

Report

Cabinet



Part 1

Date: 18 September 2024

Subject City Centre Placemaking Plan – Cross Party Task and Finish Group

Purpose To agree the creation of a cross-party task and finish working group to provide input to the development of the new Placemaking Plan for Newport City Centre.

Author Regeneration and Place Manager

Ward All

Summary In January 2024, Newport City Council commenced work to develop a new Placemaking Plan for Newport City Centre, replacing the current City Centre Masterplan launched in 2018. The Placemaking Plan will reflect the current and future aspirations for the city centre, ensuring in particular that genuine engagement with all stakeholders is a foundation for the development of the plan.

A Steering Group is in place to provide oversight on the development of the plan, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Democratic Services, and includes private and third sector membership alongside senior officers of the Council. The final plan will be reviewed by the One Newport (Local Delivery Group of the Gwent Public Service Board) before being recommended for adoption by the Council.

The final plan will aim to present a vision and strategy for the future of the city centre that all stakeholders can own, champion and endorse. It is therefore essential that all democratically elected political parties and groupings have the opportunity to contribute to the Plan.

A task and finish group, drawn from across the political representation of the Council, that sits as a sub-group to the Placemaking Plan Steering Group, is recommended as the vehicle for ensuring this cross-party input takes place.

Proposal To agree the creation of a cross-party task and finish working group to provide input to the development of the new Placemaking Plan for Newport City Centre. To be chaired by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and operated in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached as Appendix 1.

Action by Head of Regeneration and Economic Development

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Director for Environment and Sustainability
- Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Democratic Services

- Head of People, Policy and Transformation
- Interim Head of Law and Standards
- Head of Finance

Signed

Background

In January 2024, Newport City Council commenced work to develop a new Placemaking Plan for Newport City Centre, replacing the current City Centre Masterplan launched in 2018.

Whilst the previous City Centre Masterplan had achieved a number of significant milestones, the post-Covid world, cost of living crisis and the UK exit from the EU has changed the way people use and interact with the City Centre. The strategy and approach to delivering a thriving city centre therefore needs to adjust to better reflect the context of 2024.

The Placemaking Plan will reflect the current and future aspirations for the city centre and the needs of the diverse groups who use it. The Plan is also informed by wider Welsh Government policy in respect of towns and city centres, and the principles of the Design Commission for Wales' Placemaking Charter.

Engagement with all stakeholders is an integral part of the development of the plan. This is essential in order to ensure that the vision and strategy for the future of the city centre is owned, championed and endorsed by all stakeholders. It is therefore essential that all democratically elected political parties and groupings have the opportunity to contribute to the Plan. A task and finish group, drawn from across the political representation of the Council, that sits as a sub-group to the Placemaking Plan Steering Group, is recommended as the vehicle for ensuring this cross-party input takes place.

The Council's constitution requires Cabinet approval for the creation of a cross party task and finish group.

Composition and Operation of the Task and Finish Group

The purpose of the group is ultimately to ensure the full range of political views are taken into account in the development of the Placemaking Plan. Appendix 1 contains the proposed Terms of Reference but in summary confirms that the group will not formally make decisions on the shape and content of the plan, but will have the capability to make recommendations to the Steering Group in respect of progress and composition.

The Task and Finish Group will be chaired by the Cabinet Member responsible for Regeneration, currently the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Democratic Services and is intended to meet on a monthly basis until the plan is adopted, currently anticipated to be December 2024. The group may require more frequent meetings at key points in the development of the emerging plan but this will be at the discretion of the Chair.

The Terms of Reference outline the composition of the group and all represented groups will have the opportunity to select their own nominated attendee. The Group will select one member to join the full Steering Group in order to ensure that the views and recommendations of the T&F Group are represented and considered in respect of any decisions relating to the production of the Placemaking Plan.

Financial Summary

There are no budgetary implications associated with the formation of this Task and Finish Group. Relevant support will be provided by officers and consultants already appointed from existing budgets.

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Corporate Plan 2022-27

Regeneration and Economic Development Service Plan 2022-27

Economic Growth Strategy

Local Development Plan

Options Available and considered

1. To agree the creation of a cross-party task and finish working group to provide input to the development of the new Placemaking Plan for Newport City Centre. To be chaired by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and operated in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached as Appendix 1.
2. To reject the resolution and proceed in developing the plan without this cross-party input.

Preferred Option and Why

1. For the Cabinet to agree to the creation of a cross party Task and Finish Group, operating under the Terms of Reference contained in Appendix 1. This will ensure that the views of all political parties within the Council are represented and taken into consideration in the development and delivery of the forthcoming Placemaking Plan.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

This is a proposal to set up a task and finish group to review the Council's placemaking plan and as the report states, in itself has no financial impacts.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

This is a proposal to set up a task and finish group to review the Council's placemaking plan. This group will be subordinate to the Placemaking Plan Steering Group and will be politically representative of the overall makeup of the membership of the Council, in accordance with the Council's Constitution. The group will have no decision-making power but may make and consider proposals and make recommendations. The Council's Code of Conduct shall apply to Members' participation in meetings and other activities of the Group.

Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation

The report requests Cabinet to agree to the creation of a cross-party Task and Finish Group to support the development of the new Placemaking Plan for Newport City Centre. This supports the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27 vision of 'an ambitious, fairer, greener Newport for everyone', and supports its four Well-being Objectives.

The principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and its five ways of working are supported, with the overall placemaking plan considering both short-term and long-term priorities to prevent problems from taking place or getting worse across our communities. To increase involvement the Task and Finish Group provides democratically elected parties and groups the opportunity to collaboratively support the development of the Placemaking Plan.

A Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment was not required but the creation of the cross-party Task and Finish Group will support the council's fairness and equality commitments and will be reflected in the FEIA for the Placemaking Plan itself. There are no staffing or HR related issues arising directly from this report.

Local issues

None.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:






A full Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken. The creation of the group is considered to be of positive impact in terms of the Council's Fairness and Equality Commitments and will be reflected in the FEIA relating to the development and adoption of the Placemaking Plan.

Welsh Language Standards:

The final Placemaking Plan will be published in Welsh and English on the Council's website. Where objectives, actions and projects are delivered, these will consider the Welsh Language Standards as required.

Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

Under the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 this proposal supports the 5 ways of working in the following way:

 <p>Long Term</p>	<p>The Placemaking Plan supports the long term Well-being Objectives and strategic priorities of Newport City Council and the wider regional and national delivery. Guidance on Placemaking emphasises the consideration of both short and long term impacts against each of the Plan objectives and actions in the development of the Plan. In the decision making of the Steering group in relation to specific projects and work, the long term impacts based upon the principles set out in the Well-being Act and as part of any FEIA will be considered.</p> <p>As the Plan is completed the Steering Group will review and consider any emerging opportunities and risks and update the Plan as necessary. The Task and Finish group will support this process of review and critical consideration.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p>	<p>In line with Placemaking guidance, collaboration is at the heart of the creation and delivery of the final plan alike. The Task and Finish group is an opportunity to ensure the plan is developed in local collaboration with representatives of democratically elected parties and groups.</p> <p>As the Placemaking Plan will ultimately be recommended for adoption by One Newport (Local Delivery Group of the Gwent Public Service Board), the Plan complements and benefits from existing partnership arrangements to support the delivery of its objectives.</p> <p>Many of the priorities, programmes and projects in the Plan are building on what the Council and other partners have set out in their own individual strategies and plans as well as the priorities set at national and regional levels in Wales.</p> <p>The Steering Group that oversees the development of the Plan, to whom this Task and Finish group will make recommendations, is drawn from across all sectors to share ideas, find innovative and sustainable solutions to tackle the many issues faced by the city centre.</p>
 <p>Involvement</p>	<p>Participatory engagement is a driving mechanism for the Placemaking approach. Significant resources are dedicated to achieving collaborative input from the full range of users of the city centre, including ensuring that hard to reach groups and individuals are afforded the same opportunity to contribute as others.</p>
 <p>Integration</p>	<p>The Placemaking Plan supports the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27 and its Well-being Objectives. It is also a key deliverable within the Regeneration and Economic Development Service Plan.</p> <p>The Council will be working with all those invested in the city centre to ensure there is synergy between the Plan and the aspirations of individual organisations to ensure the benefits of the Plan are realised.</p> <p>Prior to adoption by the Council, the plan will be presented for endorsement to One Newport (Local Delivery Group of the Gwent Public Service Board), as a means of ensuring the plan complements and supports the aims across the strategic partnership.</p> <p>This will also mean considering and integrating the Well-being Act's sustainable principle and of 5 ways of working, Equality Impact Assessment including Socio-economic duty, and Marmot principles in the decisions we make.</p>
 <p>Prevention</p>	<p>Each of the objectives have considered the actions that we will need to take now to prevent problems from taking place or getting worse across our communities and Council services in the long-term. The Placemaking Plan will identify opportunities to tackle the challenges faced by those using the city centre that affect its performance and perception, and seeking to understand the root causes of these issues in setting out the approach to addressing them.</p>

	<p>The Task and Finish Group will be included in the setting of objectives and actions, all of which will aim to address the issues being faced now and to find long term solutions to prevent impacts on future generations.</p>
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	<p>Through involvement and collaboration with our partners, communities and businesses we will be designing and delivering services to improve their outcomes and ensure long term sustainability for communities and the Council.</p>
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Consultation

None.

Background Papers

None.

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference



Placemaking Plan
TF Group ToR Final

Dated: 10 September 2024

Terms of Reference for the Newport Placemaking Plan Cross-Party Task and Finish Group

Introduction

The Terms of Reference for the Newport Placemaking Plan (PMP) Cross-Party Task and Finish Group are described in the following sections:

- A. Overview and governance context
- B. Functions
- C. Operating practice
- D. Operating protocols
- E. Membership
- F. Conflicts of Interest

A. Overview and governance context

1. The Placemaking Plan for Newport City Centre is a new strategy aimed at setting a new vision for the city centre which enables it to thrive over the coming ten years. The Placemaking approach differs from previous masterplans, in particular by ensuring that genuine engagement across the full range of stakeholders is the foundation of the plan and its objectives.
2. The strategy is not a document for Newport City Council, or any one political party, but is intended to present a vision and strategy for the future of the city centre that all stakeholders can champion and endorse.
3. Cross-party input is therefore vital to ensure there is full representation and support for the plan and its objectives, across the political spectrum.
4. In terms of governance, a Steering Group is in place guiding the creation of the plan, which includes representatives from across a range of city centre businesses and the third sector as well as having Welsh Government representation. The Steering Group is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Democratic Services.
5. The final plan (and associated action plans) will be overseen by One Newport (Local Delivery Group of the Gwent Public Service Board) and its constituent partners before it is formally adopted by the Council.
6. The purpose of the Task and Finish Group is to form a sub-group beneath the Placemaking Plan Steering Group, providing a cross-party perspective, advice and commentary on the development of the plan. A representative of the Task and Finish Group will be invited to join the Steering Group in order to communicate the recommendations and views of the Task and Finish Group. The representative will be nominated and agreed by the Task and Finish Group on the basis of majority agreement.

B. Operating practice of the Newport PMP Cross-Party Task and Finish Group

7. The Task and Finish Group will be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Democratic Services, who may delegate this function to another member of the Task and Finish group as required.
8. The Group will meet in person by preference but can operate under hybrid arrangements, with any urgent items able to be agreed by written procedure in agreement with the Chair.
9. The recommendations of the Task and Finish Group shall be made by majority vote, although the minutes will record any members that do not agree with the recommendations.
10. Where there is an equal number of votes for and against a proposal, recommendation or decision of the Group, The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Democratic Services as Chair shall have a second or casting vote.
11. Recommendations to the full Steering Group will be made both in writing and in person by the representative member selected by the Task and Finish Group. There is no obligation on the Steering Group to accept these recommendations, but feedback will be provided to the Task and Finish Group.
12. Representation in the group will take account of the political composition of the Council and will reflect the proportional representation across the major parties and independently elected members at a ratio of 1 place per 7 elected members (rounded up to the nearest whole number).

All registered political parties will have at least one representative. Independent members forming a recognised group of at least 3 representatives will also be invited to nominate one member.

13. In line with paragraph 12, the Chair will issue an invite to all parties and independent groupings asking them to nominate a representative for the Task and Finish Group, who can commit to taking part in the group and its function for the duration of the development of the Placemaking Plan.
14. The Task and Finish Group will be wound up once the Placemaking Plan has been formally adopted by the Council, or earlier at the discretion of the Chair or Cabinet.

C. Operating protocols of the Newport PMP Cross-Party Task and Finish Group

15. Membership of the Task and Finish Group is set out in Section D. Members are requested not to send substitutes without the prior agreement of the Chair. Other persons may be invited to attend at or address meetings at the discretion of the Chair.
16. Members shall be subject to the Council's Code of Conduct when attending meetings and acting on behalf of the Task and Finish Group, including with regard to the declaration of interests.
17. Where a member ceases to be a member of the Task and Finish Group, a replacement member may be nominated by that member's group leader.
18. The Task and Finish group will be supported by officers, who will provide administrative and advisory support. Appointed consultants may also be brought in to advise and update the group (where appropriate).
19. The meetings are private, but a record of the Task and Finish group meetings will be provided to the PMP Steering Group to ensure transparency on decisions relating to Task and Finish group recommendations.

D. Membership

20. The membership of the Newport PMP Cross-Party Task and Finish Group reflects the democratically elected body

Member	Role/Party Representation
Councillor James Clarke	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Democratic Services (Chair)
	Labour
	Labour
	Labour
	Labour
	Conservative
	Green
	Lliswerry Independents
	Newport Independent Party