

# Scrutiny Report



## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

### Part 1

Date: July 2024

### Subject Adaptations Policy

Author Scrutiny Advisor

The following people have been invited to attend for this item: [include all Officers and Cabinet Members]

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Sally Ann Jenkins	Strategic Director for Social Services
Caroline Ryan Phillips	Head of Prevention and Inclusion
Dale Sheals	Team Manager – Adaptations
Rhianydd Williams	Service Manager – Integrated Family Support
Cllr Pat Drewett	Cabinet Member for Communities and Poverty Reduction

## Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

### 1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked:

- To consider the draft Adaptations Policy and assess how effective it will be in:
  - Providing a framework/guidance and
  - Reflecting current needs and Corporate Plan priorities
- To determine whether it wishes to make any comments or recommendations to Cabinet Member.

### 2 Context

#### Background & Summary

- Following local elections, Newport City Council's [Corporate Plan 2022-27](#) was agreed by Council in 2022. As a result of this, new Plans, such as the People Plan 2023-28 and the Digital Strategy 2023-27, were created and agreed.
- The Corporate Plan 2022-27's sets out Newport City Council's strategic priorities for this period. The third Wellbeing Objective under this plan is to deliver "Preventative and Equitable

Community and Social Care”.

- 2.3 The Adaptations Policy is the latest of these to be brought before Committee for consideration and feedback prior to its presentation to Cabinet Member.
- 2.4 Previously, information relating to adaptation grants were presented on the Council’s website separately.
- 2.5 This Adaptations Policy collects and enshrines guidance for several adaption grants and processes available to the residents of Newport, and seeks to increase accessibility for residents to this information and by extension, to the grants and processes referenced within the report.

### Previous Consideration of this Item

- 2.7 The Committee have not previously considered this item.

## 3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the Adaptations Policy.
- 3.2 Attached at Appendix 2 is the Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment.

## 4. Suggested Areas of Focus

### 4.1 Role of the Committee

**The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:**

- Assess whether the draft Adaptations Policy clearly and effectively sets out:
  - Legislative context
  - What assistance is available and how it can be accessed
  - How this policy supports the Corporate Plan 2022-27
- Identify any barriers to effective adoption of this Policy.
- Determine if the Committee would like to make a recommendation(s) to Cabinet Member on the draft Adaptations Policy.

### 4.2 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
<b>Long-term</b> The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.	What consideration have you given to the long term trends that could affect your proposal or; how could your proposal impact these trends?
	How will the needs of your service users potentially change in the future?
<b>Prevention</b>	What is the objective (or the desired outcome) of this proposal?

Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.	How are you addressing these issues to prevent a future problem?
	How have the decisions, so far, come about? What alternatives were considered?
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Integration</b></p> <p>Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	Are there any other organisations providing similar / complementary services?
	Have you consulted with the health board, third sector, emergency services, businesses and anyone else you think might be impacted?
	What practical steps will you take to integrate your project with existing plans and strategies of other public organisations to help us all contribute fully to the seven national well-being goals?
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p>	Who have you been working with? Why? Who have you collaborated with in finding out more about this problem and potential solutions?
	How are you co-working with other sectors?
	How are you using the knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Council's work?
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Involvement</b></p> <p>The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	How have you involved the people who are being impacted by this decision?
	How have you taken into account the diverse communities in your decision making?
	How have you used different / alternative methods to reach people and involve them?
	How will you communicate the outcome of your decision?

### 4.3 Suggested Lines of Enquiry

The Committee may wish to consider:

- The range of grant funding available
- The accessibility of the document for public use
- How this work supports the Corporate Plan 2022-27
- Would this policy would benefit the residents of Newport

## Section B – Supporting Information

### 5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport’s Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
<b>Aims:</b>	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

5.1 This Policy has strong links to Wellbeing Objective 3.

## 6 Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-27](#)
- [Prevention and Inclusion Service Area Plan 2022-24](#)
- [The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act \(1996\)](#)
- [The Regulatory Reform \(Housing Assistance\) \(England and Wales\) Order \(2002\)](#)

Report Completed: July 2024