time.
Develop opportunities for community involvement participation and engagement.	A budget allocation for £500k over 2 years has been made for a Covid Recovery Fund to support grass roots groups and projects. A participatory budgeting approach will be adopted to help build social capital, deliver social value and bottom-up recovery. An updated Community Impact Assessment will inform the programme and a high degree of community involvement in planning and delivery will be a key feature.