

Report

Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years

Part 1

Date: 31 March 2023

Subject School Admission Arrangements 2024/25

Purpose To consider the responses received during the recent consultation exercise and determine the Council's resulting school admission arrangements for the academic year commencing September 2024

Author School Admissions Manager

Ward All wards, as the admission arrangements apply to all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport.

Summary In accordance with Welsh Government statutory School Admissions Code, admission authorities are required to undertake an annual consultation on admission arrangements in the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.

As an admission authority, the Council undertook its consultation on proposed admission arrangements for the academic year commencing September 2024 between 11th January and 17th February 2023. No policy changes were proposed. This decision report details all consultation responses received and recommends that the admission arrangements be determined as consulted upon, without amendment. In accordance with the statutory code, these arrangements must be determined by 15th April 2023.

Proposal To set the Council's admission arrangements for the academic year commencing September 2024 as consulted upon, without amendment.

Action by Chief Education Officer

Timetable Admission arrangements must be determined by 15th April 2023.

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Corporate Management Team
- Education Senior Management Team
- Senior HR and Finance Business Partners

Signed

Background

Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Council (as the admission authority) has responsibility for the discharge of the school admissions function for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport. In this role, the Council acts in accordance with the Welsh Government School Admissions Code and the School Admissions Appeals Code.

It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements (policy). The consultation must conclude by 1st March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15th April in the determination year. The determination year is the school year (2022/23) beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply (2024/25).

The consultation on admission arrangements 2024/25 took place between 11th January and 17th February 2023. **No policy changes were proposed.** All feedback received during the consultation is detailed below for consideration.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Code provides lists of bodies that admission authorities must and should consult with on changes to admission arrangements. The following is a list of all consultees.

Statutory:

- Governing bodies of all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport
- Governing bodies of all voluntary aided schools in Newport
- Representatives of the Roman Catholic Diocesan
- Representatives of the Church in Wales Diocesan
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Cardiff City Council
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Torfaen County Borough Council

Non-statutory:

- Newport School Admissions Forum
- Headteachers of all schools in Newport
- Newport City Council elected members
- Community councils in Newport
- Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
- Newport Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership

Consultation Responses

In total, 5 responses raising various points were received during the consultation period detailed in the table that follows. It is proposed that none of the responses warrant a change in policy at this time.

Point raised	Council's Response
<p>Sibling Criteria</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Year 12 and 13 pupils should be considered as relevant sibling 2. Home address of half/step sibling should not be determined as the home of the parent in receipt of child benefit 3. Priority should be given to the siblings of pupils who are already attending a school when the catchment area is changed, rendering the sibling as non-catchment. 	<p>Sibling Criteria</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Within the context of Newport, i.e., where the demand for school places is particularly high, the Council considers it appropriate to restrict the number of priority categories to those deemed essential to avoid dilution of their impact and ensure fairness and equity for all. Whilst it is appropriate to award some priority to those families with siblings, the Council does not consider it essential to extend this to students in Years 12 and 13, given that there is no guarantee that they will move to or remain in non-statutory post-16 education and these students are of an age when they are generally more able to travel to school independently. 2. Siblings are considered relevant (and priority is awarded) when living within the same household. Any priority is only awarded when satisfactory evidence is provided. The agreed evidence to confirm a pupil's address is proof of receipt of child benefit as in most cases, the parent with whom a child is living, should receive the benefit for that child (if eligible). Therefore, sibling priority will only be awarded where the evidence has been provided to prove that both siblings live at the same property. 3. The Council seeks to restrict catchment area changes to essential circumstances only. In Newport, as this has happened infrequently, it is not considered necessary to widen the existing sibling priorities, especially when any unsuccessful application has the right to an independent appeal which has the remit to admit the child to the school if it deems that the Council has acted unfairly.
<p>Home address</p> <p>The alternative evidence considered appropriate to confirm the home address of a pupil with two homes if the family is not in receipt of child benefit.</p>	<p>Home address</p> <p>Where a pupil resides at more than one address and it isn't possible to confirm where the child lives for the majority of the school week, nor is either party in receipt of child benefit, the Council will ask to see any other relevant evidence. For example, evidence of the address where the child is registered with a medical GP. Where satisfactory evidence cannot be provided, additional checks may be made but the final decision will rest with the Council.</p>
<p>Point raised</p>	<p>Council's Response</p>
<p>Home to school distance tiebreak</p> <p>The Council should consider giving the priority to those pupils living farthest from the next available school.</p>	<p>Home to school distance tiebreak</p> <p>The Code states that distance between home and school is a clear and objective oversubscription criterion and is useful as a tiebreaker. That is, if two or more applications</p>

	<p>for a school place are equal, the pupil living nearest the school will receive the highest priority.</p> <p>The Code also states that consideration may be given to the inclusion of the criterion ‘furthest from the next appropriate alternative school..... where the pattern of school provision might lead to some children having to travel excessive distances to access a school place’.</p> <p>In Newport, free home to school transport can be provided for those pupils living 2 miles or more (for primary children), or 3 miles or more (secondary), from their nearest available school. Therefore, the Council has determined that the above statement is not applicable and has adopted the tie-break method that it considers to be the most reliable and reasonable system which parents can readily understand. This method has also been adopted by all other Welsh local councils as part of their locally determined admission arrangements.</p>
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Financial Summary

There are no costs associated with the proposal to determine admission arrangements for 2024/25.

Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	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?
Failure to determine the admission arrangements for 2024 by the required date	M	L	This is an annual process, and consultation has already been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the statutory code.	Chief Education Officer

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
 Corporate Plan
 Council Improvement Plan (*Aspirational People* theme)
 Education Service Plan

Options Available and Considered

Option 1: To determine and set the Council’s school admission arrangements for September 2024 as outlined in the recent consultation with stakeholders.

Option 2: To determine and set the Council's school admission arrangements for September 2024 as outlined in the recent consultation with stakeholders but with modifications to take account of feedback received.

Preferred Option and Why

The preferred option is Option 1 as this will ensure a fair and equitable school admissions policy that is compliant with the Welsh Government School Admissions Code.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no financial implications to this report. Admissions activity is undertaken within existing budgets and there is no financial consequence to implementing the admissions arrangements for September 2024.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The Council has a statutory duty under section 20 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Admissions Regulations to undertake consultation on its proposed admission arrangements during the period from 1st September to 1st March in the school year which is two years before the commencement of the school year in which the arrangements are to take effect. Therefore, the Council has carried out consultation on proposed amendments to its admission policy for maintained schools, which will apply as from September 2024. The outcome of the consultation and the responses received are set out in the Report. The consultation process has been carried out in accordance with the Welsh Government's statutory School Admissions Code, which prescribes the various statutory consultees who had to be engaged in the process and the details that had to be included in the proposed admissions policy/arrangements. The statutory consultation process is fully compliant with the Council's general equalities, socio-economic and well-being duties and consistent with the Children and Families Measure. The purpose of the public consultation process is to maintain openness and transparency and to ensure that admission arrangements are fair and equitable. The proposed admission policy for 2024/25 does not include changes to the current policy. Following the consultation process, five responses were received, all of which were responded to by the School Admissions Team as set out in this report. However, none of the consultation responses have given rise to a change in the policy at this time. The Cabinet Member is now required determine the final School Admission Arrangements for September 2024, by the statutory deadline of 15th April 2023.

Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation

The annual consultation on schools' admissions arrangements help to meet sustainable development duties under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015, in particular the duty to 'involve' stakeholders in decisions that affect them and to work collaboratively. Effective consultation with a range of stakeholders can help assess the adequacy and acceptability of the arrangements. Following stakeholder consultation, the report recommends that the 2024 admission arrangements be taken forward with no policy changes.

A Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for these arrangements.

There are no human resources implications in this report.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

- Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act
- Equality Act 2010
- Socio-economic Duty
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

The Council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality. A Fairness & Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) was developed in relation to the admission arrangements 2021, but this exercise has not been repeated since as no changes have been proposed. The FEIA is attached as an Appendix. This consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the legislation outlined in the statutory School Admissions Code. This Code outlines the key stakeholders (both statutory and non-statutory) that should be consulted with as part of the process, but this is not exclusive, and the Council has extended this list because of feedback received in relation to previous proposals. An invitation to engage in the consultation process was emailed to identified stakeholders, and the proposal was published on the Newport City Council website, and on social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook. All documentation was available in Welsh and English. All consultation responses are detailed in this report and will be considered by the Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years in determining the 2024 admission arrangements.

The sustainable development principle and 5 ways of working set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act have been considered as outlined below:

- **Long term** (*the importance of balancing short- term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs*): As an admission authority, the Council acts in accordance with the Welsh Government School Admissions Code (and the School Admissions Appeals Code). As imposed by the Codes the Council annually sets out its own local admission arrangements, known as the Newport School Admissions Policy, following consultation with stakeholders. Admission to all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport is governed by this policy (each Governing Body derives the school admissions policy for voluntary-aided schools). These policies are in place to ensure that access to education is managed fairly and equitably, whilst ensuring that no one school is forced to admit more children than it can reasonably accommodate. Newport's population is continuing to increase and with it the number of school age children. Welsh Government recommends 10% as the optimum level of surplus school places. In terms of English-medium places, Newport schools have only an 8% surplus at primary level and a 5% surplus across secondary schools. This is of particular concern in the context of the significant and increasing number of in-year school applications received year on year. The Council is therefore seeking to maintain effective school place allocation procedures through application of a fair and equitable school admissions policy.
- **Prevention** (*How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help us meet our objectives*): It is important to restrict the number of priorities within the oversubscription criteria to the most essential categories only to avoid dilution of their impact, especially where demand for places is significant. The School Admissions Policy gives the highest priority for admission to the most vulnerable children in our communities; including children looked after by a local authority and those with additional learning needs. Additionally, whilst the key theme of the WG Code is parental preference of school, the school admissions policy is largely centred on local catchment areas, which give priority for school places to local children over those who live further away. Not only does this support families in managing the home to school journey, but it also facilitates effective transition through the various stages of education. It is acknowledged that there may be some challenges to families during the interim period immediately following a catchment area change. However, the parents of affected pupils would be eligible for non-catchment sibling priority; would be eligible to appeal against the Council's decision if the

application is unsuccessful and could qualify for free home to school transport if attending their catchment or nearest available school.

- **Integration** (*Consider how the proposals will impact on our wellbeing objectives, our wellbeing goals, other objectives, or those of other public bodies*): This proposal supports the following:
'a more equal Wales' – through access to education pupils are enabled to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.
'a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language' – the Welsh language is protected and promoted by the establishment of new Welsh-medium schools.
'to improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities' through access to education.
'to build cohesive and sustainable communities' through the application of catchment area priority for admission.
- **Collaboration** (*have you considered how acting in collaboration with any other person, or any other part of our organisation could help meet our wellbeing objectives?*): The school admissions policy was established and is regularly reviewed collaboratively with colleagues throughout the Council, with local schools, governing bodies, diocesan representatives and with neighbouring local authorities.
- **Involvement** (*The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the wellbeing goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the city we serve*): It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements between 1 September and 1 March each year, beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply. In Newport, both statutory and non-statutory stakeholders are consulted.

Consultation

Stakeholder consultation has taken place as outlined in this report.

Background Papers

2021 FEIA

Dated: 22 March 2023

Appendix: Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to provide balanced information to support decision making and to promote better ways of working in line with equalities (Equalities Act 2010), Welsh language promotion (The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011), sustainable development (Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015), and the four parameters of debate about fairness identified by the Newport Fairness Commission (NFC Full Report to Council 2013).

Completed by: Deborah Weston **Role:** Service Manager

Head of Service: Chief Education Officer **Date:** 05/03/2020

I confirm that the above Head of Service has agreed the content of this assessment

Yes / No

When you complete this FEIA, it is your responsibility to submit it to

impact.assessments@newport.gov.uk

1. Name and description of the policy / proposal being assessed. Outline the policy's purpose.

Newport City Council School Admissions Policy 2021/22

Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Council has responsibility for the discharge of the school admissions function for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport. As an admission authority, the Council acts in accordance with the Welsh Government School Admissions Code and the School Admissions Appeals Code.

It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. The consultation must conclude by 1st March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15th April in the determination year. The determination year is the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.

Consequently, a consultation was launched on 8th January 2020 and concluded on 28th February 2020 in relation to the proposed admission arrangements for September 2021 onwards, and a consultation report has been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received. There is now a requirement to consider this feedback and as a result to determine the Council's school admission policy for September 2021.

The proposals for change are as follows:

1. To redefine the Caerleon Comprehensive School catchment area to align with the Newport City Council boundary, thereby removing all areas of Monmouthshire and Torfaen from the catchment area;
2. To move Somerton Primary School from the Lliswerry cluster and catchment area to the Llanwern cluster and catchment area;
3. To replace the guaranteed school place for children of UK service personnel in any school of their choice with the catchment school;
4. To remove the specific priority for children who are on the child protection register.

2. Outline how you have/will consult with stakeholders who will be affected by the policy/proposal.

It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. The consultation must conclude by 1st March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15th April in the determination year. The determination year is the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.

In September 2019, and in advance of the proposal being launched, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis. In November 2019, the proposed changes were presented to the Newport School Admissions Forum, a statutory committee that has a key role in ensuring a fair admission system.

Subsequently, in accordance with the Code, formal consultation was carried out between 8th January 2020 and 28th February 2020 with the following list of statutory and non-statutory consultees:

Statutory consultees	
The governing body of relevant schools	The governing bodies of all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport
All neighbouring local authorities	Caerphilly County Borough Council Cardiff City Council Monmouthshire County Council Torfaen County Borough Council
Admission authorities for all other maintained schools in the area	The governing bodies of all voluntary aided schools in Newport
In the case of schools with a religious character, such body or person representing the religion or religious denomination in question	Diocesan Director, Church in Wales Diocesan Director, Roman Catholic
Non-statutory consultees	
The admission forum serving the area	Newport School Admissions Forum
Parents of children attending the primary schools likely to be affected	Parents of children attending: <i>Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary</i> <i>Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Goytre Fawr Primary</i> <i>Langstone Primary</i> <i>Ponthir Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Somerton Primary</i> <i>Usk Church in Wales Primary</i>
Headteachers	The Headteachers of all schools in Newport plus the following affected schools in Monmouthshire and Torfaen: <i>Goytre Fawr Primary</i> <i>Ponthir Primary</i> <i>Usk Church in Wales Primary</i>
Elected members	All Newport City Council elected members
Community councils	All community councils in Newport
Representatives of UK Service Personnel	The Regional Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officer Newport Armed Forces Champion UK Service families attending Newport schools
Other organisations	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations Newport Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership

Newport City Council Teams	Children & Young People's Services Law & Regulation Family Information Service Flying Start Housing & Regeneration Integrated Transport Vulnerable People Relocation Project
Pupils attending the primary schools likely to be affected	Pupils attending the following schools: <i>Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary</i> <i>Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Goytre Fawr Primary</i> <i>Langstone Primary</i> <i>Ponthir Church in Wales Primary</i> <i>Somerton Primary</i> <i>Usk Church in Wales Primary</i>
Pupils attending the relevant secondary schools	Pupils attending the following schools: <i>Caerleon Comprehensive</i> <i>Llanwern High</i> <i>Lliswerry High</i>

The consultation document was also publicised through the Council's 'Have your say' web page and via their social media channels.

The Council is keen to gain the views of learners when proposing policy changes. As a result, whilst the School Admissions Code does not stipulate that consultation should include engagement with learners, attempts were made for this to be undertaken. This was the first year that this has been attempted in relation to the annual consultation on admission arrangements and was facilitated via an on-line SNAP survey that was circulated via the schools listed in the section above.

Some of these surveys were issued late in the consultation period, and the Education Service acknowledges therefore that this engagement was not as effective as it was intended. As a result, the Learner Voice is difficult to assess effectively in this case. Notwithstanding this, 66 responses were received by the deadline date.

Following conclusion of the consultation, a consultation report has now been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received. The report recommends that the changes proposed via this consultation be taken forward for implementation. This decision will be now referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

3. What information/evidence do you have on stakeholders? e.g. views, needs, service usage etc. Please include all the evidence you consider relevant.

The School Admissions Code provides lists of bodies that admission authorities must and should consult with on changes to admission arrangements. A consultation document was prepared and distributed to these stakeholders. Comments and questions arising were submitted to the Council and are reflected within the consultation report.

Evidence used to complete the consultation report includes:



- Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data
- School specific data relating to Caerleon and Somerton (e.g. ALN and BAME data, LA projections and admissions trends)
- Consultation responses
- Online pupil survey responses


4. Equalities and Welsh language impact


Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The proposal will affect children and young people of school age.</p> <p>Negatively: The proposal seeks to change secondary school catchment areas. This will likely impact negatively on primary-aged children currently living in the affected areas as the catchment area priority they are currently benefitting from will no longer apply. This could particularly affect pupils whose older siblings are already attending the preferred school and were admitted when it was their catchment school. Such pupils will however continue to be able to make an application for the school and could qualify for other priorities in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria, e.g. sibling priority or home to school distance, depending upon individual family circumstances.</p> <p>School-aged children of UK Service Personnel families that are moving to Newport as a result of the parent's discharge from service will no longer be given the advantage of a guaranteed a place at the school of their choice and, if the school is already full in the relevant year group, the application will be refused. However, they will be subject to the same conditions as all other applicants under the school admissions policy and as such, any refusal of a school place will trigger the applicant's right to appeal against the decision to an independent panel.</p> <p>Positively: Reducing the size of the Caerleon Comprehensive School catchment area, and thereby the number of in-catchment pupils, will increase the number of places available for non-catchment applicants, either from within or outside of Newport. This means that Newport pupils will no longer be designated a lower priority than non-Newport pupils. In addition, given that a significant proportion of Somerton pupils already elect a preference for Llanwern High School, the change in catchment will have a positive impact on the success of their application.</p> <p>Neither: As the Council has various arrangements in place to serve the interests of vulnerable children, it is anticipated that the proposal to remove the Child Protection statement will have a neutral impact on this protected characteristic.</p>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic. This proposal applies to mainstream admission only and not to pupils placed in specialist learning resource bases. All Newport secondary schools run internal in-house provision to support mainstream pupils with a range of difficulties but</p>


Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
				these are funded from within school budgets. Consequently, all schools are able to provide the same standard of mainstream provision for pupils with additional learning needs.
Gender reassignment/transgender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Marriage or civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Pregnancy or maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic. Gwent Education Minority Ethnic Service is able to provide the same standard of language support in all schools as such support is dependent upon need and languages available, regardless of school base.
Religion or Belief or non-belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest this proposal will have a disproportionate impact against this protected characteristic.
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The schools will continue to follow the National Curriculum including Cwricwlwm Cymraeg. In addition, from September 2020, Welsh Second Language A-level courses will be on offer at Caerleon Comprehensive School and Llanwern High School. Students on roll at Llisbury High School wishing to take A-level Welsh can access this through the collaboration with St Julians School. However, the proposal is unlikely to make a meaningful contribution to Newport's 5-Year Welsh Language target of increasing the number of Welsh speakers across the city.

5 How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable development principle in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p data-bbox="256 770 347 792">Long Term</p> <p data-bbox="145 799 416 898">Balancing short term need with long term needs</p>	<p data-bbox="459 297 1398 495">Newport's population is continuing to increase and with it the number of school age children. There has been a rise of 1,949 children in Newport schools between 2011 and 2019. Pupil population forecasts indicate that by 2024 there will be 14,097 primary school and 12,260 secondary school children in Newport, which represents an additional 2,038 children compared with 2019.</p> <p data-bbox="459 499 1398 763">Primary and secondary cohorts for the September 2019 annual admissions round were the largest to date with an unprecedented demand for Year 7 English-medium places across the city as a whole. In response to this demand, the Council negotiated additional Year 7 places across four English-medium secondary schools for this specific year group. A similar issue has since arisen in relation to the September 2020 Year 7 cohort, with additional provision created at two English-medium secondary schools.</p> <p data-bbox="459 768 1398 1099">Welsh Government recommends 10% as the optimum level of surplus school places. In terms of English-medium places, Newport schools have only a 7.6% surplus at primary level and a 9.6% surplus across secondary schools. Whilst it would appear that this surplus at secondary level is broadly in line with Welsh Government's recommendation, it is worth noting that a significant element of this surplus is located in just two schools, both of which are located in the East of the City (Llanwern High and Liswerry High). In addition, the actual number of surplus places are much lower in Years 7 and 8 than they are in Years 9, 10 and 11.</p> <p data-bbox="459 1104 1398 1234">This is also a concern in the context of the significant number of in-year school applications traditionally received in previous years. The Council is therefore seeking to maximise the number of school places available to Newport pupils across the city, through a variety of methods.</p>
 <p data-bbox="240 1619 344 1641">Collaboration</p> <p data-bbox="145 1659 400 1727">Working together to deliver objectives</p>	<p data-bbox="459 1238 1398 1570">Welsh Government has confirmed that the responsibility for designating alternative catchment schools lies with the Local Authority (LA) in which a pupil is resident. As a result, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified in September 2019 that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis. Both LAs subsequently responded to the formal consultation. Torfaen noted that they would be unable to make provision for the displaced (Ponthir) pupils in readiness for September 2021. In response, Newport noted that they had made Torfaen aware of the proposal in September 2019, thus giving almost two-years notice of the change.</p> <p data-bbox="459 1574 1398 1704">Having already considered similar changes in 2019 to take effect in 2020, Monmouthshire was broadly in favour of Newport's proposal. However, they asked that consideration be given to two matters as follows:</p> <ul data-bbox="507 1709 1398 1966" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="507 1709 1398 1966">• An area within Monmouthshire's boundary that currently falls within the catchment area for Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary School (this is a voluntary aided school responsible for its own admission arrangements). This area was omitted from Monmouthshire's proposal and therefore is now in danger of being without a denoted secondary catchment school. This was not identified as an issue by any party prior to the launch of Newport's consultation, and

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That additional priority be afforded to pupils whose older siblings were admitted to Caerleon Comprehensive School when it was their catchment school. <p>Whilst sympathising with the issues raised in relation to the first point, this would lead to some disparity with other areas of Monmouthshire and Torfaen, and therefore after consideration it does not seem reasonable to accommodate this request. In response to the comment about sibling links, the Council would advise that the parents of pupils affected by this proposal would still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-catchment applicants. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those with relevant siblings already attending the preferred school will have a higher priority in terms of securing a place</p> <p>Advance engagement took place with the governing bodies of Caerleon Comprehensive, Llanwern High, Lliswerry High and Somerton Primary but no formal responses were received during the consultation. The proposal was the subject of full public consultation between 8th January 2020 and 28th February 2020, in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government statutory school admissions code.</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>It is a statutory requirement of the School Admissions Code that the Council carries out an annual consultation on its school admission arrangements. The consultation must conclude by 1st March each year so that the resulting admission arrangements can be determined, either in their original form or with such modifications as the Council think fit, by 15th April in the determination year. The determination year is the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.</p> <p>In advance of the proposal being launched, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified in September 2019 that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis. In November 2019, the proposed changes were presented to the Newport School Admissions Forum, a statutory committee that has a key role in ensuring a fair admission system.</p> <p>Subsequently, in accordance with the Code, formal consultation was carried out between 8th January 2020 and 28th February 2020 with the list of statutory and non-statutory consultees outlined in the response to question 2. The consultation document was also publicised through the Council's 'Have your say' web page and via their social media channels. The Council is keen to gain the views of learners when proposing policy changes. As a result, whilst the School Admissions Code does not stipulate that consultation should include engagement with learners, attempts were made for this to be undertaken. This was the first year that this has been attempted in relation to the annual consultation on admission arrangements and was facilitated via an on-line SNAP survey that was circulated via the schools listed in the section above.</p> <p>Some of these surveys were issued late in the consultation period, and the Education Service acknowledges therefore that this engagement was not as effective as it was intended. As a result, the Learner Voice is difficult to assess effectively in this case. Notwithstanding this, 66 responses were received by the deadline date.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
	<p>Following conclusion of the consultation, a consultation report has now been drafted which describes the consultation process and feedback received. The report recommends that the changes proposed via this consultation be taken forward for implementation. This decision will be now referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>Newport's population is continuing to increase and with it the number of school age children. There has been a rise of 1,949 children in Newport schools between 2011 and 2019. Pupil population forecasts indicate that by 2024 there will be 14,097 primary school and 12,260 secondary school children in Newport, which represents an additional 2,038 children compared with 2019.</p> <p>Primary and secondary cohorts for the September 2019 annual admissions round were the largest to date with an unprecedented demand for Year 7 English-medium places across the city as a whole. In response to this demand, the Council negotiated additional Year 7 places across four English-medium secondary schools for this specific year group. A similar issue has since arisen in relation to the September 2020 Year 7 cohort, with additional provision created at two English-medium secondary schools.</p> <p>Welsh Government recommends 10% as the optimum level of surplus school places. In terms of English-medium places, Newport schools have only a 7.6% surplus at primary level and a 9.6% surplus across secondary schools. Whilst it would appear that this surplus at secondary level is broadly in line with Welsh Government's recommendation, it is worth noting that a significant element of this surplus is located in just two schools, both of which are located in the East of the City (Llanwern High and Lliswerry High). In addition, the actual number of surplus places are much lower in Years 7 and 8 than they are in Years 9, 10 and 11.</p> <p>This is also a concern in the context of the significant number of in-year school applications traditionally received in previous years. The Council is therefore seeking to maximise the number of school places available to Newport pupils across the city, through a variety of methods.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>This proposal supports the well-being objective to improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities and the following well-being goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>a resilient Wales;</i> • <i>a more equal Wales;</i> • <i>a Wales of more cohesive communities;</i> • <i>a globally responsible Wales.</i> <p>These will be achieved by improving access to education across the city through the adoption of an improved, fair and consistent admissions policy, by aligning primary catchments and secondary clusters to support effective partnership working and effective transition, and through ensuring sufficiency of school places for Newport pupils. During the consultation, responses referred to concern over community cohesion in the wider-Caerleon area. Whilst the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School has traditionally extended into the areas of Usk, Goytre and Ponthir, the demand for school places amongst Newport residents means that this is no longer sustainable. Notwithstanding this, parents will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School albeit as an out-of-catchment applicant.</p>

6 Will the proposal/policy have a disproportionate impact on a specific geographical area of Newport?

Whilst the proposed catchment area changes will specifically affect certain wards (Alway, Caerleon and Liswerry), the proposed changes in relation to Armed Forces families and children on the child protection register are Citywide.

7 How does the proposal/policy relate to the parameters of debate about Fairness identified by the Newport Fairness Commission?

Parameter 1: Equal treatment while recognising difference

The proposal to change the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School removes the priority that non-Newport pupils currently have over Newport pupils. If the proposal is approved, all non-catchment pupils whether resident within or outside of Newport will be deemed equal in terms of priority for admission to this school. It is important to note that this proposal does not exclude any applicants from expressing a preference for Caerleon Comprehensive School. Reducing the size of the catchment area simply increases the opportunity for out-of-catchment applications to be successful. As a result, such applicants may continue to apply for a place at this school, and some applications will undoubtedly be successful based on sibling priority and/or home to school distance.

The proposal in relation to Somerton Primary School is logical to enable the two schools within the Eveswell and Somerton Primary School Partnership to work within one single cluster. In taking this forward, consideration was given to two options – moving Eveswell into Liswerry or moving Somerton into Llanwern. However, the latter is preferred due to the geographic location of Somerton Primary School, and the fact that the combined admission number of the year 6 cohorts in the current Liswerry cluster primary schools exceeds the admission number of the secondary school.

The proposal in relation to children of UK service personnel aligns Newport’s policy with the guidance outlined in the statutory School Admissions Code. Notwithstanding this change, it is anticipated that the revised policy will continue to support those specific personnel that are required to move at short notice and, as a result, cannot comply with the usual school admission procedures.

In terms of the proposal in relation to pupils on the child protection register, admission authorities must ensure that their arrangements will not unfairly disadvantage a child from a particular social group. As the Council has various arrangements in place to serve the interests of vulnerable children there is no requirement for a specific priority for children who are on the child protection register.

Parameter 2: Mutual obligations between citizens and local government

Welsh Government has confirmed that the responsibility for designating alternative catchment schools lies with the Local Authority (LA) in which a pupil is resident. As a result, both Monmouthshire and Torfaen LAs were notified in September 2019 that Newport was likely to take forward consultation on this basis.

Parameter 3: Interdependency and reciprocity within community relations

Whilst the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School has traditionally extended into the areas of Usk, Goytre and Ponthir, the demand for school places amongst Newport residents means that this is no longer sustainable. Notwithstanding this, parents will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School albeit as an out-of-catchment applicant.

Parameter 4: Transparency and accountability in decision-making

This proposal has been subject to consultation in line with the guidance outlined in the School Admissions Code. It is recommended that the changes proposed via this consultation be taken forward for implementation with effect from September 2021. This decision will be now referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

8. Equality Impacts and Actions

In total, 52 responses were received during the consultation period, all of which related to the proposal to amend the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School. Of these, 47 responses raised concerns regarding the proposal. The remaining five responses neither supported nor objected to the proposal but merely raised questions in relation to their particular circumstances. Respondents included pupils, parents and carers, members of the public, Community Councils, Governing Bodies, Members of Parliament, Elected Members, neighbouring Local Authorities and the Diocese of Monmouth. Whilst some respondents raised more than one issue in their response, a breakdown of the number and type of objections, along with the Council's responses, is summarised as follows:

Impact identified	Who does it affect?	What will you do to mitigate the impact? If you plan to take no action, please justify your rationale	Who is responsible?
Impact on local community cohesion and pupil wellbeing	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	Whilst the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School has traditionally extended into the areas of Usk, Goytre and Ponthir, the demand for school places amongst Newport residents means that this is no longer sustainable. Notwithstanding this, parents will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School albeit as an out-of-catchment applicant.	Newport City Council Torfaen County Borough Council Monmouthshire County Council
Distance to an alternative school and safety of home to school transport routes	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	The parents of pupils affected by this proposal will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-catchment applicants. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those closer to the school will have a better chance of securing a place. In terms of alternative schools, your home local authority may provide home to school transport in accordance with their agreed policy.	Newport City Council Torfaen County Borough Council Monmouthshire County Council
Impact on transition and siblings	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no	The parents of pupils affected by this proposal will still be able to apply for a place at Caerleon Comprehensive School, albeit as out-of-	Newport City Council Torfaen County Borough Council

	longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	catchment applicants. If the school is oversubscribed, all out-of-catchment applications will be assessed equally against the same criteria, and those with relevant siblings already attending the preferred school will have a higher priority in terms of securing a place. Transition arrangements will continue to be facilitated between primary and secondary schools after the offer of a secondary school place has been made.	Monmouthshire County Council
Environmental impact and wellbeing of future generations	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	Caerleon has been designated an air quality management area due the elevated levels of pollution caused by road traffic. Any reduction in the number of vehicles that travel through Caerleon will help elevate some of the pressure causing the high pollution levels. Furthermore, in the recent Centre for Cities report (https://www.centreforcities.org/city/newport), Newport has been identified as the third highest emitter of the greenhouse gas Carbon Dioxide per head of population. A reduction in the distance of the school commute will likely result in a reduction in the generation of greenhouse gases. Whilst both reductions (air pollution and carbon dioxide) are relatively minor in the grand scheme of things, every little action that can be taken to reduce commuting distances can contribute to an overall improvement. Given that there is no intention to increase the overall capacity of the secondary school, the number of pupils travelling to the school from outside Caerleon will not significantly change.	Newport City Council
Consultation process and methodology	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as	The consultation is compliant with Welsh Government's statutory School Admissions Code and is in line with similar arrangements in previous years.	Newport City Council

	living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School		
Impact on educational standards	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	There is no negative impact on standards anticipated because of this proposal at any of Newport's primary or secondary schools.	Newport City Council
Cost of alternative home to school transport	Pupils living in Monmouthshire and Torfaen who will no longer be considered as living within the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School	Each Local Authority is responsible for agreeing an individual Home to School Transport policy to support access to school. Newport's policy provides free transport to those pupils living three miles or more from their catchment school or their nearest available school. If parents apply for their child to attend a school that is not their catchment or nearest available school, parents are fully responsible for all transport costs and arrangements. It is not anticipated therefore that the costs to Newport will increase because of this proposal but it is acknowledged that there may be an impact for other LAs.	Newport City Council Torfaen County Borough Council Monmouthshire County Council

9. Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing

In accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code, the Council's School Admissions Policy is reviewed and consulted upon annually. The effectiveness of admission arrangements is monitored by the Newport School Admissions Forum, which meets on a termly basis. An annual Admission Forum report is submitted to Welsh Government each Autumn term.

10. Involvement

As outlined, the admission arrangements for 2021 have been subject to consultation with stakeholders and a consultation report has been drafted which outlines the method of consultation and the feedback received.

The report recommends that the changes proposed via this consultation be taken forward for implementation with effect from September 2021. This decision will be now referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

In accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code, these changes must be determined by 15th April and confirmed to stakeholders by 29th April. The new policy will be published on the Newport City Council by this date.