

Report

Cabinet



Part 1

Date: 22 February 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 since March 2020 and has impacted all communities and businesses across Newport as the City has continued to adapt and respond to the necessary restrictions to minimise the spread of the virus. Newport Council's response has been to ensure continuity of services with our strategic partners, support vulnerable residents across communities, support businesses and ensure the safety of staff. This report provides an overview of what action the Council has taken to date and the progress against the Strategic Recovery Aims.

Since the last Cabinet Report in January, the Council and its partners have continued to monitor the Covid-19 cases in the City through its role at the multi-agency Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG), the Council's Emergency Response Team (Covid Gold) and liaison with Welsh Government (WG) and Public Health Wales partners. The Newport area is currently at the highest alert level.

Proposal Cabinet is asked to consider the contents of the report and note the progress being made to date, the risks that are still faced by the Council.

Action by Corporate Management Team

Timetable Immediate

Signed

Background

Since the last Cabinet Report on 8th January 2021, Newport Council and its partners have continued to monitor the Covid-19 cases in the City through its role at the multi-agency Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG), the Council's Emergency Response Team (Covid Gold) and liaison with Welsh Government (WG) and Public Health Wales partners.

Covid-19 Response February 2021

The national Covid restrictions ([Alert Level Four](#)) have been in place across Wales since 20th December 2020 (eight weeks as at 21st February 2021). During this period of time, Wales and Newport has seen the rolling 7 day average of positive Covid cases reduce significantly. Latest figures can be accessed through the [Public Health Wales Covid-19 Dashboards](#). The Welsh Government has been cautious in its approach to the easing of restrictions due to the new Covid variants and after half term will see Primary school infant children (3-7) return. It is expected for further easing will take place over the next few months.

Throughout the winter period, the Health Service across Wales has been under significant pressure in managing the high number of Covid cases and sadly the Covid-19 related deaths has now increased to over 5,000. This has also resulted in vital services being diverted to manage the Covid cases in hospital settings.

The rollout of the Covid vaccine commenced in December and over the last three months over 600,000 vaccinations have been administered throughout Wales. All residents in Newport will receive their letters at some point this year notifying them to attend a mass vaccination centre or their local GPs. It is important for everyone to receive the vaccine but also to ensure that those who have received their vaccine continue to follow the necessary restrictions and guidance in place.

Newport Council's services have continued to operate adhering to the restrictions in place. Following the festive period, schools were open to key workers' children, with remaining children and young people learning from home. Many areas of the Council's buildings remained closed but front line services have remained operational. Residents and businesses can access the necessary information from the Council's [website](#) or contact the Council's contact centre.

Newport Council Activity and Progress in delivering Strategic Recovery Aims

Newport Council's Recovery Group (consisting of the Chief Executive and Heads of Service) are monitoring and reporting ongoing issues and incidents throughout the Christmas period and into the New Year. Service areas have continued as much as possible to deliver business as usual services albeit from home and if required front line to residents and service users (in line with social distancing restrictions). Summarised below and also in Appendix 1 of this report, is a summary of Council work to 12th February 2021. This update includes work from our partner Newport Live.

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 12 th February 2021
Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools did not open fully following the Christmas and New Year break but are currently providing blended learning and offering face to face tuition to children of critical workers and vulnerable learners.• We await further information regarding the full re-opening of schools from Welsh Government.• As of 19th January, 37 primary schools have reported 163 positive cases.• All 9 secondary schools have now had positive cases with 120 cases reported.• 2 of the special schools have reported 8 positive cases between them and 1 nursery has also reported a positive case.• As at 15th January 2021, there are 6,333 pupils across Newport assessed as being eligible for free school meals.

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 12 th February 2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly £19.50 vouchers were issued for the first two weeks of the new term, with a fortnightly £39.00 voucher subsequently being provided for the last two weeks of January 2021. • 231 Welsh Government EdTech funded digital devices for schools have been received. We are expecting receipt of around 2,000 further devices over the next month. • Newport Live's Alternative Education programme (vulnerable learners) based at the Connect Centre (Pillgwenlly) is in full operation, with blended learning approaches being provided to 31 young people via Education, Bridge Achievement Service, and various Secondary Schools. • Community Learning will continue to be delivered online in line with the latest WG guidance. All supported young people in the Aspire programme have access to a Chromebook.
Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Government Covid-19 discretionary Business Support continues, with 1,083 jobs protected to date. • Currently processing 760 ERF Christmas Restrictions grants at £2k each. • Thematic Winter Trading grants totalling £118,820 have now been offered to 17 city centre businesses to support them in developing new ways of trading. • Heritage Lottery Fund have announced that £8.75m of funding has been awarded for the repair, restoration and provision of a visitor centre at the Transporter Bridge. • Officers from Trading Standards and Licensing continue to carry out checks on businesses to ensure they are safe and COVID secure. Where non-compliance was identified, officers took appropriate action.
Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity in domiciliary care services has recovered following the backlog leading into the Christmas period. The roll out of the vaccine is also supporting this. • The day service have remained closed in line with Tier 4 restrictions but community outreach continues. • Home First are well established at the new Grange Hospital and supporting people to return home who do not need hospital admission. • Mobile vaccination units attending older persons care homes • Vaccine being rolled out to internal front line staff and provider services • Environmental Health retains ability to respond to highest risk issues through the pandemic however Covid-19 response is the priority of the service. • Food Safety, Housing, H&S, and Environmental Permitting functions have each been scaled back to minimum levels in order to facilitate the Covid-19 Response. • Working with our partners Newport Live to deliver a range of programmes throughout the pandemic.
Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological support in place, training provided to stakeholders and support provision commenced. • Completed SHG scheme utilised to provide move on accommodation for those in supported housing or temporary accommodation via development of a revised local lettings procedure. • Urgent DFG adaptations continue to be delivered where risk can be mitigated in line with WG clarification letter. • Participatory budgeting ongoing and Council is consulting on the 2021/22 budget and Leisure Centre proposals in the city centre. • We are currently seeking to implement a new Welsh Government scheme to improve access to the private rented sector for homeless households. This is a 'Pathfinder' trial for up to 10 properties.

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 12 th February 2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hubs continue to provide emergency support for some of our most vulnerable residents.

Financial Summary

The Council's financial (revenue and capital) update is reported separately as part of the Council's budget management. The Covid-19 impact is reported to Cabinet and as highlighted in previous finance reports, the Council's financial position continues to be closely monitored in light of significant reductions in income and increase in costs to deliver services during the crisis.

Risk(s)

Through the Council's Risk Management process, the Covid-19 risk is reported every quarter to the Council's Cabinet and Audit Committee. Below is the latest update taken from the Quarter 3 2020/21 risk report update which will be presented to Cabinet in March.

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (1-5)	Probability of risk occurring (1-5)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Covid 19 Pandemic Risk (Corporate Risk)	5	5	Mitigation measures outlined in the report.	Corporate Management Team

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Corporate Plan 2017-22
Strategic Recovery Aims

Options Available and considered

- To consider and note the contents of the report and for Cabinet / Cabinet Members to receive updates from officers as part of their portfolio.
- To request further information or reject the contents of the report

Preferred Option and Why

- 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 excludes 'Council Tax loss of income' which is currently under significant strain and is monitored carefully. The fund will run to the end of the current financial year. It is continually developing and evolving to support specific initiatives as and when required.

In essence, Covid related, eligible expenditure is predominantly funded by the WG. A revenue budget monitor to end of November is being reported to January Cabinet and confirms a positive overall position for the Council and includes the impact of the financial assistance provided from the Hardship Fund as well as the normal and routine budget issues that affect the Council.

All costs which are not eligible for WG funding will need to be funded from services own budgets and will be reported as and when they develop over the year. Service areas have been asked to minimise these, wherever possible, where they create overspending.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report, which provides an update on the actions taken to deliver the Council's Strategic Recovery Aims and progress since the January 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, there has been a sustained reduction in the number of cases being referred to the TTP team for contact tracing and the positivity levels, in the light of the continuing lock-down restrictions. Therefore, with the recruitment of additional contact tracers and advisers, the TTP team are now coping well with the tracing work and are able to undertake more detailed backward tracing to try to identify specific issues in relation to identified clusters. They are also able to offer mutual aid and assistance to other area teams. There has also been increased activity in terms of the roll-out of testing and vaccination centres. The Covid enforcement work continues, with greater emphasis on the sale of non-essential goods and the service of premises improvement notices where social distancing rules and guidance have been breached. Licence reviews have also been commenced where there have been significant breaches of the restriction in licensed premises.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

The recovery of the Council's services is important to ensure that we are able to build on the strong collaborative work that the Council has delivered throughout 2020 to manage this crisis. The role of Civil Contingencies, emergency planning and preparation is vital to ensure that the Council is able to continue to deliver services but also minimise the risks posed on Newport's communities as new restrictions are implemented.

The Council's supporting services and our partners are building on the advancements made to ensure we are able to operate safely and maintain the necessary social distance guidelines. The progress detailed in this report highlights the continuous work that is being made and build up resilience in the long term.

The HR implications are as outlined in the report as we continue to support the workforce through provision of equipment and a range of wellbeing measures.

Comments of Cabinet Member

The Leader of the Council is briefed on all aspects of the Council's strategic recovery.

Local issues

Members to be aware of the impacts that Covid is having on our Local Communities and business.

Scrutiny Committees

NA

Equalities Impact Assessment

The findings outlined in the Council's Covid-19 Community Impact Assessment have informed the development of the Strategic Recovery Aims as well as future strategic and operational decision making.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

Not applicable.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The areas covered in this report demonstrate the progress being made against the Strategic Recovery Aims which also support the Council's Corporate Plan 2017-22.

In consideration of the sustainable development principle and 5 ways of working:

Long Term – The progress reported against the Strategic Aims support the long term aims of the Council to improve people's lives.

Preventative – The preventative work outlined in the report support the Council's approach to minimising future covid 19 outbreaks and as necessary provide targeted support to those that need it. Re-establishing services in line with necessary legislation and regulation enables the Council to operate in the new normal.

Integration – The Strategic Recovery Aims have been integrated with the Council's Wellbeing Objectives set in the Corporate Plan as well as Service Plans. Recommendations from the Community Impact Assessment will also shape how the Council can improve the delivery of services across communities.

Involvement – Included in this report are actions to involve Newport's communities to provide assurance and shape the way in which services are being delivered by the Council. Their feedback and involvement in the process will enable the Council to consider how services are delivered in the long term.

Collaboration - The actions in the report are being undertaken in collaboration with partners from the Council's Public Services Board but also strategic partners within each service area. The collaborative work enables the Council to share resources and build expertise and knowledge.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Not applicable.

Consultation

Senior Leadership Team

Corporate Management Team

Officer leads across the Authority

Background Papers

Cabinet Report (Strategic Recovery Aims) – July 2020

Corporate Plan 2017-22

Strategic Recovery Aims

Dated: 22 February 2021

Appendix 1 – Progress of Delivery against Strategic Recovery Aims (to 12th February 2021)

Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment.

Understand, and respond to, the additional challenges, which Covid19 has presented, including loss of employment, impact on business and on the progress, achievement and wellbeing of both mainstream and vulnerable learners.

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

Strategic Aim Step	February'21 Update
Support schools and other educational establishments to safely reopen for staff and pupils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools did not open fully following the Christmas and New Year break but are currently providing blended learning and offering face to face tuition to children of critical workers and vulnerable learners. • As of 19th January, 37 primary schools have reported 163 positive cases. All 9 secondary schools have now had positive cases with 120 cases reported. 2 of the special schools have reported 8 positive cases between them and 1 nursery has also reported a positive case. • Arrangements have been made for the now established supermarket voucher scheme to continue to support free school meal pupils whilst wholesale face-to-face learning has been temporarily ceased. As at 15th January 2021, there are 6,333 pupils across Newport assessed as being eligible for free school meals. Weekly £19.50 vouchers were issued for the first two weeks of the new term, with a fortnightly £39.00 voucher subsequently being provided for the last two weeks of January 2021. We await further information regarding the full re-opening of schools from Welsh Government. • Due to the reduction in face-to-face learning, the provision of schools meals through Chartwells has been suspended. The only exception relates to some specifically identified vulnerable pupils or children of critical workers on roll at either Maes Ebbw School or Ysgol Bryn Derw who are attending school each day and who have specific dietary requirements. The Chartwells provision is continuing for these pupils (including Breakfast Club services). Supermarket vouchers are therefore not being provided to free school meal pupils falling within these identified groups of learners. • Given the suspension of the school meals service and the provision of supermarket vouchers, all vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers currently attending schools across the City for face-to-face learning are required to bring a packed lunch to school with them each day. • Home to school transport is being provided for any vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers attending school for face-to-face learning if they ordinarily benefit from this entitlement. • School cleaning services procured through Newport Norse are continuing to operate to support face-to-face learning requirements. • As at 15th January 2021, there have been no requests to the Education Service from schools for priority testing for symptomatic pupils.
Work to prevent and reduce inequality of progress and outcomes in education for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance continues to be monitored closely. National comparative data indicates that 58.0% of pupils were present in schools in Newport during the week ending 11/12/20 (ranked 19th in Wales.) An average of 23.2% of pupils were present in schools in Newport during the week ending 18/12/20 (ranked 8th in Wales).

Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment.

Understand, and respond to, the additional challenges, which Covid19 has presented, including loss of employment, impact on business and on the progress, achievement and wellbeing of both mainstream and vulnerable learners.

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

Strategic Aim Step	February'21 Update
mainstream and vulnerable learners.	
Support schools to enhance and develop digital skills; digital teaching and learning platforms; and enhanced support for digitally excluded learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work to improve the IT infrastructure in schools is ongoing. 27 schools have migrated to the SRS Schools Edu network to date.• 231 Welsh Government EdTech funded digital devices for schools have been received. We are expecting receipt of around 2,000 further devices over the next month.
Support and enable people that are digitally excluded to access community IT programmes, Council services and other public services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Learning will continue to be delivered online in line with the latest WG guidance. All supported young people in the Aspire programme have access to a Chromebook.
Support people who have been affected by unemployment to access new opportunities through training and re-employment required for post Covid 19 businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DWP Kickstart Scheme –grant offer letter received. The service managers are working on the vacancy template to recruit via the scheme.• Restart Scheme - Work has progressed with Prime providers on the Framework to secure the Newport Delivery. We have been successful in being named in each provider's supply chain. DWP will announce the successful Prime at the end of April, we will then have a 9 week implementation period prior to the contract going live in July 2021.
Ensure our diverse communities are appropriately supported through tailored interventions specific to their needs, including consideration of language, culture and points of access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vulnerable and key worker children continue to be accommodated at Flying Start settings.• Newport Live's Alternative Education programme (vulnerable learners) based at the Connect Centre (Pillgwenlly) is in full operation, with blended learning approaches being provided to 31 young people via Education, Bridge Achievement Service, and various Secondary Schools.• The Levelling the Playing Fields project in Newport, part of a national programme with Alliance of Sport and the London Marathon Trust, is delivering and using sport to engage and improve health / life outcomes of BAME children and young people who are at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System locally by Newport Live in partnership with Youth Justice Service, Preventions, the Sanctuary project, Mo's Boxing, Ace's Basketball, Community Youth Project, Yemeni Association, Barnardo's Vietnamese Young people's Group, and Newport Cricket Club.

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	February'21 Update
Maintain our focus on regenerating Newport to deliver existing and new investment projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dispersal of Welsh Government Covid-19 discretionary Business Support continues, with 1,083 jobs protected to date. Currently processing 760 ERF Christmas Restrictions grants at £2k each (employee numbers to follow).• Thematic Winter Trading grants totalling £118,820 have now been offered to 17 city centre businesses to support them in developing new ways of trading.• HLF have announced that £8.7m of funding has been awarded for the repair, restoration and provision of a visitor centre at the Transporter Bridge.
Enable and support the construction industry to re-establish the supply of new and affordable housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have supported RSL partners to make 5 successful bids to the Welsh Government Land for Housing Scheme. Three bids have initially been offered funding and the remaining two are being kept in reserve for when additional funding becomes available.
Enable and support businesses to re-establish normal operations whilst maintaining the health and safety of their workers and customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Officers from Trading Standards and Licensing continue to carry out checks on businesses to ensure they are safe and COVID secure. Officers often work on a sector by sector basis.• Before Christmas supermarkets, barbers and stores were the focus. In January work on supermarkets has continued as well as surveillance at mini-markets (4 Premises Improvement Notices Issued); and licensed premises (1 Premises Improvement Notices Issued and an application for a licence review).• Other sectors subject to activity include; hand car washes, small office environments and take away premises. Officers continue to check that closed premises remain closed and alcohol curfews are respected.• Two off licences sold alcohol to officers have been handed on-the-spot fines.• A kitchen show room has been ordered to close. Most premises are compliant, however, officers report a drop in standards since before Christmas. This has resulted in increased formal action.
Enable and support businesses to prepare for future trade arrangements resulting from Brexit negotiations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NCC continues to monitor implementation of the new Brexit arrangements through the Brexit Task & Finish group.• In Newport, the Council has not received contact from businesses importing or exporting in Europe.• The Council is continuing to engage with EU communities to ensure that EU Settled Status applications are being made and signposting residents to supporting organisations.• A separate Brexit report will be presented at Cabinet in February.
Protect and improve the environment, including air quality and decarbonisation of the city for its residents, businesses and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioning process underway by Welsh Government to recruit a consultant to provide technical support for the LAEP pilot. Evaluation process to take place on the 20th January 2021. Project manager post under development to co-ordinate the pilot and liaise with the consultants.
Continuing support and safe delivery of the Council's City	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essential services including winter maintenance and emergency flooding response is being maintained as a priority.• Normal services are continuing as resources permit in front line maintenance operations• Waste and cleansing operations operating as normal

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	February'21 Update
services including waste, cleansing and highways.	

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	February'21 Update
Support people to remain living independently in their homes and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity in domiciliary care services has recovered following the backlog leading into the Christmas period. The roll out of the vaccine is also supporting this. • The day service have remained closed in line with Tier 4 restrictions but community outreach continues. • We still have a limited number of care homes able to accept admissions but we are not significant delays in hospital discharge at present. • Home First are well established at the new Grange Hospital and supporting people to return home who do not need hospital admission.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination capacity being ramped up • Mobile vaccination units attending older persons care homes • Vaccine being rolled out to internal front line staff and provider services • Newport Centre operating as a vaccination centre from Monday 18th January • Regular WHT processes are in place • Capacity and resilience across the sector are subject to ongoing multi agency monitoring and support processes
Assess the impact and the long-term sustainability of the social care sector in Newport informing future service requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioning team continue to administer payments to providers in accordance with WG funding covering additional provider costs and ensuring all staff who need to be away from work due to Covid receive the full entitlement to sick pay. • We are working with regional commissioning colleges to assess the impact of Covid on the long term sustainability of care homes across Gwent. • This has also been a feature of the financial planning and budget setting for 2021/22
Safeguard and support children and young people to remain safely with their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People Services are operating business as usual utilising the remote working and also supporting families and children.
Improve opportunities for Active Travel and work towards improved air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG Transport Minister gave a statement on the 19th January and published a statement, confirming acceptance of all the Burns recommendations for Newport. • Active Travel schemes continue to be delivered across Newport.

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	February'21 Update
Regulate businesses and support consumers / residents to protect and improve their health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Environmental Health retains ability to respond to highest risk issues through the pandemic however Covid-19 response is the priority of the service.Food Safety, Housing, H&S, and Environmental Permitting functions have each been scaled back to minimum levels in order to facilitate the Covid-19 Response,National regulators now require action in some of these areas including Highest Risk Food Premises. Officer allocated to review the service and begin to develop a service response plan for 2021-2022.Officers from Trading Standards and Licensing continue to carry out checks on businesses to ensure they are safe and COVID secure. Officers often work on a sector by sector basis.Before Christmas supermarkets, barbers and stores were the focus. In January work on supermarkets has continued as well as surveillance at mini-markets (4 Premises Improvement Notices Issued); and licensed premises (1 Premises Improvement Notices Issued and an application for a licence review).Other sectors subject to activity include; hand car washes, small office environments and take away premises. Officers continue to check that closed premises remain closed and alcohol curfews are respected.Two off licences sold alcohol to officers have been handed on-the-spot fines.A kitchen show room has been ordered to close. Most premises are compliant, however, officers report a drop in standards since before Christmas. This has resulted in increased formal action.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No change to restrictions relating to museums, libraries and outdoor attractions.Newport Live's <i>#happyandhealthyathome</i> campaign and social media support, connections, guidance, and advice continues to gain momentum and be well received – providing top tips, art classes, craft, workshops, exercise videos, healthy recipes, mindfulness, and many more messages to keep connected with families and our communities.
Sustain a safe, healthy and productive workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional support has been provided to those working from home by sourcing online training '<i>Maximising Success and Productivity whilst working remotely</i>' and this will run through February and March 2021.Those staff previously shielding in the first set of restrictions are now advised to shield again and not attend a workplace if they cannot work from home.

Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19

Provide people with the resources and support that they need to move out of the crisis, considering in particular the impact that Covid 19 has had on our minority and marginalised communities.

Supports Wellbeing Objective 4 – To build cohesive and sustainable communities

Strategic Aim Step	February'21 Update
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Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19

Provide people with the resources and support that they need to move out of the crisis, considering in particular the impact that Covid 19 has had on our minority and marginalised communities.

Supports Wellbeing Objective 4 – To build cohesive and sustainable communities

Strategic Aim Step	February'21 Update
Work together with our partners to reduce poverty, address homelessness and support our most vulnerable people as a priority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychological support in place, training provided to stakeholders and support provision commenced.• Completed SHG scheme utilised to provide move on accommodation for those in supported housing or temporary accommodation via development of a revised local lettings procedure as per the Common Housing Register policy.• Urgent DFG adaptations continue to be delivered where risk can be mitigated in line with WG clarification letter. Non urgent cases are currently suspended and reprioritised when required following collaborative working with Occupational Therapy.
Assess and address the inequalities that Covid 19 has highlighted or contributed to within our communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Participatory Budgeting steering group has been trained and is making key funding decisions ahead of the public voting event. This group includes representatives of the most vulnerable groups (in terms of Covid 19).• Newport Fairness Commission are actively participating in this project to ensure fairness, equity and openness. GAVO are involved with regards to supporting bids and the delivery of funded projects.• BAME specific Digital Champions training and Business Support webinars being delivered in partnership with EYST, Digital Communities Wales, and Business Wales• Monthly BAME e-bulletin produced, including signposting to culturally specific support and providing a range of information in community languages• Council has signed up to Race Council Cymru's Zero Tolerance to Racism Campaign
Identify, develop and seek to sustain any positive developments emerging during the crisis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Partnership, Policy and Involvement Team are working with Digital Communities Wales and ABUHB to upskill the existing 'Wellbeing Champions' to support digital inclusion work.
Developing opportunities for people to access suitable and affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are currently seeking to implement a new Welsh Government scheme to improve access to the private rented sector for homeless households. This is a 'Pathfinder' trial for up to 10 properties.• We have worked with our RSL partners to continue to deliver the planned development programme. In our latest submission to the Welsh Government we have indicated that we will be drawing down all of our allocated funding despite the challenges to housing development posed by Covid 19.
Deliver a community cohesion programme that effectively responds to community tensions and creates a shared sense of identity across the city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome to Newport App under development in partnership with Cardiff University and Software Academy; design being led by refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and focussed on creating a share narrative of living in Newport• Hate Crime training delivered to Hungarian and Polish communities in community languages.• Hong Kong Citizens Support steering group established in preparation to welcome newcomers to the city and anticipate demand for services.
Prevent and address instances of antisocial behaviour (ASB)	The continued work to support the reduction in ASB includes:

Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19

Provide people with the resources and support that they need to move out of the crisis, considering in particular the impact that Covid 19 has had on our minority and marginalised communities.

Supports Wellbeing Objective 4 – To build cohesive and sustainable communities

Strategic Aim Step	February'21 Update
impacting upon the residents and the business community of Newport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting Children and Young People in addressing their behaviour and their needs through 1:1 work. The individual work continues to provide remotely through our Youth Workers at the Hub and also our Diversion Officers at the Youth Justice Service.• A meeting has been held with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Officers from the police and the Anti-social Behaviour Unit to confirm the process of the referrals. It was agreed that an early identification and referral will help reduce the ASB incidents. The challenges are young people are wearing masks in line with Covid guidelines. This is then hindering the identification and resultant early intervention.• Due to current Covid guidelines all diversionary activities are on hold from an NCC perspective. However, online/virtual support is available.• The next ASB group will be looking at the plans for 2021/2022 financial year, including diversionary support, early identification and supporting partners and the community to help address ASB. <p>Safer Pill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safer Pill (Sub group of Safer Newport) has met regularly on a quarterly basis to respond to significant events and tensions within the community. The group last met on 17 December 2020. Work is ongoing to review the group's action plan for 2021.• Safer Pill Steering Group met on 10 December 2020 to discuss specific issues raised by the community. Current focus of the group include sexually exploited adults, engagement of young people and road traffic safety.• Gypsy and Traveller group (sub group of Safer Pill) meet regularly to discuss site specific issues. Current focus include fly tipping risks and the group has expanded to include representation from Trading Standards. <p>Newport Live</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newport's Positive Futures programme, funded predominantly by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, supports ASB groups and Safer Newport, engaging and supporting young people 8-19 years, with one to one youth support, targeted group work, and diversionary activities (e.g. Friday night projects) has had to adapt, reduce direct delivery and 'using sport as a hook to engage and divert'. Some provision started and stopped again in Q3, and instead new connections and projects with Positive Futures Ambassadors have taken place linked to food parcels, Christmas presents, online workshops and engagements, and black lives matters.• Two key projects of note for Newport Live's Positive Futures team have been the Early Intervention Youth Project in partnership with Youth Justice Service, engaging children identified at Pillgwenlly and Maindee Primary Schools, linked to community safety and youth justice partners (other schools include Alway and Tredegar Park). The other being the newly formed Vietnamese Youth Project in November, in partnership with Barnardo's Trafficking project,

Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19

Provide people with the resources and support that they need to move out of the crisis, considering in particular the impact that Covid 19 has had on our minority and marginalised communities.

Supports Wellbeing Objective 4 – To build cohesive and sustainable communities

Strategic Aim Step	February'21 Update
	which will again return in the coming weeks/months providing a safe space and activities to support young people socially through sport.
Re-establish Community Regeneration facilities and services where it is safe to do so for staff and its service users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hubs continue to provide emergency support for some of our most vulnerable residents. Demand for food parcels has decreased as residents have better support arrangements in place, supermarkets are operating more efficiently with no issues with availability of food, and personal shopping arrangements in place with Volunteering Matters.• Online provision continues with some of our usual face to face activities, including parenting, speech and language, youth engagement and Adult Community Learning.
Develop opportunities for community involvement participation and engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Participatory Budgeting steering group has been trained and is making key funding decisions ahead of the public voting event. This group includes representatives of the most vulnerable groups (in terms of Covid 19).• The Council is consulting with residents in relation to the Council's budget proposals and also the new Leisure Centre / College development in the city centre.• Newport Youth Council provided feedback on what the changing wellbeing, education and social needs of children in a post-covid19 Newport may look like.

Appendix 2 – Covid 19 Prevention and Response Structure

