

Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 16 June 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 May, restrictions have been easing with the Council and its partners continuing to monitor the Covid-19 cases in the City through its role at the multi-agency role, the Council's Emergency Response Team (Covid Gold) and liaison with Welsh Government (WG) and Public Health Wales partners.

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 5th May 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 Recovery Group (Covid Gold) and liaison with Welsh Government (WG) and Public Health Wales partners.

NCC Covid-19 Response

In May Wales had continued to see further reductions in the Covid-19 case rate falling below 20 per 100,000 across Wales and the continued success of the vaccine rollout across the priority groups in Wales. The latest figures relating to Covid-19 cases and vaccination rollout can be accessed through the [Public Health Wales Covid-19 Dashboards](#). Over 1.9 million people in Wales have received their first dose of the vaccine whilst over 800,000 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 BAME 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](#) and also includes Accessible information [here](#).

In consideration of the scientific data and as part of WG three week review process, further restrictions have been eased enabling the economy, schools and other sectors to re-open in conjunction with WG guidance. Since the last report in April, Wales has been slowly opening up and easing restrictions taking a cautious approach. In April and May depending upon the Welsh Government guidance it is planned for:

- From 17th May indoor hospitality, cinemas, theatres and museums to reopen with up to six people from six households being able to meet.
- Organised activities such as wedding receptions allowed for up to 30 people.
- Hospitality businesses still affected by Covid restrictions will be able to claim up to £25,000 to support them through to the end of June.

In May the UK Government announced that an independent enquiry into the Covid outbreak will take place in 2022 across the devolved nations to examine the UK's response to the pandemic.

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 Council Activity and Progress in delivering Strategic Recovery Aims

Newport Council's Recovery Group (consisting of the Chief Executive and Heads of Service) are continuing to regularly meet to monitor and report on emerging Covid-19 issues; and to support the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales in implementing necessary legislative changes. 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.

The Council's Internal Audit team are undertaking a review of the Council's response to the Covid pandemic. Audit Wales, the Council's external regulator will also be undertaking a number of reviews (local and national) throughout the year to assess the Council's and wider public sector response and recovery to the pandemic.

At the end of every financial year, service areas provide their end of year review of its performance which are presented to the Council's Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet. Service area reviews also

support the Council's Annual Report which self-reflects back on its performance in the year, lesson learned and its plans moving forward. This year's Annual Report 2020/21 will include a reflection back on the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and how we have delivered against our Strategic Recovery Aims, how we will move forward in the final year of delivering this Corporate Plan and developing the next iteration of the Corporate Plan from 2022. Remaining actions and work from the Strategic Recovery Aims will be incorporated into their service plans for 2021/22.

Summarised below and also in Appendix 1 of this report, is a summary (by exception) of Council work to 1st June 2021:

Strategic Recovery Aim	Summary of Council's activities to 1st June 2021
Strategic Recovery Aim 1 – Supporting Education & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 7th May and since the start of the summer term, 8 primary schools have reported pupils testing positive for covid and 6 contact groups have been required to isolate. 6 secondary school have reported pupils testing positive for covid and 3 contact groups have been required to isolate. No pupils have been reported as testing positive within special schools or the pupil referral unit. • As of 6th May 2021, out of the 6757 digital devices provided for schools from the WG Hwb EdTech funding, 6735 have been delivered to schools. This includes: 4887 chrome books, 967 laptops and 419 Apple devices. • Digital equipment has been available to Flying Start, Families First and Health Visitors for families they have been working with. To date we have allocated 17 tablets and 5 wifi packs which has allowed families to engage in services to support them. These families would not have been able to access such services otherwise.
Strategic Recovery Aim 2 – Supporting the Environment and the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the last update in May, Spring Restrictions Grants final total of £1.64m with 820 businesses/self-employed persons assisted. • 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
Strategic Recovery Aim 3 – Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One care home in Newport has confirmed that they are closing resulting in the loss of 30 beds. Multi-agency planning meetings are in place. • Regulatory Services are continuing to will be supporting businesses reopening as restrictions are eased over the next few months. • Newport Live have reopened their indoor facilities in line with UK Government guidance that will enable people to undertake exercise again. • As lockdown restrictions ease, this has allowed the re-opening of the Museum and Gallery from 17th May. This will need to proceed in a covid safe manner with pre-booked appointments.
Strategic Recovery Aim 4 – Supporting Citizens post Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Proposals are being developed for the safe return to offering face-to-face appointments in community facilities across various work streams such as Work and Skills. • Continuation of outreach services for rough sleepers has been prioritised and funded via WG hardship funds and Housing Support Grant. WG 'phase 2' capital projects are progressing, which will provide up to 40 units of accommodation to facilitate move on from temporary accommodation.

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 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.

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: 10 June 2021

Appendix 1 – Progress of Delivery against Strategic Recovery Aims (to 1st June 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	June'21 Update (By Exception)
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. As of 7th May and since the start of the summer term, 8 primary schools have reported pupils testing positive for covid and 6 contact groups have been required to isolate. 6 secondary school have reported pupils testing positive for covid and 3 contact groups have been required to isolate. No pupils have been reported as testing positive within special schools or the pupil referral unit.</p> <p>The school meals service has now been reinstated across all schools. However the supermarket voucher scheme is still being 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 was also used to support the May Day Bank Holiday and the Summer Half-Term Holiday.</p> <p>Where appropriate, and supported by individual risk assessments, Breakfast Club provisions have been reinstated across 23 schools. This position will be regularly reviewed by individual Headteachers and Governing Bodies.</p> <p>Services which support the effective running of schools - Home to School Transport and Facilities Management through Newport Norse – are operating appropriately.</p> <p>As at 7th May 2021, there were no requests to the Education Service from schools for priority testing for symptomatic pupils.</p> <p>Also as at 7th May, 118 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.</p>
Work to prevent and reduce inequality of progress and outcomes in education for mainstream and vulnerable learners.	Education Welfare Officers continue to work closely with schools. In particular they have focused support on the 656 pupils with a rate of attendance that falls below 50% this academic year to date.
Support schools to enhance and develop digital skills; digital teaching and learning platforms;	As of 6 th May 2021, out of the 6757 digital devices provided for schools from the WG Hwb EdTech funding, 6735 have been delivered to schools. This includes: 4887 chrome books, 967 laptops and 419 Apple devices.

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	June'21 Update (By Exception)
and enhanced support for digitally excluded learners	To support pupils who need access to connectivity and do not have a MiFi device, Welsh Government has negotiated mobile data uplifts with an increased number of mobile network operators (BT Mobile, EE, Lyca Mobile, SMARTY, Tesco Mobile, Three, Virgin Mobile and Vodafone). To date, 149 parents who have existing contracts with these providers 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.	<p>The successful provider had been named as Serco and we are seeking to deliver 3% of the total Newport allocation. Itec and Maximus (Remploy) are delivering the remaining 3% between them. First referrals are expected to be received in July 2021</p> <p>A collaborative LA cluster bid has been submitted to the Community Renewal Fund with a view to recruiting staff to work in partnership with Health and Work & Skills supporting families who have been affected by Furlough or any other Covid related employment support.</p>
Ensure our diverse communities are appropriately supported through tailored interventions specific to their needs, including consideration of language, culture and points of access.	<p>Support for families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) continues through the provision of free school meals to eligible children post-COVID</p> <p>Food Poverty Funding has been awarded to a number of community-led projects providing support to residents in Newport, with a focus on those communities most impacted by the pandemic and other social impacts including EU exit (refugees and asylum seekers, ethnic minority communities and EU citizens)</p> <p>Community Partnership with Dragons Rugby has led on the delivery of health and wellbeing sessions for women from a minority ethnic background.</p> <p>In line with recent and future easing of restrictions, proposals are being developed to move to face-to-face appointments in outdoor spaces, where parents choose not to engage virtually. Also to resume face-to-face indoor appointments when possible.</p> <p>Digital equipment has been available to Flying Start, Families First and Health Visitors for families they have been working with. To date we have allocated 17 tablets and 5 wifi packs which has allowed families to engage in services to support them. These families would not have been able to access such services otherwise.</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.

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

Strategic Aim Step	June'21 Update (By Exception)
	<p>Additional Child Development Funding is being sought, including additional Language and Play workers and Play Development Officers, to continue support for children and families which commenced in Q4 of 2020/21.</p> <p>In collaboration with Save the Children UK, Emergency Response Grants for Parents and Children at Home are being provided 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 families living in poverty with essential items they need and 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. This has enabled them to have essential household items (not white goods) delivered directly to their home or Supermarket E-Vouchers. Since 5th June 2020 Referral Partners from Newport City Council made up of Family Intervention workers in the hubs and schools have successfully applied for 179 Grants with STC to a value of £60,000 in total.</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	June'21 Update (By Exception)
<p>Maintain our focus on regenerating Newport to deliver existing and new investment projects.</p>	<p>Since the last update in May, Spring Restrictions Grants final total of £1.64m with 820 businesses/self-employed persons assisted. The project to refurbish the Indoor Market proceeding well on site whilst Cardiff Capital Region have awarded Housing Investment Fund for projects at Old Town Dock and Ringland.</p>
<p>Enable and support the construction industry to re-establish the supply of new and affordable housing.</p>	<p>The Social Housing Grant Group strategy meeting has been held and individual meetings will now take place with each of the Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in order to discuss schemes in detail and draft a development programme for submission to Welsh Government.</p> <p>Council approved the submission of the Delivery Agreement and Review Report to Welsh Government which triggers the formal review of the Local Development Plan.</p>
<p>Enable and support businesses to re-establish normal</p>	<p>Regulatory Services are continuing to will be supporting businesses reopening as restrictions are eased over the next few months.</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	June'21 Update (By Exception)
operations whilst maintaining 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 th June 2021.
Protect and improve the environment, including air quality and decarbonisation of the city for its residents, businesses and visitors.	<p>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 on the 5th May.</p> <p>The carbon reduction team has been scoping the potential for further solar PV to be installed across our estate. An implementation plan is to be developed.</p>
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

Strategic Aim Step	June'21 Update (By Exception)
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>

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	June'21 Update (By Exception)
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.	<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> <p>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.</p>
Assess the impact and the long-term sustainability of the social care sector in Newport informing future service requirements.	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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.	<p>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.</p> <p>The Council also received fantastic news that it will have £9.4m to deliver Active Travel schemes in Newport in 2021/22.</p>
Regulate businesses and support consumers / residents to protect and improve their health.	Regulatory Services are continuing to will be supporting 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.	<p>Newport Live have reopened their indoor facilities in line with UK Government guidance that will enable people to undertake exercise again.</p> <p>As lockdown restrictions ease, this has allowed the re-opening of the Museum and Gallery from 17th May. This will need to proceed in a covid safe manner with pre-booked appointments.</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	June'21 Update (By Exception)
Sustain a safe, healthy and productive workforce.	<p>Actions following the audit of the current risk assessment for the Civic Centre will be undertaken and completed by the end of the period.</p> <p>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.</p>

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	June'21 Update (By Exception)
Work together with our partners to reduce poverty, address homelessness and support our most vulnerable people as a priority.	<p>Temporary accommodation acquisition is continuing, to meet demands on statutory service provision. Continuation of outreach services for rough sleepers has been prioritised and funded via WG hardship funds and Housing Support Grant. WG 'phase 2' capital projects are progressing, which will provide up to 40 units of accommodation to facilitate move on from temporary accommodation. Social Housing Grant slippage has enabled a scheme to be brought forward that will provide another 9 units of accommodation by the end of 2021. Commuted sums are being utilised to bring RSL accommodation back into use. The Social Housing Grant programme is being developed which will prioritise accommodation to meet current need due to the pandemic. Accommodation based support proposals which require Housing Support Grant are being finalised.</p>
Assess and address the inequalities that Covid 19 has highlighted or contributed to within our communities.	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Identify, develop and seek to sustain any positive developments emerging during the crisis.	<p>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.</p>

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	June'21 Update (By Exception)
Developing opportunities for people to access suitable and affordable housing	The Social Housing Grant Group strategy meeting has been held and individual meetings will now take place with each of the RSLs in order to discuss schemes in detail and draft a development programme for submission to Welsh Government.
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. 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>
Re-establish Community Regeneration facilities and services where it is safe to do so for staff and its service users.	Proposals are being developed for the safe return to offering face-to-face appointments in community facilities across various work streams such as Work and Skills.
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

