

Report

Cabinet



Part 1

Date: 10 March 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 when 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 February, 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 22nd February 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 March 2021 (Subject to Change)

It has been over 12 months since the first Covid-19 case was reported in Newport. In the last year Newport Council has been supporting the Welsh Government, NHS Wales and other public bodies to ensure Covid restrictions are adhered to, Test, Trace and Protect service and that our most vulnerable and disadvantaged are supported. Since 20th December 2020 (11 weeks to 7th March 2021) Wales has been in [Alert Level Four](#) restrictions. During this period of time, Wales and Newport has seen the rolling 7 day average of positive Covid cases reduce significantly to less than 100 per 100,000 across Wales. Latest figures can be accessed through the [Public Health Wales Covid-19 Dashboards](#).

Since the last report in February, the Welsh Government announced it is taking a cautious approach in releasing the lockdown restrictions, which has already seen infant children going back to school. The Welsh Government has also confirmed (subject to Welsh Government review) that remaining Primary school pupils can return from 15th March with Secondary school pupils returning fully after the Easter break. Further announcements are expected to be made by the Welsh Government over the relaxation of restrictions for households, businesses and the Welsh tourist industry.

The rollout of the Covid vaccine across Wales has now seen over 900,000 receiving their first dose and is now being offered to people over 40 and in the key priority groups. The Council, alongside Newport Live have been supporting the NHS with volunteers and facilities to help with the rollout of the vaccine. Those in the next priority groups will be contacted to visit their GPs and/or local doctor surgeries to receive their jabs. It is important that everyone including the City's BAME communities receive their vaccine and to also continue to follow the restrictions in place. Further information about the vaccine can be obtained from [Public Health Wales](#) and also includes Accessible information [here](#).

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. Arrangements for remote working and the 'New Normal' were also considered by Scrutiny Committee in February.

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 (by exception) of Council work to 1st March 2021:

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 1 st March 2021
Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foundation aged pupils (3-7 yr olds) have returned back to schools (inc. cleaning, passenger transport and school milk scheme) on a phased basis from the 22nd February.• Remaining age groups at primary and secondary schools will continue blended learning and school support until further Welsh Government announcements.• Free school meal (supermarket) vouchers were extended to cover the half term holiday and the school caterer Chartwells will commence Foundation and those attending school hubs from 1st March.

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 1 st March 2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 schools have migrated to the SRS Schools Edu network from the existing STEP infrastructure. • 3,714 digital devices ordered from Welsh Government EdTech grant with 1,389 delivered to schools and remaining devices to be received over the next month. • Estyn Report published in January 2021 on local authorities and regional Education consortia response to the Covid crisis.
Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indoor Market Regeneration Project commenced • Three bids submitted to the CCR Housing Investment Scheme for stalled sites across the city • NCC will be receiving an increased amount of Social Housing Grant funding for 2021/22. • As part of the Council's Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP), ARUP have been selected as Welsh Governments Technical Consultants.
Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further proposed 21/22 funding applications submitted to WG including Devon Place Footbridge scheme • Active Travel Network Map consultation went live on 25th January 2021 • 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.
Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with Registered Social Landlords we have put forward 17 affordable housing schemes totalling £18.5 million for in year slippage funding from Welsh Government. • Newport's Positive Futures programme delivered by Newport Live, 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. • Newport Youth Council provided feedback on what the changing wellbeing, education and social needs of children in a post-Covid19 Newport may look like.

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 3 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	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

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 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 was reported to January Cabinet and 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.

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 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 numbers of cases being referred to TTP for contact tracing and the positivity rates have continued to reduce significantly, with the impact of the lock-down restrictions and the roll-out of increased testing and the vaccination programme. Additional TTP staff are being recruited utilising the WG grant funding, which means that redeployed staff can be released to their substantive posts and other services can be re-commenced. Therefore, we are beginning to move to the first stages of recovery, albeit with a degree of caution.

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, also considered by Scrutiny Committee in February.

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

Overview and Management Committee received and considered a report on the 'New Normal' at their meeting in February 2021. This report considers the changes that the Council has made for office based staff since March 2020.

The Committee welcomed the report and discussed the positive changes including active travel miles of staff. The Committee requested that there is a further report once the way forward options are developed and that this comes back to the Committee to consult, before it goes to Cabinet.

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

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

Dated: 3 March 2021

Appendix 1 – Progress of Delivery against Strategic Recovery Aims (to 1st March 2021)

<p>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.</p>	
<p>Supports Wellbeing Objective 1 – To improve skills, education and employment opportunities.</p>	
Strategic Aim Step	March'21 Update (By Exception)
Support schools and other educational establishments to safely reopen for staff and pupils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Government confirmed that Foundation Phase pupils would return to school on a phased basis from 22nd February. Alongside this, blended learning for all other pupils will continue as well as on-site provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable children will continue to operate • Following the announcement that schools would not reopen until 22nd February 2021 at the earliest, supermarket vouchers have been extended and will continue over the February 2021 half term holiday. • Supermarket vouchers will also be issued in relation to all free school meal pupils for w/c 22nd February 2021, and will continue beyond this for pupils in Key Stages 2, 3, 4 and 5. • The school meals service through Chartwells will be reinstated for Foundation Phase pupils and children attending primary school hub provisions from 1st March 2021. • Any opportunities to support reinstatement of Breakfast Club provisions from 1st March 2021 will also be pursued in relation to Foundation Phase pupils and those children attending primary school hub provisions. • The School Milk Scheme will be reinstated across all nursery, primary and special schools from 22nd February 2021. • The Passenger Transport Unit has confirmed that home to school transport will be available for eligible Foundation Phase pupils when they return to school from 22nd February 2021. • School cleaning services procured through Newport Norse will continue to operate to support face-to-face learning requirements following the partial reopening of schools from 22nd February 2021. • As at 8th February 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 mainstream and vulnerable learners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the current period of Covid restrictions, schools are required to provide face-to-face learning for both vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. The attendance rate of pupils accessing this face to face learning is monitored on a daily basis. During the week beginning 18th January 2021, an average of 1,336 pupils were in attendance each day with all remaining pupils accessing blended learning provision at home. During the week beginning 25th January 2021, an average of 1,247 pupils were in attendance each day with all remaining pupils accessing blended learning provision at home. • Education Welfare Officers continue to support schools by making home visits to those children and families who are not engaging in education. In the week beginning 25th January 2021, the Education Welfare Service received 158 referrals, with Education Welfare officers making 120 home visits and contacting all remaining families by telephone or email.
Support schools to enhance and develop digital skills; digital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to improve the IT infrastructure in schools is ongoing. To date, 28 schools have migrated to the SRS Schools Edu network from the existing STEP infrastructure.

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	March'21 Update (By Exception)
teaching and learning platforms; and enhanced support for digitally excluded learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the 3,714 digital devices ordered from the Welsh Government's EdTech grant, 1,389 have already been delivered to schools with 1300 of these being Chromebooks, iPads, Laptops and PCs. We are expecting receipt of the remaining 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 throughout February 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 Kick start 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	March'21 Update (By Exception)
Maintain our focus on regenerating Newport to deliver existing and new investment projects.	Since the last update: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newport City Council to launch Spring Restrictions Grant 11 Feb 21• Second round of payments to Cultural Freelancers launched 11 Feb 21• Indoor Market Regeneration Project commenced• Thematic PES grants awarded to city centre businesses on Upper Dock Street and Skinner Street• Three bids submitted to the CCR Housing Investment Scheme for stalled sites across the city
Enable and support the construction industry to re-establish the supply of new and affordable housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The fourth quarter of the planned development programme for Newport has recently been approved by Welsh Government, who have also indicated we will be receiving an increased amount of Social Housing Grant funding for the financial year 2021/22. This will allow us to fund the development of more new affordable homes.
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 March.
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">• ARUP have been selected as Welsh Governments Technical Consultants for the Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP).• The Minister followed the written statement with an oral statement to the Senedd, committing to the establishment of a Unit to further consider and progress the recommendations from the M4 review. The Unit and its steering group shall include partners from Local Authorities and other stakeholders as necessary to ensure integrated consideration. The process to establish the units has commenced.
Continuing support and safe delivery of the Council's City	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work commenced in Tredegar Park to improve condition and width of access routes to allow increased shared use• Consultation on proposed new leisure facility closed with overwhelming support for new facility• Commission and

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	March'21 Update (By Exception)
services including waste, cleansing and highways.	commencement of Phase 1 of Green Infrastructure data set using the PSB Strategic Access Fund. To identify, value, improve, connect and protect Newport's Green infrastructure assets.

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	March'21 Update (By Exception)
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 confirmed £750K core allocation for 21/22 • Further proposed 21/22 funding applications submitted to WG including Devon Place Footbridge scheme • Active Travel Network Map consultation went live on 25th January 2021

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	March'21 Update (By Exception)
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.
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	March'21 Update (By Exception)
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	<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).

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	March'21 Update (By Exception)
highlighted or contributed to within our communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Council has signed up to Race Council Cymru's Zero Tolerance to Racism Campaign</p>
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"> In partnership with RSLs we have put forward 17 affordable housing schemes totalling £18.5 million for in year slippage funding from Welsh Government.
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) impacting upon the residents and the business community of Newport	<p>The continued work to support the reduction in ASB includes:</p> <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.

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	March'21 Update (By Exception)
	<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. <p>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, which will again return in the coming weeks/months providing a safe space and activities to support young people socially through sport.</p>
<p>Re-establish Community Regeneration facilities and services where it is safe to do so for staff and its service users.</p>	<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.
<p>Develop opportunities for community involvement participation and engagement.</p>	<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

