

Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment (FEIA)

This is an integrated Impact Assessment which aims to ensure Newport City Council makes decisions which are fair, take account of relevant evidence, and seek to secure the best outcomes for our communities. **An FEIA should be used to inform the first steps of decision-making, at concept stage, not when a decision is already made, or at the point when it cannot be influenced.** This impact assessment considers our legislative responsibilities under:

- The Equality Act (2010), including the Socio-economic Duty
- The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)
- The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure (2011)

The FEIA process is not intended to prevent decisions being made, but to ensure we have considered their potential impact. An FEIA also helps us to focus on how we can reduce any negative impacts, and provides us with evidence that we have met our legal duties.

For support to complete your FEIA, please contact the [Connected Communities Team](#)

What do we mean by Fairness?

The Newport Fairness Commission is an independent body which advises the council on the best use of resources and powers to achieve the fairest outcomes for local people. The Fairness Commission has established four **Principles of Fairness** which should be considered as part of any decisions that the council make – the questions below are useful to reflect on before you start your FEIA.

Equity	Are people being treated in a consistent way, whilst acknowledging their differences (for example, need, barriers to accessing services)?
	Will the gap between those with more, and those with less be reduced?
	Have the interests of different groups affected (including minority or disadvantaged communities) been taken into account?
Priority	Have the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable across the city been given priority?
	Have you considered possible indirect consequences for minority/disadvantaged communities when other priorities are directing decisions?
Inclusion	Will the voices of all those affected by your decision be heard?
	Are people able to participate in and shape a service, as well as receiving it?
	Have you considered the impact of your decision on the relationship between communities, and the spaces they share?
Communication	Are decisions being made transparently and consistently?
	How will decisions be communicated to people who are affected in a clear way, with the opportunity for feedback?

Part 1: Identification

Name of person completing the FEIA	Emma Wakeham
Role of person completing the FEIA	Senior Policy & Partnership Officer
Date of completion	7th Oct 2021
Head of Service who has approved this FEIA	Paul Jones

1. What is being assessed? *(Please double click on the relevant box(es) (X) and select 'checked' as appropriate)*

- New or revised policies, practices or procedures (which modify service delivery or employment practices)
- Service review or re-organisation proposals which affect the community and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- Decisions affecting service users, employees or the wider community including (de)commissioning or revising services
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or access to the built environment
- Public events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Service Boards
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services
- Other *please explain in the box below:*

2. Please describe the overall aims, objectives and intended outcomes of your decision

In November 2021, we at Newport City Council declared an Ecological and Climate Emergency. As part of the declaration, we pledged to:

- Develop a city-wide Local Area Energy Plan, in collaboration with experts from the public, private and third sector to develop innovative solutions to decarbonise heat, electricity and local transport and realise local renewable energy production.

The Local Area Energy Plan for Newport sets out a vision for reaching a zero-carbon local energy system by 2050 together with a summary of evidence to support the vision. Also included in the plan is a route map to get there, including a set of actions for the Council to support the journey whilst recognising the role of other key actors in government, the energy sector and across the community. It provides us with an understanding of the nature, scale, rate, and timings of changes that are needed for Newport's transition to a net zero energy system.

3. Who are the main stakeholders who may be impacted by your decision and what data do you hold on them? Consider communities of place (people who live in the same geographic area) and communities of interest (people who share particular characteristics but may live in different geographic areas). Stakeholders may include residents, local businesses, community groups, staff or partners.

Stakeholders for the plan were identified at the start of the project and ranked both by likely level of interest and influence on the project. Stakeholders fell into the following categories

- commercial and industrial demand;
- domestic demand;
- transport demand;
- transmission and distribution;
- generation and storage;
- cross-cutting stakeholders.

Part 2: Engagement

When completing this section, you need to consider whether you have sufficient information about the views and experiences of people who your decision will impact upon. If you don't, you may need to undertake a period of engagement/consultation before continuing. An FEIA is a live document, so can be updated with consultation findings, and amended as needed during the decision-making process.

The council has a duty to consult and engage with people who may experience inequalities as a result of your decision. This includes people **who share Protected Characteristics** (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and people who **have lived experience of socio-economic disadvantage**. The council's Youth Promise also requires us to ensure **all young people in Newport are listened to and included in decisions affecting them**.

The council also has a duty to ensure that any consultation is available bilingually (in Welsh as well as English), and you may like to consider any other community languages that are spoken by people who may be impacted by your decision. Below are some questions that should be included in any public consultation relating to a decision which may impact on the use of Welsh language in Newport:

1. Do you believe that the proposed decision/policy will have a positive or negative effect on opportunities to use the Welsh language?
2. If you think it will have a negative effect, what steps could we take to lessen or remove this and improve positive effects?
3. Do you believe that the proposed decision/policy will treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language?

1. How have you engaged with people who may be affected by your decision (the stakeholders you have identified)?

Within each of the categories, stakeholders were split by which roles they were likely to undertake:

- Design and build
- Own and operate
- Finance
- Policy and regulation
- Research
- Communication and engagement

Through this exercise we identified which key parties to invite to workshops throughout the LAEP process, as well as which stakeholders were likely to have roles in the delivery of the LAEP itself.

A number of engagement workshops took place and stakeholders were also invited to feedback on the draft plan before it as finalised.

2. What do you know about the views or experiences of people who may be affected by your decision?

Views of stakeholders were varied and were used to shape and develop the plan.

Part 3: Assessment

This section requires you to assess the potential impact of your decision on a range of groups who may experience specific disadvantages. Your assessment should be supported by evidence – either from your own engagement/consultation, similar or previous engagement, what you already know about the people who access your service, or from local and national sources of information.

Useful documents which set out information about how communities are impacted by inequalities include [EHRC – Is Wales Fairer?](#) and the council's [COVID-19 Community Impact Assessment](#). Your decision may have both positive and negative impacts – if this is the case, please place a cross in both boxes.

1. Impact on people that share Protected Characteristics

[Protected Characteristics](#) are defined under the Equality Act 2010, and describe groups of people who are protected from discrimination, either in the workplace, or through the provision of goods and services. The council must consider how decisions may impact on people differently because of a protected characteristic, and how any negative impact could be reduced. National guidance on assessing equality impacts and the Public Sector Equality Duty can be found [here](#). You can also access further advice and examples of positive and negative impacts [here](#).

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the sections below, considering the Public Sector Equality Duty that the council has to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Promote equal opportunity across different groupsPromote community cohesionHelp eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation
	Positive	Negative	Neither	

Protected characteristic	Impact:			<p>Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the sections below, considering the Public Sector Equality Duty that the council has to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote equal opportunity across different groups Promote community cohesion Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The impact of climate change on younger people and future generations are likely to be greater than other sections of the community as temperatures are likely to rise as time goes on.</p> <p>Extremes in weather tend to impact more greatly on the most vulnerable and those with existing health conditions so older people could also be impacted more greatly. There is a higher risk of heat related illness and mortality and older people are more susceptible to poor air quality and wildfire smoke. However, warmer winters are projected to decrease cold related deaths.</p> <p>The Local Area Energy Plan seeks to reduce carbon emissions and therefore will support the prevention of the worst impacts of climate change so there could be a positive impact for these age groups.</p>
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Extremes in weather tend to impact more greatly on the most vulnerable and those with existing health conditions so disabled people are likely to be impacted to a greater degree by climate change. There will be negative impacts on some conditions such as mental health problems, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and diabetes. In addition, those with respiratory conditions are more susceptible to poor air quality and wildfire smoke.</p> <p>The Local Area Energy Plan seeks to reduce carbon emissions and therefore will support the prevention of the worst impacts of climate change so there could be a positive impact for disabled people.</p>
Gender Reassignment/ Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no specific impacts for gender reassignment or transgender.

Protected characteristic	Impact:			<p>Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the sections below, considering the Public Sector Equality Duty that the council has to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote equal opportunity across different groups 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Marriage or civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no specific impacts for those that are married or in a civil partnership.
Pregnancy or maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no specific impacts for those that are pregnant or on maternity.
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>There are no specific impacts for race. However, ethnic minorities in Newport tend to live in the most deprived areas in Newport.</p> <p>For example, poor air quality combined with health impacts of deprivation interact to modify and strengthen associations with all-cause and respiratory disease mortality especially in the ‘most’ deprived areas where the most-vulnerable people live and where health needs are the greatest.</p> <p>In addition, ethnic minorities tend to have poorer health outcomes, lower disability-free life expectancy and higher rates of cardiovascular disease and diabetes which are all negatively affected by the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>The Local Area Energy Plan seeks to reduce carbon emissions and therefore will support the mitigation and adaptation of the impacts of climate change in the local area so has the potential to have a positive impact or to reduce the likelihood of a negative impact.</p>
Religion or Belief or non-belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no specific impacts on religion, beliefs or non-beliefs.
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no specific impacts on gender.

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the sections below, considering the Public Sector Equality Duty that the council has to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote equal opportunity across different groups Promote community cohesion Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no specific impacts on sexual orientation.

2. Impact on Welsh Language

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure specifies that for all policy decisions, the council must consider the effects (both positive and negative) on the Welsh language. For further guidance on Welsh language considerations see [here](#).

	Impact:			
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There will be no impact on the Welsh Language. The final report is translated to Welsh. When implementing the plan providing services in Welsh will need to be considered.

1. Please describe how you have ensured your engagement has considered the view of Welsh speakers in Newport.

The final plan is translated to Welsh.

3. The Sustainable Development Principle

The Well-being of Future Generations Act puts in place a sustainable development principle which helps organisations consider the impact they could have on people living in Wales in the future, and ensure they are focused on tackling long-term challenges. Below, consider how your decision promotes, advances, or contradicts the [5 ways of working](#) which underpin the sustainable development principle. You can access further guidance on considering the sustainable development principle [here](#).

<p>Long term</p> 	<p><i>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</i></p>	<p>The Local Area Energy Plan will have long term benefits for current and future generations by reducing carbon emissions and reducing the impacts of climate change.</p>
<p>Prevention</p> 	<p><i>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</i></p>	<p>In the UK, it is forecast that we will experience changing weather patterns with stronger storms occurring more often, bringing an increased risk of flooding to local areas. During the summer months temperatures will continue to rise, bringing heatwaves and drought.</p> <p>These changes will affect the quality of land, land use, and agriculture. Water and air quality will continue to worsen, and there will be changes to local ecology and wildlife biodiversity as a result of this, with some local species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>With agriculture being affected, the cost of food will increase along with the cost of living. Damage to land and infrastructure will result in an increased strain on public services and local economies.</p> <p>Changes in temperatures will also result in pests settling further north due to the warmer climate which will bring with them more diseases, not usually seen in the UK. Changes to the climate will also bring with it new forms of illnesses linked to extremes in temperatures, with the young and the elderly being most affected. The health system will continue to be put under even more pressure.</p>

			The Local Area Energy Plan will support the prevention of the worst impacts of climate change.
Integration		<i>Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</i>	Limiting climate change and reducing our carbon emissions are key to achieving all of our well-being objectives and the well-being goals.
Collaboration		<i>Working together to deliver objectives.</i>	Public and private stakeholders have worked together on the development of the plan.
Involvement		<i>Involving those with an interest and seeking their view - ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area.</i>	Stakeholders were involved in a number of engagement workshops throughout the development of the plan. They were also invited to feedback on the draft plan before it as finalised.

4. Socio-economic Duty

The [Socio-economic Duty](#) is set out in the Equality Act 2010, and requires the council, when making strategic decisions, to pay due regard to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome that result from socio-economic disadvantage. Inequalities of outcome are felt most acutely in areas such as health, education, work, living standards, justice and personal security, and participation.

A 'strategic decision' is defined by Welsh Government as a decision **which affects how the council fulfils its statutory purpose over a significant period of time and does not include routine 'day to day' decisions.** Strategic decisions include:

- Corporate plans
- Setting wellbeing, equality and other strategic objectives
- Changes to, or development of public services
- Strategic financial planning
- Strategic policy development

If you do not think your decision meets this definition, and you do not plan on carrying out a Socio-economic Duty Assessment in this section, please provide your rationale below. Any decision which is presented to a Cabinet Member, at Cabinet or Council will be viewed as a strategic decision.

If your decision does meet the definition, please consider the impact of your decision on the socio-economically disadvantaged groups, and areas of inequality that may arise from socio-economic disadvantage contained in the matrix below. The groups listed are not exhaustive and you should consider any additional groups relevant to your decision who may experience socio-economic disadvantage in the following ways:

- **Low Income/Income Poverty** - cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.
- **Low and/or no Wealth** - enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future
- **Material Deprivation** - unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.)
- **Area Deprivation** - where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport)
- Socio-economic Background – for example, parents’ education, employment and income

Indicate a positive or negative impact, or both where they apply, and the severity of this impact by coding the sections of the grid based on the below. *If there is no/neutral impact, please leave blank.*

Negative Impact		Positive Impact	
N1	Negative impact – mild	P1	Positive impact – mild
N2	Negative impact – moderate	P2	Positive impact – moderate
N3	Negative impact – significant	P3	Positive impact – significant
N4	Potential for negative impact (but unsure)	P4	Potential for positive impact (but unsure)

Areas of inequality that may arise from socio-economic disadvantage – definitions
Education :The capability to be knowledgeable, to understand and reason, and to have the skills and opportunity to participate in the labour market and in society
Work : The capability to work in just and favourable conditions, to have the value of your work recognised, even if unpaid, to not be prevented from working and to be free from slavery, forced labour and other forms of exploitation

Living Standards: The capability to enjoy a comfortable standard of living, in appropriate housing, with independence and security, and to be cared for and supported when necessary.							
Justice, Personal Security and Community Safety: The capability to avoid premature mortality, live in security, and knowing you will be protected and treated fairly by the law							
Health: The capability to be healthy, physically and mentally, being free in matters of sexual relationships and reproduction, and having autonomy over care and treatment and being cared for in the final stages of your life							
Participation: The capability to participate in decision making and in communities, access services, know your privacy will be respected, and express yourself							
Groups							
Groups	Areas of inequality						
	Living Standards	Work	Health	Education	Justice and community safety	Participation	Physical Environment
Children living in poverty	P4		P4				P4
Low income households without dependent children	P4	P4	P4				P4
Unemployed young people		P4					
Long term unemployed		P4					
Homeless households							
Refugees, migrants and asylum seekers							
Deprived neighbourhoods - WIMD rank in 10% most deprived LSOA	P4	P4	P4				P4
People on Universal Credit / income related benefits	P4		P4				P4
Adults with no qualifications or low qualifications							
People living in low quality housing or in Houses of Multiple Occupation	P4		P4				P4

1. What evidence do you have about socioeconomic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome in relation to this decision?

There are multiple benefits for decarbonisation of the energy system from a socio-economic perspective. A direct impact of the Local Area Energy Plan will be the improved energy efficiency in homes across the city that which will reduce fuel costs and help with fuel poverty.

The Local Area Energy Plan will support the mitigation and adaptation of the impacts of climate change in the local area so has the potential to have a positive impact or to reduce the likelihood of a negative impact.

Public Health studies have shown that the impacts of climate change such as poor air quality, poor health, poor physical environment tend to have the biggest impacts in deprived areas.

For example, poor air quality combined with health impacts of deprivation interact to modify and strengthen associations with all-cause and respiratory disease mortality especially in the 'most' deprived areas where the most-vulnerable people live and where health needs are the greatest.

The Local Area Energy Plan provides a framework to reduce carbon emissions across the city and mitigate against the impacts described above.

2. Please describe how you have ensured your engagement has considered the views of people living in Newport who are affected by socio-economic disadvantage.

Registered Social Landlords were involved in engagement process.

3. Does this decision contribute to a cumulative impact?

No.

Part 3: Actions and Outcomes

Considering any negative impacts that you have identified, indicate below how you will reduce these, and how you will monitor potential impact. Further guidance on how to complete your action plan can be found [here](#).

IMPACT ON PEOPLE THAT SHARE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS			
Summary of impact	Action to reduce negative impact	How this impact will be monitored	Owner
IMPACT ON WELSH LANGUAGE			
Summary of impact	Action to reduce negative impact	How this impact will be monitored	Owner

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS			
Summary of impact	Action to reduce negative impact	How this impact will be monitored	Owner
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLE			
Summary of impact	Action to reduce negative impact	How this impact will be monitored	Owner

Once your FEIA is complete, please forward to nccequality@newport.gov.uk