



# Report

## Cabinet

---

### Part 1

Date: 7 July 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 a year since Newport received its first reports in February 2020. This crisis 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 June, restrictions have been easing with the Council and its partners continuing to monitor the Covid-19 cases in the City through the Council's Emergency Response and Recovery Team (Covid Gold), Newport Incident Management Team (IMT) and liaison with multi agency partners including Welsh Government (WG), Public Health Wales and ABUHB.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> June 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**

In June, the case rate slightly increased from 15 cases to 20 cases per 100,000 across Wales. This was primarily due to an increase in the number of delta (Indian) variant cases, which is now the prevalent variant in new cases across Wales and the wider UK. In Newport the case rate remains around 16 cases per 100,000 and the City continues to see small clusters. However, the work of the Newport IMT, Test, Trace and Protect, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Public Health Wales are able to identify cases and support residents to self-isolate.

The latest figures relating to Covid-19 cases and vaccination rollout can be accessed through the [Public Health Wales Dashboards](#). Over 2.2 million people in Wales have received their first dose of the vaccine whilst over 1.4 million will have received their second dose. The Council, alongside Newport Live have been supporting the NHS with volunteers and facilities to help with the rollout of the vaccine. It is important that everyone including the City's young people, and black and ethnic minority communities receive their vaccine and to also continue to follow the restrictions in place. Further information about the vaccine programme can be obtained from [Public Health Wales](#) (PHW) and also includes Accessible information [here](#).

## **Welsh Government Roadmap**

The Welsh Government (WG) continue to take a cautious approach in easing restrictions considering scientific data of the case rate, hospitalisations and emergence of any new variants. In June, the WG announced a phased approach towards easing into alert level 1 restrictions which included from 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021:

- The size of extended households can be increased to up to three households, and a further household with a single adult or single adult with caring responsibilities will also be able to join;
- Up to 30 people can meet outdoors, including in private gardens, outdoor hospitality and public places;
- Larger outdoor organised gatherings and events, such as concerts, football matches and sporting activities, like organised running groups can go ahead for up to 4,000 people standing and 10,000 people seated.

Due to the emergence of the Delta variant across Wales, the expected further easing of restrictions has been paused. This pause will cover the next Welsh Government review cycle and the coronavirus regulations will be reviewed again by the 15<sup>th</sup> July.

Newport Council's services have continued to operate adhering to the restrictions in place. 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 City Council Update**

As the restrictions have been eased by WG, the Council has also been reopening Council services and buildings in accordance with WG and PHW guidelines. The majority of Council staff continue to work to work from home and in June the Council's Overview and Management Scrutiny Committee were provided with an update on its preparations to new ways of working as the Council emerges from the pandemic.

In June 2020, this Cabinet agreed its Strategic Recovery Aims that have enabled the Council to recover its services and support the City's communities and economy to recover in addition to its commitment in delivering against its Wellbeing Objectives set in the Corporate Plan 2017-22. As part of the Council's Performance Framework, service areas aligned their Service Plans 2020/21 to the four Strategic Recovery Aims as well as providing monthly updates to Cabinet on their ongoing response to the Covid crisis.

Summarised below and in Appendix 1 of this report, is a summary (by exception) of Council work to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021:

<b>Strategic Recovery Aim</b>	<b>Summary of Council's activities to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021</b>
<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education &amp; Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the period until 11th June 2021, 12 primary schools have reported pupils testing positive for Covid and 11 schools have required contact groups to isolate. 7 secondary schools have reported pupils testing positive for covid and required contact groups to self-isolate. One special school has reported a positive case and required a contact group to isolate.</li> <li>Free Breakfast Clubs are now operating across 24 schools. The position in other schools is being regularly reviewed by respective Headteachers and Governing Bodies with a view to fully reinstating all provision as soon as possible.</li> <li>UK CRF applications submitted to UK Government to evaluate and we will know results in July.</li> <li>We are continuing to supply LENOVO Tab M8 Tablets and WIFI packs to families experiencing digital poverty. These are available to Flying Start; Families First and Health Visitors for families they are working with across Newport.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding has been confirmed for the relocation of the Information Station to the Central Museum and Library building.</li> <li>A submission for Levelling-Up Funding for the Northern Gateway has been submitted to UK Government.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health &amp; Wellbeing of Citizens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council also received fantastic news that it will have £9.4m to deliver Active Travel schemes in Newport in 2021/22.</li> <li>Museum and Art Gallery have re-opened on an appointment basis.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newport Live's Positive Futures team have started face to face diversionary youth engagement sessions on Corporation Road Chem Park MUGA, Alway MUGA, and in June will begin at Pill Millennium Centre, Ringland, and Duffryn Centre working with community safety partners.</li> <li>WG hardship funding is being utilised to provide resource to manage additional pressures on temporary accommodation provision. WG phase 2 capital project is progressing with expected completion of schemes by the end of 2021.</li> <li>The Rough Sleeper strategy and policy review to commence in June 21, in consultation with partners via strategy group meetings.</li> </ul>

### **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.

### **Risks**

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 4 2020/21 risk report update.

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	4	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

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 is currently confirmed to run up to the end of September in 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 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.

## 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 TTP team and Environmental Health officers have continued to deal with community and workplace clusters of cases and increased contact tracing and testing has been carried out to manage and contain these cases. The restrictions and the roll-out of increased testing and vaccinations have continued to have a positive impact on positivity rates nationally. With the move to alert level 3 and the phased relaxation of the restrictions, enforcement staff have continued to provide advice and assistance to facilitate the re-opening of non-essential retail and hospitality.

Increased inspections have also been undertaken to ensure that businesses continue to comply with the revised Regulations and guidance and that proper safety measures are in place. In addition, the officer Safety Advisory Group is facilitating the delivery of a number of trial events in conjunction with Public Health and Welsh Government.

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

Newport Council has continued to build on the strong collaborative work through 2020/21. The Strategic Recovery Aims alongside the Council's Corporate Plan has enabled the Council to focus on its core delivery requirements whilst ensuring we comply with the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales legislation. The role of Civil Contingencies, emergency planning, and the Council's Test, Trace and Protect has been vital to ensure the risk to the City's communities are minimised and that the Council continues to deliver its services to residents and businesses.

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**

Not Applicable

## **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, 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

[Responding to the 'New Normal' Report to Overview and Management Scrutiny Committee](#)

**Dated: 30 June 2021**

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

<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.	
<b>Supports Wellbeing Objective 1</b> – To improve skills, education and employment opportunities.	
<b>Strategic Aim Step</b>	<b>July'21 Update (By Exception)</b>
Support schools and other educational establishments to safely reopen for staff and pupils.	<p>Schools opened for all learners at the start of the summer term. For the period until 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 12 primary schools have reported pupils testing positive for Covid and 11 schools have required contact groups to isolate. 7 secondary schools have reported pupils testing positive for Covid and required contact groups to self-isolate. One special school has reported a positive case and required a contact group to isolate.</p> <p>The supermarket voucher scheme continues to be used to support those pupils eligible for free school meals who are prevented from attending school on a short-term basis after being identified as part of a contact group. The scheme is also being used to support Year 11 and Year 13 students who are no longer required to attend school following the end of their chosen courses of study. In addition, vouchers will be provided to all free school meals eligible pupils to support the forthcoming summer holiday period.</p> <p>Free Breakfast Clubs are now operating across 24 schools. The position in other schools is being regularly reviewed by respective Headteachers and Governing Bodies with a view to fully reinstating all provision as soon as possible.</p> <p>As at 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021, there have been no requests to the Education Service from schools for priority testing for symptomatic pupils.</p> <p>Also as at 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 126 individuals who work in schools and settings have collected lateral flow tests from central education. These can be used twice a week on a voluntary basis. Following a change in Welsh Government's distribution arrangements, future supplies of tests will need to be ordered by an individual for delivery direct to their home address.</p>
Work to prevent and reduce inequality of progress and outcomes in education for mainstream and vulnerable learners.	<p>Education Welfare Officers continue to work closely with schools. The recorded rates of attendance up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary schools – 92.4%</li> <li>• Secondary schools – 89.3%</li> <li>• Special schools – 87.0%</li> </ul>
Support schools to enhance and develop digital skills; digital teaching and learning platforms;	6757 digital devices (including Chrome books, laptops, PCs, iPads and Macbooks) have been provided for schools from the WG Hwb EdTech funding.

**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>July'21 Update (By Exception)</b>
and enhanced support for digitally excluded learners	To support pupils who need access to connectivity, the carrier charges on 504 MiFi devices will continue to be funded using the Hwb EdTech grant up to 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2021. In addition, 149 parents who have existing contracts with BT Mobile, EE, Lyca Mobile, SMARTY, Tesco Mobile, Three, Virgin Mobile or Vodafone and do not have a home broadband connection have applied for mobile data uplifts via the school and local authority.
Support and enable people that are digitally excluded to access community IT programmes, Council services and other public services.	People and Business Change have commenced the development of the new Digital Strategy that will consider the impacts of Covid-19 on communities, staff and services provided.
Support people who have been affected by unemployment to access new opportunities through training and re-employment required for post Covid 19 businesses.	Celtic Manor have reported 255 vacancies at present. The Council's skills will be working the Celtic Manor linking job opportunities with the Youth Academy and other employment groups. Potential participants will be invited to attend an open day and undertake a placement. Opportunities will be marketed via social media and a partner Employment Officer will work alongside the Celtic Manor to ensure there is a supply of good participants and will arrange Food safety level 2, Customer Service level 2 etc courses over a 4 week period.  The Council has considered and submitted applications to the UK Government to access UK Community Renewal Funding. As the Council is not a priority area it is not guaranteed that funding will be allocated and the Council will know the results in July.
Ensure our diverse communities are appropriately supported through tailored interventions specific to their needs, including consideration of language, culture and points of access.	We are continuing to supply LENOVO Tab M8 Tablets and WIFI packs to families experiencing digital poverty. These are available to Flying Start; Families First and Health Visitors for families they are working with across Newport.  We have secured additional funding with Save the Children UK to provide Emergency Response Grants in Bettws for Parents and Children at Home to ensure continuity of children's early learning and minimise inequalities in the home learning environment since the start of the Pandemic. This can provide with supermarket vouchers and/or essential household items they need (not white goods) to minimise further financial pressure on families who are already vulnerable. Eligible families will receive an Early Learning Pack and other resources up to the value of £340. The additional funding will allow us to distribute a further 110 grants to the value of £37,400.  Outdoor parenting groups have restarted across the hubs as part of the Flying Start offer. The groups are following the Incredible Year Baby and Incredible Years Toddler lesson plans and also Forest Schools.

**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	July'21 Update (By Exception)
	<p><b>Newport Live Update</b> - Newport Live's Connect Centre has been vacated and is being used by St Andrews Primary School, with Newport Live's Alternative Education programme now relocated to Rivermead Centre temporarily catering for 30+ full/part-time young people via Bridge Achievement Service and Secondary Schools.</p> <p>Newport Live's Community Sports Development team and Health &amp; Wellbeing Teams are in 20+ Primary Schools providing additional support to teachers with sport and physical activity linked to improving mental wellbeing and supporting increased risks of childhood obesity post covid. alongside digital activities for families, and health and wellbeing workshops being created (e.g. healthy cooking, active @ home)</p> <p>Newport Live's Positive Futures programme are the Wales Strategic Partner for the UK wide Levelling the Playing Fields project (LtPF) and they are working closely with Youth Justice Service, creating local mentors in groups and clubs (e.g. Mo's Boxing in Pillgwenlly) to provide sport and youth engagement with mentoring support to Black and Ethnic Minority children and young people at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System.</p>

**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	July'21 Update (By Exception)
Maintain our focus on regenerating Newport to deliver existing and new investment projects.	Funding has been confirmed for the relocation of the Information Station to the Central Museum and Library building The ERF Summer Restrictions and Cultural Freelancer grant packages have been launched A submission for Levelling-Up Funding for the Northern Gateway has been submitted to UK Government
Enable and support the construction industry to re-establish the supply of new and affordable housing.	Work has begun of the preparation of a new Programme Development Plan for the Social Housing Grant Programme. As well as supporting ongoing schemes it is proposed to introduce several new schemes, increasing the supply of affordable housing in the city.
Enable and support businesses to re-establish normal operations whilst maintaining	Regulatory Services are continuing to will be supporting businesses reopening as restrictions are eased over the next few months.

## **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>July'21 Update (By Exception)</b>
the health and safety of their workers and customers.	
Enable and support businesses to prepare for future trade arrangements resulting from Brexit negotiations.	June Cabinet Report presented with an update on the Council's response to new trading and immigration rules. The Community Cohesion team will be increasing its work in the last month of the EUSS to promote and encourage as many people to apply before the deadline of 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2021.
Protect and improve the environment, including air quality and decarbonisation of the city for its residents, businesses and visitors.	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 communities to support the decarbonisation of Newport's power, heat and transport needs for the future. The first stakeholder workshop took place in May and a second is planned for June.
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**

<b>Strategic Aim Step</b>	<b>July'21 Update (By Exception)</b>
Support people to remain living independently in their homes and communities.	<p>One care home in Newport has confirmed that they are closing resulting in the loss of 30 beds. The vacancy rate in Newport is sufficient to ensure all residents have appropriate alternative options but this is a challenging situation to be worked through with residents and their families. Multi-agency planning meetings are in place.</p> <p>We have good access to domiciliary care and agencies are coping well. The Reablement teams are able to support people with a discharge from hospital and Home First continues to operate from the hospital sites ensuring that people who don't need admission are able to return home.</p>
Fully restore Children and Adult Services, supporting partners that have been impacted by Covid 19 and ensuring service	<p>There is evidence that some citizens are more confident to resume day services now that the vaccinations have been widely rolled out and testing is available.</p> <p>Providers are considering how to modify service arrangements to accommodate demand in a Covid safe environment. Plans are being shared with NCC and discussions are ongoing.</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**

Strategic Aim Step	July'21 Update (By Exception)
users and staff are supported and protected.	We continue to provide AMHP Mental Health service but the demand has increased significantly and we are also working with housing to continue to accommodate people who were previously homeless many of whom require specialist intervention from GDAS.
Assess the impact and the long-term sustainability of the social care sector in Newport informing future service requirements.	2021/22 fee negotiations are nearly concluded. The terms of the hardship fund are confirmed until the end of June when a change of criteria is expected to apply to the fund for the last 3 months.  We are starting to step back up the accommodation options for people coming through transitions who will need specialist accommodation because of the nature of their disabilities.
Safeguard and support children and young people to remain safely with their families.	Welsh Government Integrated Care Fund has awarded capital funding for Project Perthyn which is aimed at bringing children back into the City where they can receive better standards of care and be closer to their families. The funding will be used towards the development of a third home in the City which can be used by other Councils in Gwent for children with complex needs.
Improve opportunities for Active Travel and work towards improved air quality.	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.  The Council also received fantastic news that it will have £9.4m to deliver Active Travel schemes in Newport in 2021/22.
Regulate businesses and support consumers / residents to protect and improve their health.	Regulatory Services are continuing to support 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.	Newport Live re-opened Leisure Facilities on the 3rd May and have seen high demand, enquiries, and attendance by residents. New activities are being created to encourage physical activity in our parks and open spaces in May Half Term, ongoing then through the year for children, young, people, and adults to raise physical activity levels and improve mental wellbeing as part of Sport Wales recovery funding and the Covid recovery process under the #happierhealthiernewport banner of Newport Live's work. The Riverfront theatre is opening in June.  Museum and Art Gallery have re-opened on an appointment basis. The Transporter Bridge has remained closed this year due to the restoration project starting. The Friends of the Ship are yet to reopen the Ship centre on a free flow basis but are beginning to plan to welcome pre booked visits.
Sustain a safe, healthy and productive workforce.	Actions following the audit of the current risk assessment for the Civic Centre will be undertaken and completed by the end of the period.

**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	July'21 Update (By Exception)
	Our approach to managing attendance whilst supporting the workforce to be safe and healthy is under review with a new approach designed and being discussed with trade unions prior to any formal adoption. This is timely as coincides with a spike of referrals to the H&S service for stress assessments related to Covid concerns.

**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	July'21 Update (By Exception)
Work together with our partners to reduce poverty, address homelessness and support our most vulnerable people as a priority.	WG hardship funding is being utilised to provide resource to manage additional pressures on temporary accommodation provision. WG phase 2 capital project is progressing with expected completion of schemes by the end of 2021. The Rough Sleeper strategy and policy review to commence in June 21, in consultation with partners via strategy group meetings.
Assess and address the inequalities that Covid 19 has highlighted or contributed to within our communities.	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.  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.
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	Work has begun on the new Programme Development Plan for the Social Housing Grant (SHG) Programme. An increase in the amount of SHG allocated to Newport for the 2021/22 financial year means that additional accommodation can be provided to allow people to move on from temporary and supported accommodation.  The local authority and its partners are working together to meet these priorities.

**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>July'21 Update (By Exception)</b>
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>Referrals continue to be received for young people being involved with ASB, but the number of referrals continue to be low. Police officers are trying to identify young people involved but continues to prove challenging. The direct work with young people will hope to commence as soon as restrictions lift.</p> <p>A number of partners are making contact with young people offering remote support. The ASB group is due to meet and areas to be discussed include - Post Covid support, Data sharing, Planning for new financial year.</p> <p>Partners met to discuss how we could improve the voice of the community. Further work is needed to establish the best fit to managing this. The data sharing group has met and progress is being made.</p> <p>Newport Live's Positive Futures team have started face to face diversionary youth engagement sessions on Corporation Road Chem Park MUGA, Alway MUGA, and in June will begin at Pill Millennium Centre, Ringland, and Duffryn Centre working with community safety partners.</p> <p>Positive Futures is providing 1:1 mentoring and wellbeing support to referred children and young people from Primary Schools, Police, Social Workers, and Family Support Workers at risk of involvement in criminal behaviour. The team are also working with identified groups of Year 6 children at an Early Intervention level from Primary Schools (Alway, Maindee, Maesglas, and Pillgwenlly), top 10% at risk identified by School and Partners such as Youth Justice Service; providing issue-based workshops, activities, and mentoring support.</p>
Re-establish Community Regeneration facilities and services where it is safe to do so for staff and its service users.	Essential council services have been operating during lockdown through appointment-based services at Council Managed Community Centres. Advice on responsibilities and duties has been provided to voluntary managed centres has been published on the NCC website.
Develop opportunities for community involvement participation and engagement.	Newport Council launched an invitation for Community Groups, Education establishments and other private / not for profit organisations to submit applications for the UK Community Renewal Fund. This has generated significant interest from local and regional groups. The Council will be assessing the applications and submitting a shortlist of applicants to the UK Government to evaluate and hopefully award funding to those groups.

## Appendix 2 – Covid 19 Prevention and Response Structure

