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(Tel: 01443 873575 Email: [jonesa23@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:jonesa23@caerphilly.gov.uk))

**Date: 24th April 2024**

To Whom It May Concern,

A multi-locational meeting of the **Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee** will be held in Penallta House, and via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 30th April, 2024 at 5.30 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Councillors and the public wishing to speak on any item can do so by making a request to the Chair. You are also welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, both these requests require a minimum notice period of 3 working days. A simultaneous translation will be provided on request.

Members of the public or Press may attend in person at Penallta House or may view the meeting live via the following link: <https://civico.net/caerphilly>

This meeting will be live-streamed and a recording made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore the images/audio of those individuals speaking will be publicly available to all via the recording on the Council's website at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHARRY'.

**Christina HARRY**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## AGENDA

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.

Pages

A greener place Man gwyrdach



2 Declarations of Interest.

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To approve and sign the following minutes:-

- 3 Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 26th March 2024. 1 - 8
- 4 Consideration of any matter referred to this committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.
- 5 Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme. 9 - 20
- 6 To receive and consider the following Cabinet reports\*:-
1. Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024;
  2. Trade Waste Service Changes and Charging Policies – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024;
  3. Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2024/25 – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024;
  4. Private Sector Housing Renewal and Adaptation Policy – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024;
  5. Refurbishment Of Twin Pack Organics Collection Vehicles – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024.

*\*If a member of the Scrutiny Committee wishes for any of the above Cabinet reports to be brought forward for review at the meeting please contact Andrea Jones, 01443 873575, by 10.00am on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024.*

To receive and consider the following Scrutiny reports:-

- 7 Final Report of the Task and Finish Group Reviewing The Residents' Parking Policy. 21 - 60
- 8 Interim Strategy For Serious Violence Prevention for Gwent 2024-25. 61 - 92

**Circulation:**

**Councillors** C. Bishop, M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, D. Cushing, C.J. Cuss, D.T. Davies, T. Heron, A. Hussey, M.P. James, D. Ingram-Jones, A. McConnell, B. Owen, L. Phipps, H. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, J. Rao, A. Whitcombe (Chair) and S. Williams (Vice Chair)

And Appropriate Officers

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# Agenda Item 3



## HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD IN PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Whitcombe – Chair  
Councillor S. Williams – Vice Chair

Councillors:

M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, C. Cuss, D. T. Davies, T. Heron, A. Hussey, D. Ingram-Jones, M. James, A. McConnell, B. Owen, L. Phipps, H. Pritchard, J. A Pritchard, J. Rao.

Cabinet Members:

Councillors, S. Cook (Housing) and P. Leonard (Planning and Public Protection).

Together with:

Officers J. Roberts-Waite (Head of Strategy and Development), C. Boardman (Development Manager), S. Wilcox (Programme Development Manager), F. Wilkins (Housing Services Manager), L. Allen (Principal Group Accountant – Housing), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager) and A. Jones (Committee Services Officer).

### RECORDING, FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being live-streamed and recorded and would be made available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#) Members were advised that voting on decisions would be taken via Microsoft Forms.

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Bishop and D. Cushing.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

#### 3. HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as a correct record. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal vote (and in noting there were 14 for, 0 against and 1

Abstention) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (minute nos. 1 – 7) be approved as a correct record.

#### **4. CALL-IN PROCEDURE**

There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

#### **5. HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Cath Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager) presented the report, which outlined details of the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the period March 2024 to March 2025.

Members were asked to consider the FWP alongside the Cabinet work programme and suggest any changes prior to publication on the Council's website.

It was moved and seconded that the report recommendation be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal vote (and in noting there were 14 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers be published on the Council's website.

#### **6. CABINET REPORTS**

It was confirmed that there had been no requests for any of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

#### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports which were taken in the following order.

#### **7. CAERPHILLY HOMES PRESENTATION**

A Presentation was given to the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee by the Head of Strategy and Development Manager and the Development Manager on the Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and Building Regulations 2023. Members were advised that this was following a request from a Member of the Scrutiny Committee last year where the Caerphilly Homes Development and Governance Strategy had been presented and discussed. The Strategy was subsequently approved by Cabinet in September 2023 and set out the Council's ambitions in respect of its development program. It noted the use of MMC as a construction method and the Building Regulations 2023 as a minimum standard that all Caerphilly homes are to be built to.

The presentation focused on the key aspects of both construction requirements and fully explained what the techniques of MMC are compared to traditional buildings. Members were shown images of MMC Constructed units, and the components of the panels were explained and how the installation of the completed unit would be carried out. Members

were informed of the benefits and challenges of using MMC and were advised that MMC Construction had been used in the pilot sites in Trethomas and Trecenydd and it is proposed to use the same construction on the Oakdale and Ty Darren Schemes in terms of the TACP Sites (Transitional Accommodation Capital Program using the 3D Modular construction for those sites based on speed, delivery, and net zero carbon

A Member queried whether the timber frames for the new houses were being manufactured by us or was this work being sourced in from external companies. Members were informed that the homes being built on site at Ty Darren in Risca, the flagship later living scheme, will be built using a lightweight steel frame which is sourced from a company that is located on Penallta Industrial Estate. This reduces the carbon footprint by sourcing local materials and the manufacturer has committed to increase the number of local people they will employ. It was confirmed that we are looking at using a variety of different materials and there will be a range of homes with both steel and timber construction.

The Member asked why we are not building these ourselves and training people within the authority to retain the profit in house instead of handing the profit to external providers. Members were advised that this was considered at the start of the development program but in addition to this program the Council has the WHQS 23. This would mean the workforce will be focusing on delivering the WHQS 23. There is a also a shortfall of skills, lack of resources and capacity in-house to also deliver a new build program.

A Member enquired as to what research was available on the sustainability of these houses. Members were advised that there was a large amount of research going on in terms of the sustainability of these types of units. There are several kinds of modular home providers who deliver net zero carbon products, which is the optimum from a sustainability perspective. The next step would look at embodied carbon and what materials are going into the units, and it was agreed that the research can be shared with Members. The scrutiny committee were advised that the sustainability of the environment is a priority and ensuring that we deliver betterment and net biodiversity gain, which is a policy requirement in England but not in Wales., The Authority is keen to do this for the carbon offset and the sequester carbon, as well as building homes, which are energy efficient as possible. This will reduce the energy bills for future residents and reduce the impact on the environment. We are also aiming to meet as many environmental targets as possible with our development program.

Clarification was sought on how monitoring of the energy use would be carried out and Members requested confirmation as to whether any monitoring had been undertaken on the properties in Trecenydd. It was confirmed that Welsh Government appointed the contractor to install and monitor the equipment on the flats in Trecenydd. A report and presentation was given to Officers last week which confirmed that out of the 12 flats only 8 of the flats are working and recording of the usage, the data was disappointing as statistically it is not enough data to be able to make comparisons. The installer has been contacted for them to review the equipment and to ensure that measures are put in place to ensure that the equipment works as it should. Feedback from customers over a six month period has been positive and they were happy with their bills with no negative feedback. A visit to each customer is planned to undertake further exploratory questions concerning energy costs and living conditions. Members were informed that the monitoring for the developments at Ty Darren and Oakdale would be monitored by CCBC and this would be carried out via Wif-Fi.

A Member requested confirmation as to whether Stately Homes a Company in Abercarn, had been contacted as they have been constructing similar products for many years. Members were advised that this company had been contacted and dialogue with them is ongoing.

It was suggested that a site visit to one of the developments be arranged if possible and it was confirmed that this could be arranged.

The Chair thanked Officers for their report. Members noted the content of the presentation.

## **8. PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL AND ADAPTAION POLICY**

The Chair congratulated Officers on the report and invited the Cabinet Member for Housing to introduce the report.

The Cabinet Member for Housing presented the report which summarised the 2002 Regulatory Reform Order which requires local authorities to produce and implement deliverable Private Sector Housing Renewal Policies. A review of the current 2014 policy is required, to ensure our key priorities remain relevant, and update our financial assistance products which no longer meet the needs of applicants.

Members were advised that the report highlights a number of proposals and include key priorities which change the approach to delivering financial assistance for a grant based policy to more sustainable repayable loans, and introduction of an energy crisis grant of up to £5000 to improve energy rating of homes. Continuation of Discretionary Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) and continuing to deliver medium adaptations by way of means tested mandatory DFG's.

It was confirmed that there was an amendment to the report at 3.8. Members of the Committee recommend Cabinet approve the assignment of £320,019 of the Private Sector Housing slippage monies referenced in 3.7 to support the delivery of the Bryn Carno targeted regeneration scheme. Confirmation of the costs for the scheme have been received and the cost of the cross tenure scheme at Bryn Carno which is part funded by Welsh Government is £1.9 million for the private sector properties and identifies a shortfall of £320,019. Whilst details of this project had been previously been taken through the scrutiny process, we were not aware of the need to commit our resources until the last few of days.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and invited Members questions.

The Housing Services Manager advised that there was a typo at 8.3 the existing annual budget for private sector housing of £2.267 million. It should state £2.167 million.

A Member sought clarification on the impact the proposals would have for adults on the lowest incomes and those requiring discretionary grants. Members were advised that Welsh Government had previously recommended the removal of means testing for DFG applicants. This report recommends that we do not accept this WG recommendation as it is not considered sustainable and would have a negative impact on resources. If the means testing were to be removed there would be a significant increase in demand resulting in longer waiting times for assessments affecting all users of this service. There would be a significant impact on those on lowest incomes as they will have no alternative to a grant. .

Members were informed about the number of loan products on offer which would be based on the affordability for people to be offered what best suits their needs, this would generate a recyclable pot of monies to enable more people to be provided with help.

A Member sought assurance of the effect upon hospital discharges, as the remit has been broadened, which should be the number one priority. In addition, the member asked if there has been an assessment of how many staff would be needed to deliver these



changes and were there enough administrative resources to manage these proposals and if Care and Repair have been consulted. It was confirmed that officers work with hospital discharge staff and palliative care, and Social Services prioritise those cases. We offer minor adaptations like handrails, small ramps, key safes, and other work that enables people to return home safely. It is recommended that means tests should remain, to ensure the most vulnerable people are supported. Members were provided with the procedure that is followed to assess each case using the mandatory means tested grants and the disabled facility grants and other loan products to meet the needs of everybody.

It was confirmed a lot of products are already in place and staff would be diverted from discontinued products to manage the new products. Staffing would be reviewed over the next 12 months. It was confirmed that Care and Repair do not undertake major adaptation works for the Authority, we support them to provide some complementary adaptations and they also support hospital discharge cases. Care and Repair have been consulted in relation to this process and they were invited to comment.

A Member was concerned about the disparity between support provided for hoists through grant and the support provided to those with stairlifts which would be offered loans for repair or replacement. An amendment was moved that people requiring replacement or repairs to stairlifts should not have to pay. The Committee were advised that in relation to lifts, the report was referring to where a stairlift was installed for the first time that would be funded through grant assistance. If a replacement of an existing stairlift, that would be considered as a repair rather than an adaptation and those would need to be a loan. Hoists are done through a separate stream.

The Chair agreed that a vote would be taken on the amendment following all questions from Members.

A Member sought reassurance that there is sufficient finance available for these proposals. It was confirmed that some of the loans were funded through Welsh Government, which provided just over £2 million several years ago. Some of this was as a loan which would need to be repaid by the end of financial year 2029/30. £1 million pounds was provided through grant funds which can be retained and is recyclable. The new funding stream means that the annual allocation and slippage monies and accrued monies from previous years would be committed to building a recyclable pot.

A Member asked if since Brexit there have been increased costs of labour and materials and if that has affected the schemes that have been progressed through the previous policy. Members were advised that the impact of covid and the cost of living crisis has had a huge impact. During covid, contractors were lost through retirement or went elsewhere and have not returned. This has led to labour and material shortages, higher demand and higher costs which was the reason a moratorium was requested last year on home repair grants and conversion grants, as they were no longer viable or sustainable, with only 2 conversion grants provided in recent years. It is important the policy is reviewed now, as what has worked well in previous years is not sustainable any longer and we are finding it is no longer viable.

Clarification was sought on the Lifetime loans and the 80/20%, does it mean that applicants will have to pay 20% of the costs. It was confirmed that the lifetime loans are a Welsh Government funding project and the 80/20 refers to the equity required in the property rather than their contribution. Any registered debt such as mortgage are considered, and we ensure that they do not exceed 80% of the equity to provide security and protection for the individual. An example where a property valued at £100,000 and a mortgage of £50,000 a loan of no more than £30,000 would be offered to try to ensure that they would not go into negative equity. All individuals are advised to seek their own

independent financial advice in relation to a charge being registered against their property when receiving the loan.

The Introduction of the repayable assistance alternative products for those individuals that are not able to meet the criteria for the lifetime loans, perhaps because they already have registered charges, a full registered charge would not be registered, and a local land charge would be registered as protection for the authority.

Following consideration of the report an amendment to the recommendations was moved and seconded that:

1. 'Residents needing a replacement or repair to their stairlifts should be treated under the same financial conditions, i.e: subject to discretionary grants as residents needing stairlifts for the first time'.

By way of Microsoft Forms and Verbal votes (In noting there were 3 for, 12 against and 1 abstention) the amendment was declared lost by the majority present.

The Chair invited the Committee to vote on the recommendations within the report.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal vote (and in noting there were 12 for, 1 against and 1 abstention) this was agreed by the majority present.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that: -

1. The change in approach to delivering financial assistance from a mainly grant based policy to a more sustainable repayable loan based policy in relation to property and regeneration be approved.
2. Following consideration of alternative(s) to the strategic approach the Private Sector Housing Renewal and Adaptation Strategy be approved.
3. The continuation of the delivery of medium adaptations via means tested mandatory DFGs in line with statute be approved, noting that this recommendation does not comply with the formal request of the Welsh Government Minister for Housing and Local Government, Julie James of the 10.03.2021 with regards to medium adaptations.
4. The proposed policy be introduced with immediate effect, that discontinued products cease to be offered from 31st of March 2024 with new financial products introduced from 1 June 2024 to allow for implementation planning and training.
5. That applicants with active enquiries for discontinued products be given a time limited opportunity to progress applications to formal approval.
6. The introduction of targeting of the In-House Agency Service to vulnerable households and amendments to Agency fees be approved.
7. The realignment of the Private Sector Housing capital budgets £2,167,000 and associated slippage monies £6,916,280 (as at period 9 monitoring report 2023/24) to deliver the proposed Policy in agreement with the section 151 officer and Cabinet Member for Housing. The slippage money and agency income to be ringfenced for a period of 5 years to allow the effective implementation of the proposed Policy be approved.

## 9. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25

The Cabinet Member for Housing Introduced the report on the Housing Revenue Account, HRA business plan 2024/25, which would be presented to Cabinet on the 3rd of April 2024 is an annual requirement from Welsh Government as part of the annual submission of the major appeals allowance grant application.

There is a key element to ensuring the effective long term management and maintenance. The Council housing stock as essentially a financial forecast, would land on key assumptions so then inflation rates, interest rates, financial costs and cost rent increases or decreases level of bad debts and voids, stock count, pay awards and financing it costs. Its thought this was a good time to report the business plan annually to members going forward.

As progress in developing our own social housing stock, it has become more important as we experience such instability within the market in terms of inflation, material cost, supply, and labour resources, which could impact significantly on a new build commitments and Welsh Governments ambitious new WHQS 23 decarbonization agenda, that is ahead of us. The actual cost is not known to its full extent and therefore is not being reflected in this year's business plan.

A Member highlighted that CCBC rent arrears are in the top quartile of the 10 local housing authorities and our rents are 5.2% lower than the All-Wales average and third lowest in Wales, but our wages are 5% higher than the Wales average, why is there this imbalance. The Member expressed concerns of the balance between spend on new build and improving housing stock, given the number of homeless people waiting for affordable housing should the priority for spend be on new builds.

Officers confirmed in relation to the arrears that following directions from Welsh Government during the pandemic and because of the implications for homelessness, we have changed our direction more to sustainability and supporting tenants to remain within and sustain their tenancies. The cost of living crisis has also had an impact and we have a high proportion of our tenants who are on Universal Credit, so we don't receive direct payments. We have expanded the role of our support teams who provide a lot of support to tenants. There have been no evictions resulting in homelessness on the basis solely of arrears, tenants are encouraged to engage and work with our support. If specialist advice and support is needed, we would divert them to the relevant places. It is acknowledged that arrears are high, and this would be managed. There is an action plan to try and increase the level of collection, prioritising the intervention and prevention of arrears, focusing on our largest arrears in those cases. The tenancy review panel has been reinstated and would be considering cases where there was a lack of engagement and an unwillingness to work with us and to consider looking at starting possession proceedings for those at the highest levels but working within the Welsh Government provision and offering support.

A comment was raised regarding the rents arrears and the members asked if the figure considers the fact that Universal Credit is paid one month in Arrears, therefore tenants in receipt of universal credit will always be in arrears. Members were advised that the percentage was based on what it was at the point in time when writing the plan. When engaging and supporting customers in relation to the arrears we are aware of the Universal Credit process and it is accepted the reality of arrears, and we have target points at which we will contact them and support them in recognition of that Universal Credit process. We also work with them, where appropriate, on agreeing an alternative payment arrangement to ensure that we get direct payments rather than relying on debt payments of housing costs.

A Member queried the Inflation figures in the report and asked if they were the best or worst case scenario and how they were calculated. The Member sought confirmation on whether we have risk assessments to consider the support needed by tenants who have poor money management or are unable to afford rent due to the cost of living crisis. Are there strategies in place to deal with those in arrears.

The Committee were advised that the report refers to the Bank of England predicted inflation would fall sharply to about 2% in the middle 2023, and inflation was about 10.7% in June 2023. Since then, it has fallen again and inflation rates in the plan reflect a steady decrease to 2% over 5 years rather than the two years as the Bank of England predicted. An extra 1% on the inflation rate has been added to cover that. In terms of the risk assessment for the Universal Credit it is not known how many will transition over because we do not have that data and we only know that there are approximately 3000 tenants who are not eligible as they are not of working age, so they would not migrate onto the new Universal Credit and there are 3360 currently on Universal Credit.

In relation to strategies in place it was confirmed that there was a strong focus on support and sustainability and there was a dedicated welfare benefits advice team and cost of living support team in addition to the tenancy support officers, income maximisation programs are offered and if needed external funding would be looked at, there was a discretionary housing payment allocation and the use of alternative payment arrangements to assist with making difficult decisions to enable them to sustain their homes. We work closely with other agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and offer support for things like debt relief orders for tenants to sustain their tenancies. This can offer a clean slate and are tied into the breathing space requirement, if a tenant seeks support and assistance with their rent arrears or other debts. We work with that breathing space provision and give them a three month clear time where we do not chase the debt but can provide intervention to seek external sources and funds to assist them in the clearance of debt.

A Member highlighted that in the report at 5.4 it mentions that the Council will be required to inform Welsh Government if we don't submit the Business Plan by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and then be required to work with Welsh Government to develop the Business Plan and if we don't do so it will be treated as a failure to comply. The member considered that this should be reflected in the reasons for the recommendation. Officers confirmed that the amendment would be made to the report.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal vote (and in noting there were 15 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that: - Members of the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee acknowledged and considered the 2024/25 Housing Business Plan prior to its approval by Cabinet on the 3rd April, and its submission to Welsh Government by the 31st March 2024.

The meeting closed at 19:05 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR



## **HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

**SUBJECT: HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND  
CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To report the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Forward Work Programmes are essential to ensure that Scrutiny Committee agendas reflect the strategic issues facing the Council and other priorities raised by Members, the public or stakeholder.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Members consider any changes and agree the final forward work programme prior to publication.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To improve the operation of scrutiny.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee forward work programme includes all reports that were identified at the Committee meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The work programme outlines the reports planned for the period April 2024 until March 2025.
- 5.2 The forward Work Programme is made up of reports identified by officers and members. Members are asked to consider the work programme alongside the

cabinet work programme and suggest any changes before it is published on the council website. The Scrutiny committee will review this work programme at every meeting going forward alongside any changes to the cabinet work programme or report requests.

5.3 The Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1, which presents the current status as at 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The Cabinet Work Programme is attached at Appendix 2. A copy of the prioritisation flowchart is attached at appendix 3 to assist the scrutiny committee to determine what items should be added to the forward work programme.

#### 5.4 **Conclusion**

The work programme is for consideration and amendment by the scrutiny committee prior to publication on the council website.

### 6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 No assumptions are necessary.

### 7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 As this report is for information only an Integrated Impact Assessment is not necessary.

### 8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report.

### 9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no specific personnel implications arising as a result of this report.

### 10. **CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been included in this report.

### 11. **STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 The Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Mark Jacques, Scrutiny Officer jacqu@carphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive  
Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment  
Gareth Jenkins, Interim Director for Social Services  
Nick Taylor-Williams – Head of Housing

Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/ Monitoring Officer  
Lisa Lane, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer,  
Legal Services  
Councillor Andrew Whitcombe, Chair of Housing and Environment  
Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Shane Williams, Vice Chair of Housing and Environment  
Scrutiny Committee

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
- Appendix 2 Cabinet Forward Work Programme
- Appendix 3 Forward Work Programme Prioritisation Flowchart

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## Forward Work Programme - Housing and Environment - Appendix 1

Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
30/04/24 17:30	Residential Parking Permit Inquiry – Final Report	To advise Members of the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee on the final recommendations of the Task and Finish inquiry into the potential implications of changes to the current Residents' Parking Policy.	Jacques, Mark;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
30/04/24 17:30	Serious Violence Duty: Needs Assessment and Strategy	To seek Members views and Cabinet approval from members for the Gwent Serious Violence Strategy and Needs Assessment.	Kenny, Natalie;	Cllr. Leonard, Philippa;
18/06/24 17:30	LHMA (Local Housing Market Assessment) and the Welsh Government Prospectus	To discuss and approve the LHMA and the Prospectus. Welsh Government requires all Local Authorities to undertake a Local Housing Market Assessment and a Prospectus. The documents set out the requirement for housing within the county borough and is utilised to inform the LDP, the allocation of Social Housing Grant and the Council's own Caerphilly Homes development programme.	Roberts-Waite, Jane;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
18/06/24 17:30	Public Protection Annual Report		Hartshorn, Rob;	Cllr. Leonard, Philippa;
18/06/24 17:30	Leasing Scheme Wales		Taylor-Williams, Nick;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
18/06/24 17:30	Sport Caerphilly Disability Sports Camps	To seek approval to cease provision of Disability Sports Camps during school holidays due to the complex needs of the children that require specialist support and to address their financial viability.	Lougher, Jared;	Cllr. Morgan, Chris;
16/07/24 17:30				
17/09/24 17:30				
29/10/24 17:30	Information Item - HRA Budget Outturn		Allen, Lesley;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
10/12/24 17:30	Housing Revenue Account Charges – 2024/2025	Members to agree the level of rent increase for council contract holders (tenants) effective from April 2025	Allen, Lesley;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
11/02/25 17:30	Welsh Housing Quality Standard Compliance Policy		Edwards, Catherine;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
25/03/25 17:30				

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## Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 23rd April 2024

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
01/05/2024 13:00 p.m.	Youth Forum Priorities	To provide the Youth Forum priorities for 2024	Clare Ewings/Paul Warren	Cllr Carol Andrews
01/05/2024	Six month Update on the Corporate Complaints received for the period 1st April to 30th September 2023	For Cabinet to consider the data from 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023 together with the outcomes and lessons learned.	Lisa Lane/Carl Evans	Cllr Nigel George
01/05/2024	Re-purposing of Social Services Earmarked Reserves	For Cabinet Members to consider an alternative use of Social Services earmarked reserves in order to extend a number of fixed term arrangements put in place to alleviate capacity issues across the directorate	Mike Jones/Stephen Harris	Cllr Elaine Forehead
01/05/2024	Health & Safety Policies:  * Corporate Asbestos Management Plan * Corporate Health & Safety Policy * Display Screen Equipment Policy	For Cabinet to consider and approve the updated H&S policies	Lynne Donovan/Emma Townsend	Cllr Nigel George
05/06/24	Gwent Serious Violence Strategy	To seek Members views and Cabinet approval from members for the Gwent Serious Violence Strategy and Needs Assessment.	Natalie Kenny/Rob Hartshorn	Cllr Philippa Leonard
05/06/24	Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2023/24	To inform Cabinet and seek their endorsement of the progress made during the financial year 2023-2024 against four specific areas of Welsh language work, as required under the regulatory framework for	Anwen Cullinane /Kath Peters	Cllr Eluned Stenner

## Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 23rd April 2024

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
		implementing the Welsh Language Standards		
05/06/24	The federation of the Cwmaber Infants School and Cwmaber Junior School	To seek Cabinet approval to move to formal consultation, in partnership with each Governing Body, for the federation of Cwmaber Infants School and Cwmaber Junior School	Sue Richards / Andrea West	Cllr Carol Andrews
05/06/24	School Inspection Update - Estyn	To update members on recent Estyn school inspections and to offer an analysis of themes for comment and observations.	Keri Cole	Cllr Carol Andrews
05/06/24	Proposed Changes to Caerphilly CBC's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy	To seek Cabinet approval of a proposed change to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy in relation to rateable value limits.	Glenn Edwards/ Sean O'Donnell	Cllr Eluned Stenner
05/06/24	Exempt Item - Tourism Review: Memorandum of Understanding in respect of Cwmcarn Forest with Natural Resources Wales	This item is subject to a public interest test	Allan Dallimore	Cllr James Pritchard
26/06/24 13:00 p.m.	Sport Caerphilly Disability Sports Camps	To seek approval to replace the current programme of Sport Caerphilly disability sports camps with an offer that is more tailored for the attendees and their changing needs.	Jared Lougher	Cllr Chris Morgan

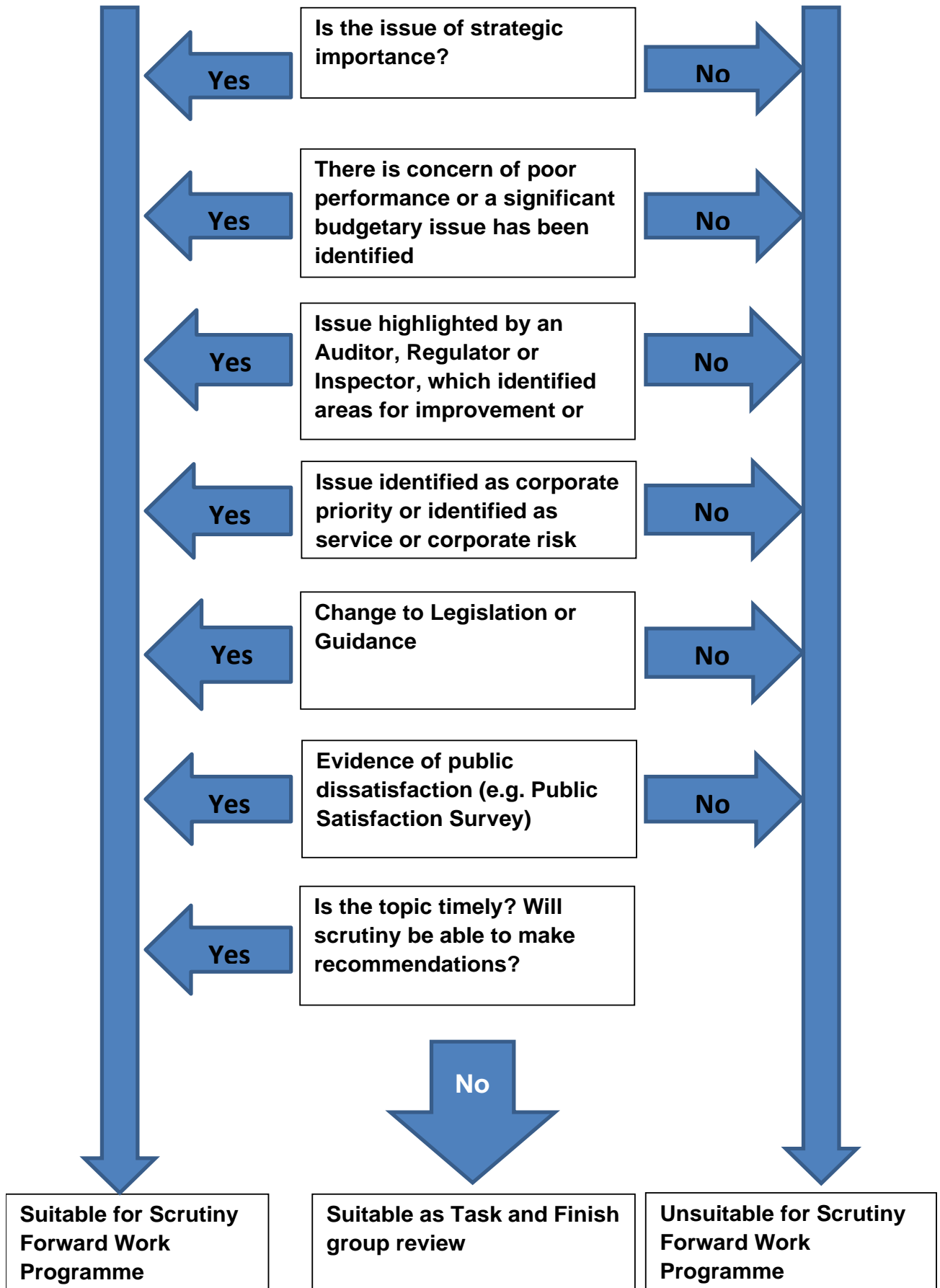
## Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 23rd April 2024

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
26/06/24	Local Housing Market Assessment and the Welsh Government Prospectus	To discuss and approve the LHMA and the Prospectus. Welsh Government requires all Local Authorities to undertake a Local Housing Market Assessment and a Prospectus. The documents set out the requirement for housing within the county borough and is utilised to inform the LDP, the allocation of Social Housing Grant and the Council's own Caerphilly Homes development programme.	Nick Taylor-Williams/Jane Roberts-Waite/ Mark Jennings	Cllr Shayne Cook
24/07/24 13:00 p.m.	Proposed Waste Strategy and Consultation Feedback.	Consideration of public consultation feedback in regard Draft Waste Strategy and finalisation of new Waste Strategy to allow development of Full Business case for submission to Welsh Government.	Marcus Lloyd/Hayley Jones/ Hayley Lancaster	Cllr Chris Morgan
24/07/24	Leasing Scheme Wales	To seek Cabinet agreement to adopt the Welsh Government leasing scheme Wales to increase access to the private rented sector	Nick Taylor -Williams	Cllr Shayne Cook
24/07/24	Social Services - Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report	To present the 2023-24 Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report, Forward Work Programme and Safeguarding Key Activity Data for information to ensure Cabinet is fully aware of the Council's arrangements for corporate safeguarding and is satisfied that these arrangements are effective.	Gareth Jenkins	Cllr Elaine Forehead

## Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 23rd April 2024

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
24/07/24	Public Protection Annual Report	To update Cabinet on the enforcement activities of the public protection division for 2023/24	Rob Hartshorn	Cllr Philippa Leonard
24/07/24	Amalgamation of Hendre Infants and Junior Schools	To seek approval to proceed to Consultation	Sue Richards, Andrea West	Cllr Carol Andrews
24/07/24	Proposal for the closure of Rhydri Primary School	For Scrutiny Members to consider the Objection Report and endorse the recommendation to Cabinet, via vote, to implement the proposal	Sue Richards, Andrea West	Cllr Carol Andrews

### Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme Prioritisation



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## HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

**SUBJECT:** FINAL REPORT OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP REVIEWING  
THE RESIDENTS' PARKING POLICY

**REPORT BY:** CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE  
SERVICES

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee on the final recommendations of the Task and Finish inquiry into the potential implications of changes to the current Residents' Parking Policy.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 At a meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 Committee Members agreed that a Task and Finish inquiry into the potential implications of changes to the current Residents' Parking Policy be carried out.
- 2.2 A Task and Finish Group was recommended under 5.14.2 of the "Parking for Resident Permit Holders" report that was under discussion that evening.
- 2.3 The report had been prepared in response to requests received from Councillor D.T. Davies MBE and Councillor A. Hussey and endorsed by the Joint Scrutiny Committee (Environment and Sustainability and Housing and Regeneration) on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020, for amendments to be considered to the parking restrictions in residential areas.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and recommend to Cabinet the following recommendations of the Task and Finish inquiry into the current Residents' Parking Policy:
- i. That the times of operation of the Residents' Parking Policy be changed to Monday to Saturday, 8am to 8pm as a maximum restriction (formerly Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm). This can be reduced depending on the local circumstances which will be considered as part of the traffic regulation order process.

- ii. That the times of operation of all existing schemes are brought in line with the policy. This will be applied when the traffic regulation order for each area is progressed/reviewed.
- iii. That Cabinet considers using Caerphilly County Borough Council communication channels to convey enforcement messages to residents with regards to residential parking infringements.

#### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To seek endorsement from Scrutiny Committee Members of the recommendations of the Task and Finish inquiry into the potential implications of changes to the current Residents' Parking Policy and make recommendations to Cabinet for consideration.

#### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The terms of reference for this Task and Finish inquiry are: To fully consider the complexities and implications of any proposed changes to the existing Residents' Parking Policy. As part of the Task and Finish Group's remit a consultation exercise will need to be carried out with all eligible residents (approximately 1,800 properties) within existing schemes to gauge views and help inform decisions.

- 5.2 The Task and Finish Group on Residential Parking met for the first time on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and agreed the terms of reference and Inquiry Plan set out in the review's Scoping Document. The Task and Finish Group was made up of the following Members:

Councillor D.T Davies MBE  
Councillor N Dix – Vice Chair  
Councillor A Hussey - Chair  
Councillor D Ingram-Jones (Co-opted from Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee)  
Councillor S. Kent  
Cllr H. Pritchard

- 5.3 The second Task Group meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and focussed on gaining an understanding of the current position regarding residential parking and a background overview from Traffic Management Officers. The key witnesses were Mr Clive Campbell (Transportation Engineering Manager) and Mr Dean Smith (Principal Engineer, Traffic Management).
- 5.4 The Chair raised the issue of extending the permit operating time from the current schedule to 8am to 8pm instead. Whilst acknowledging that recommendations were a matter for the Task Group the Principal Engineer reiterated that extending the operating hours risked diverting enforcement resources from the working day when roads were busier. Members heard how a thin resource would be spread more thinly if times of operation were extended. The Chair highlighted that in Newport some operating restrictions were from 8am to 8pm. The Principal Engineer suggested that this might be appropriate in cities where demand was greater in the evenings because of sporting events for example.
- 5.5 At the January meeting the Principal Engineer, Traffic Management advised that

historically Limited Waiting Bays had been introduced to allow visitor parking. But as Visitor Permits were now allowed under the current policy the Principal Engineer advised that Limited Waiting Bays could be reviewed as part of Phase 3 of the Traffic Order Programme.

- 5.6 During the second meeting a Member of the group asked if a Camera Car would be a more effective enforcement tool rather than foot patrols given that there were 6,200 metres of resident parking within the County Borough. The Principal Engineer advised that this was a good idea but outlined the regulations on what can be enforced via a Camera Car.
- 5.7 One Member enquired if moving away from parallel parking on one-way streets had been considered. Provided there was adequate road width the Member was of the view that angled parking would be a better use of space. The Principal Engineer advised that echelon parking had been introduced in Nelson but most of the streets now under consideration were not wide enough to introduce it. However, he gave assurances it would be one of the considerations under the Phase 3 review.
- 5.8 At the meeting the Principal Engineer advised that wider consultation would be needed for any policy changes which were outside the Traffic Order process. The Transportation Engineering Manager advised that any consultation of this kind would need to be County-wide and more detailed than the planned consultation of the 1,800 households who currently hold parking permits.
- 5.9 The third meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 was organised so that guidance on the future consultation exercise could be provided by the Consultation and Public Engagement Officer Ms. Elizabeth Sharma.
- 5.10 At the February meeting officers suggested to Members that consultation on changes to times of operation should be conducted on a street-by-street basis as part of Traffic Order changes. It was highlighted that some residents with more than one vehicle might prefer ending regulations at 6pm so that additional vehicles could be parked at the end of the working day.
- 5.11 A draft survey by the Consultation and Public Engagement Officer and the Scrutiny Officer was unanimously endorsed by the Task Group at their fourth meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023. It was decided that the online survey of eligible residents within existing schemes should be supported by a letter offering hard copies of the survey if preferred. A copy of the survey is attached in the appendices of this report.
- 5.12 The survey of eligible residents ran from 4<sup>th</sup> July until 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Also, as part of the evidence-gathering process an update report was presented at the Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in order to gather the views of the Community and Town Councils.
- 5.13 The fifth meeting of the Task and Finish group was held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The purpose of this meeting was to present Members with the findings from the consultation of residents.
- 5.14 Members heard how 1,837 bilingual letters inviting residents to complete the survey were sent to every household within residential parking areas. 312 responses were received to the survey which ran for four weeks from 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
- 5.15 Accessibility to the online survey was increased for residents with smartphones by the inclusion of QR codes on the letters circulated to the areas covered by existing

schemes. 38 households requested hard copies of the survey, 21 surveys were returned in the prepaid envelopes and were submitted manually by the Scrutiny Officer. Two surveys returned were not included as the respondent of one did not live in an area covered by a resident parking scheme, and the other was received after the closing date for the survey. 18 letters were returned by the Royal Mail as the address for each one was deemed inaccessible.

- 5.16 At the meeting in October 2023, the Scrutiny Officer advised Members that on the key question “did the current policy meet the needs of you and your household?” 71% of respondents replied no and 29% of those surveyed thought that it did.
- 5.17 According to survey respondents the area of the current policy most in need of updating was: the maximum times of operation Monday to Saturday 8am – 6pm. There were 91 nominations for this part of the policy to be updated.
- 5.18 The remaining top 4 current policy parts that needed updating according to the consultation exercise were: the non-resident element of parking must be at least 25%, residents must have to park some distance from their properties, 80% of residents must support the introduction of a residents' only parking scheme, and charges of £15 per permit per annum. At the October meeting Members were also given a selection of some of the supporting comments made by residents on each current policy area.
- 5.19 On the comments made by residents in the survey the Scrutiny Officer outlined to Members how he had read through them all and had broken them down under key themes. The top five themes taken from survey comments were: Greater Enforcement (19% of comments), Remove Limited Parking (18%), Extend Hours of Operation (15%), Too many Commercial Vehicles (12%), and Unable to park despite having a permit (7%). The Scrutiny Officer also gave Members a flavour of opinion by showing them a selection of comments made by residents under each identified theme.
- 5.20 The Transportation Engineering Manager observed that the survey showed the variety of opinion that existed and how it would be impossible to please everybody. The Group were asked to consider where the balance should be between parking for residents, visitors, and businesses. He highlighted that permitholders were not paying for a space to park, they were paying for the administration and enforcement of the scheme. There was no guarantee of a space. Members heard how Enforcement Officers did not have access to the DVLA database and could not check addresses for example, they could purely enforce consistently on whether or not a permit was displayed between the hours of operation.
- 5.21 During discussion at the October meeting Members suggested that the Council used local media to highlight the enforcement action taking place, this could be press releases on the issue of Penalty Charge Notices for example. Caerphilly County Borough Council social media platforms could also be used to convey the enforcement message to residents.
- 5.22 Having determined that there was no merit in gathering further evidence the Task and Finish Group met on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to discuss their final recommendations. At this sixth meeting of the review Members received a synopsis of the evidence received so far against the key issues identified such as if a policy update was needed and whether or not the hours of operation should be extended. A copy of the synopsis is contained in the appendices of this report.

## 5.23 Conclusion

At the meeting in December the Task and Finish Group on Residential Parking suggested and unanimously endorsed the recommendations outlined in Section 3 of this report. The Group have been meeting regularly since December 2022 and have consulted with eligible residents (1,837 households) living within existing resident parking schemes to gauge their views and help inform decisions. Following deliberation by the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee this report will proceed to Cabinet for final consideration.

## 6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 No assumptions are necessary.

## 7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The proposal to extend the times of operation of the Residents' Parking Policy by two hours, or retain the current status depending on local circumstances, is deemed to have a neutral impact on protected characteristic groups. However, the maximum times of operation of the scheme will be reduced in some areas where residents' parking currently applies 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, which could have a negative impact on certain protected characteristic groups (Disability/ Pregnancy and Maternity). But the impact is likely to be low as the scheme is not currently being enforced regularly after 6:00pm or on Sundays. Consideration will also be given to maximising the parking opportunity (by removing existing parking restrictions where possible, such as double yellow lines) within the affected streets as part of the traffic regulation order process.
- 7.2 The proposal is deemed to have a neutral impact on members of the community experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. Similarly, there is a neutral impact on the Council's Well-being Objectives and on matters under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards.
- 7.3 You can view the full Integrated Impact Assessment here:

[LINK TO THE IIA](#)

## 8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 At this stage of the Task and Finish review no financial implications have been identified. Any costs arising from Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) changes will be met from operational budgets as and when the TRO reviews are progressed.

## 9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications with respect to this report.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 All responses from the consultations have been incorporated in the report.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 The Local Government Act 2000.

## **12. URGENCY (CABINET ITEMS ONLY)**

12.1 Non-urgent.

Author: Mark Jacques, Scrutiny Officer. E-mail: jacqu@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive  
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director Economy, and Environment.  
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure.  
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer.  
Lisa Lane, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer.  
Clive Campbell, Transportation Engineering Manager.  
Dean Smith, Principal Engineer Traffic Management  
Cath Forbes-Thompson, Scrutiny Manager.  
Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Property and Highways.  
Councillor Andrew Whitcombe, Chair of Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee.  
Councillor Shane Williams, Vice Chair of Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee.  
Councillor Adrian Hussey, Chair of the Task and Finish Group on Residential Parking.  
Councillor Nigel Dix, Vice Chair of the Task and Finish Group on Residential Parking.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Resident Parking Policy Review Survey

Appendix 2 - Presentation on Resident Parking Review Survey

Appendix 3 - Information gathered at Task Review meetings since December 2022



## Resident Parking Policy Review (July 2023)

As car ownership and usage has increased so too has the demand for on-street parking, and it is recognised that this often exceeds the highway space available in many residential areas. While the desires for residents to be able to park near their homes is understood, there is no obligation on Highway Authorities to provide parking on the public highway. The public highway is provided and maintained at public expense to facilitate the passage of people, traffic and goods, and it is the vehicle owners' responsibility to ensure that adequate parking is available for the vehicles that they own.

The Council can introduce residents' only parking schemes, however it should be noted that they are not a solution to a situation where the number of residents' vehicles exceeds the available on-street parking provision.

The current policy was last reviewed in 2019 and is currently being reassessed to ensure its suitability moving forward.

**As a resident living in an area covered by a resident parking scheme, we would like to hear your views so that we can identify any areas of the policy that need to be updated (if any) and make recommendations to Cabinet.**

PLEASE NOTE: This evidence gathering exercise relates to the Residents' Only Parking Policy and not the specific parking restrictions that have been implemented in your street. The extent of the parking bays, limited waiting provision/removal, ability to park in limited waiting bays etc. are determined locally and can be changed via the existing traffic regulation order process. Furthermore, any concerns that you may have regarding parking enforcement is an operational matter and is not subject to conditions within the policy. Any comments relating to these matters will not be considered as part of this process.

**How we use your personal information:** The information you provide will be used by the service area relevant to the consultation / survey within Caerphilly County Borough Council. Views expressed will be collated together and used to produce a summary report. Depending on scope / nature of the survey / consultation, the summary report will be used to evaluate and remodel services / priorities etc. We will not keep your views in a way that will identify you for longer than is necessary.

You have a number of rights in relation to the information we hold about you, including the right of access to your information and the right of complaint if you are unhappy with the way your information is processed. For further information on how we process the information and your rights please follow this link:

[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/FOI/PrivacyNotices/Privacy-Notice-Consultations-Surveys.aspx](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/FOI/PrivacyNotices/Privacy-Notice-Consultations-Surveys.aspx)

## Current Scheme Criteria

Under the current Residents' Only Parking Policy new schemes are limited to locations where:

- At least 50% of properties are unable to provide reasonable off-street parking
- Are immediately adjacent to major shopping areas, large employment sites, main transport interchanges and colleges.
- The expected displacement of parking to adjacent streets is acceptable.
- 80% of residents must support the introduction of a residents' only parking scheme.
- The problems for residents occur for at least four hours at a time and at least twice in most weeks.
- Residents must have to park some distance from their properties - at least 85% of spaces occupied for the above periods.
- The non-resident element of parking must be at least 25%.

The following restrictions apply to any new Residents' Only Parking scheme:

- Times of Operation: Monday to Saturdays, 8.00 am to 6.00 pm as a maximum restriction. This can be reduced depending on the local circumstances.
- Charges: £15 per permit per annum.
- Permits may be issued to Cars, motorcycles and vans provided that the overall height does not exceed 2.44 metres and the overall length does not exceed 5.49 metres.
- A maximum of two permits per qualifying property will be issued, of which one permit can be designated as a visitor permit.
- Those properties whose hardstands or garages fronting on to areas of resident parking will not be eligible for a permit.
- Issue of business permits may be permitted where considered appropriate and supported by the ward Members (at a charge of £75 per permit per annum).
- Disabled badge holders are exempt from the resident parking regulations. (This is a legal requirement and cannot be amended).

More detail on the current policy can be found here:

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/services/transport-and-parking/parking-permits/resident-permits>

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**Do you currently live in an area currently covered by a resident parking scheme?**

- Yes
- No

Please provide your postcode in the following format (CF83 1XX)

**How many vehicles are registered at your home address?**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4+



## How many parking permits do you currently have?

### Resident

- None
- One
- Two

### Visitor

- None
- One

## The current scheme (Policy Criteria)

**Which parts of the current Resident Parking Permit Policy, if any, do you feel need to be updated? Please tick all that apply.**

- At least 50% of properties must be unable to provide reasonable off-street parking.
- Areas must be immediately adjacent to major shopping areas, large employment sites, main transport interchanges and colleges
- The expected displacement of parking to adjacent streets must be acceptable
- 80% of residents must support the introduction of a residents' only parking scheme.
- The problems for residents must occur for at least four hours at a time and at least twice in most weeks
- Residents must have to park some distance from their properties - at least 85% of spaces occupied for the above periods
- The non-resident element of parking must be at least 25%
- The maximum times of operation are Monday to Saturdays, 8.00 am to 6.00 pm
- Charges: £15 per permit per annum
- Permits may be issued to Cars, motorcycles and vans provided that the overall height does not exceed 2.44 metres and the overall length does not exceed 5.49 metres
- A maximum of two permits per qualifying property will be issued, of which one permit can be designated as a visitor permit
- Those properties whose hardstands or garages fronting on to areas of resident parking will not be eligible for a permit
- Issue of business permits may be permitted where considered appropriate and supported by the ward Members (at a charge of £75 per permit per annum)

**Is there anything missing from the current Resident Parking Policy?**

**Overall, do you feel that the current Resident Parking Policy meets the needs of you and your household?**

Yes

No

**Please tell us why you say this.**

PLEASE NOTE: This evidence gathering exercise relates to the Residents' Only Parking Policy and not the specific parking restrictions that have been implemented in your street. The extent of the parking bays, limited waiting provision/removal, ability to park in limited waiting bays etc. are determined locally and can be changed via the existing traffic regulation order process. Furthermore, any concerns that you may have regarding parking enforcement is an operational matter and is not subject to conditions within the policy. Any comments relating to these matters will not be considered as part of this process.

## About you

These questions are optional but will help us understand how the current policy impacts differently on people with protected characteristics.

### Age group

- 17-25
- 26-39
- 40-49
- 50-65
- 66+

### I am

- Female
- Male
- Prefer to self-describe
- Prefer not to say

### Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

### Does your disability impact on your day to day activities?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

### Household type

- Adult only
- Adult and children of pre-school age
- Adult and children of school age

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

**Please return to Mark Jacques, Scrutiny Officer, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Tredomen, CF82 7PG by 4 August 2023**

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# Resident Parking Policy Review

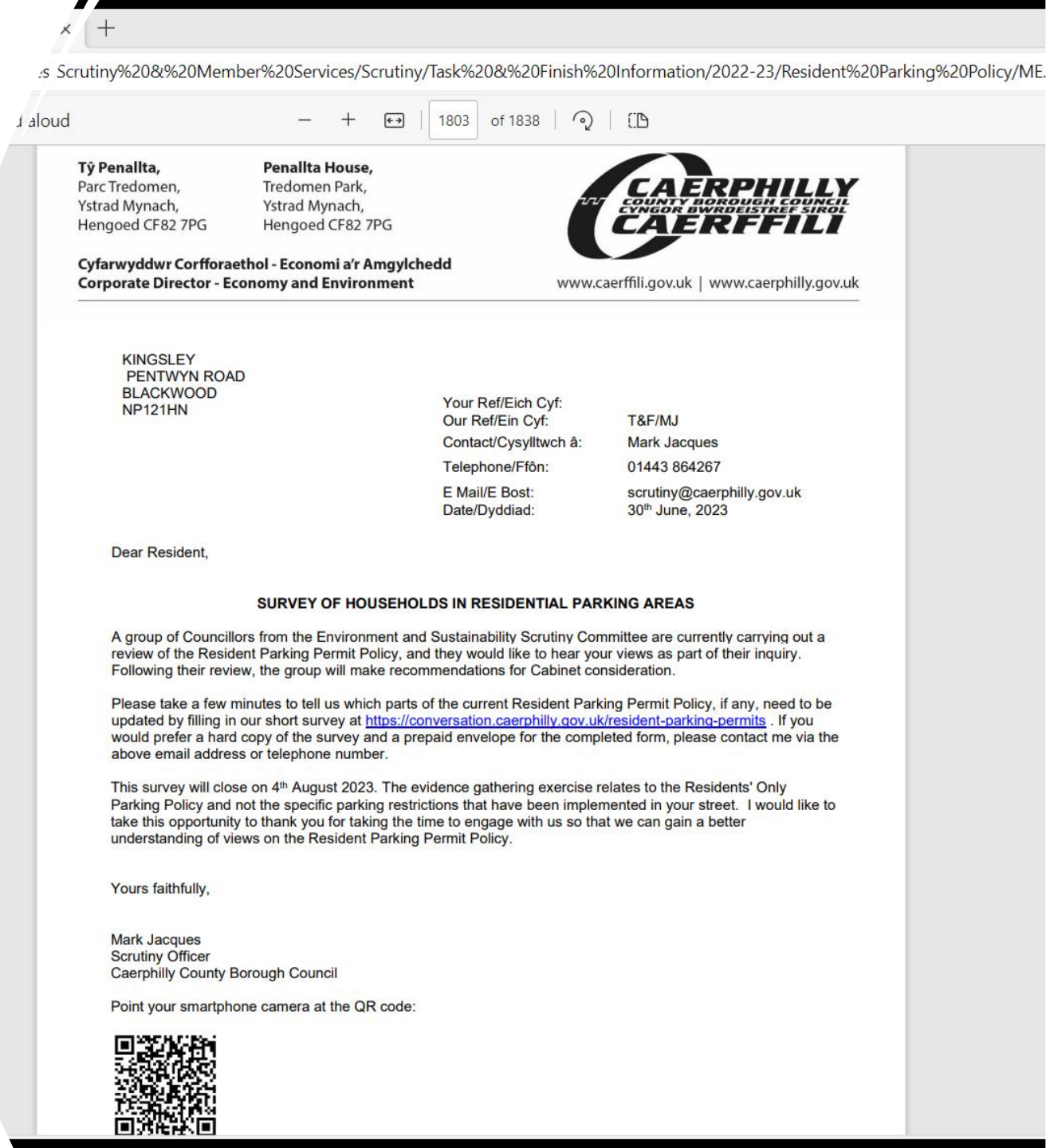
Survey – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to 4<sup>th</sup>  
August 2023



# 1,837 Bilingual Letters

Page 34

- URL to online survey
- QR code to online survey
- The offer of a hard copy of the online survey and a prepaid envelope for the completed form



# Response Rate

312 Responses received  
from 1,837 households  
contacted.

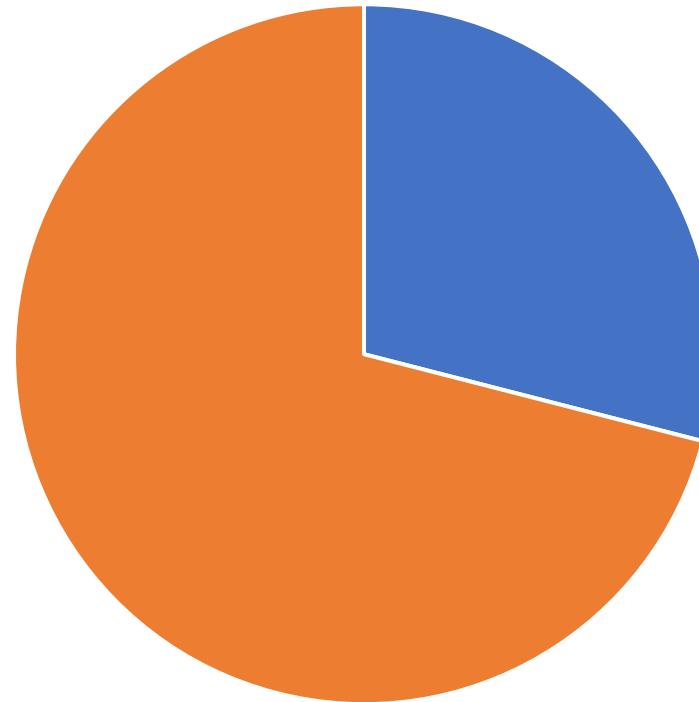
# Requests for Hard Copies

- 38 Requests Received
- 21 Returned Forms Entered Manually
- 18 Letters returned by the Royal Mail as they couldn't deliver



# Overall, do you feel that the current Resident Parking Policy meets the needs of you and your household?

Responses



■ Yes 29% ■ No 71%

# The top 5 current policy parts that need updating

1. The maximum times of operation are Monday to Saturdays, 8.00 am to 6.00 pm. (*91 nominations for this part of the policy to be updated*)

# Supporting comments from residents

*“Parking for residents should be 24/7 as the biggest parking problem is at evenings and weekends.”*

*“Sunday is frequently the most difficult day in terms of parking.”*

*“Parking restrictions operate when residents are in work, ridiculous I pay for parking permit but it’s irrelevant as when I get home from work anyone can park in the street .”*

*“We would like it until 8 in the evenings and also on Sundays.”*

# The top 5 current policy parts that need updating

2. The non-resident element of parking must be at least 25%. (*90 nominations for this part of the policy to be updated*)

# Supporting comments from residents

*“All areas should be for permit holders, currently can't park within 2 streets of my house at most times yet I pay for a permit.”*

*“As more people are working from home, there is not enough space in the street during the days for residential parking.”*

*“I do not agree with the protocol of "non-resident element of parking must be at least 25%". In my opinion, Resident parking within the zones as determined, should be for Residents of the locality only.”*

# The top 5 current policy parts that need updating

3. Residents must have to park some distance from their properties - at least 85% of spaces occupied for the above periods. *(89 nominations for this part of the policy to be updated)*

# Supporting comments from residents

*“85% of parking spaces available should be reduced to 50%.”*

*“Residents often struggle to find parking close to their house and are being pushed out by people playing the system.”*

*“This is unfair! Especially in the winter months when I’m walking from a pay and display car park in the wet and cold after a long shift! Not to mention having to pay for all day parking even though I have a permit.”*

# The top 5 current policy parts that need updating

=4. 80% of residents must support the introduction of a residents' only parking scheme. The problems for residents must occur for at least four hours at a time and at least twice in most weeks. (87 nominations for this part of the policy to be updated)



# Supporting comments from residents

Page 45

*“Change 80% of residents must support to 51%”*

*“A lot of residents who live by us won't buy a permit which is unfair. It's not expensive. They use the free parking outside ours so we can't park there. We think everyone should be made to buy a permit.”*

*“We are residents and did not get a say in the current restrictions. So, I don't see how 80 percent agreed to this policy.”*

# The top 5 current policy parts that need updating

=4. Charges: £15 per permit per annum.  
*(87 nominations for this part of the policy to be updated)*

# Supporting comments from residents

Page 47

*“The charges are ludicrous... As a homeowner and a council taxpayer, to be charged for parking outside my own house is nothing short of robbery... This needs to change!!!”*

*“Why should people who can't afford to buy expensive homes with driveways / garages be charged to park outside their homes?”*

*“Residents should be issued with free permits.”*

# Top 5 Themes taken from Survey Comments

- Greater Enforcement (19% of comments)
- Remove Limited Parking (18% of comments)
- Extend Hours of Operation (15% of comments)
- Too many Commercial Vehicles (12% of comments)
- Unable to park despite permit (7% of comments)

# Supporting comments on Greater Enforcement (19%)

Page 49

*“Enforcement needs to be reviewed as we have experience of cars with no permit parking for several days.”*

*“More officers to book those who are not street residents or have a permit.”*

*“More traffic wardens in the areas, because residential parking is restricted due to shop owners, shoppers and Caerphilly workers parking in residential spaces without any permit and never ever being booked.”*

*“Not enough enforcement officers to patrol the streets and give out tickets.”*

# Supporting comments on Remove Limited Parking (18%)

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*“Abolish 1 hour Parking Zones in Permit Parking Streets, they’re totally unfair and unjust.”*

*“If an area has a car park for visitors, then all nearby streets should be permit parking only and not up to one hour.”*

*“There are many stretches of road where the parking is for one hour only and we know that people abuse the system by hopping from one one-hour parking stretch to another throughout the day.”*

*“Do we want short stay parking stopped? Answer, yes.”*

# Supporting comments on Extend Hours of Operation (15%)

*“The time of operation isn't long enough. Outside of these hours, especially on a Sunday, parking is a free for all.”*

*“The permit system should also be monitored at night.”*

*“Sunday is frequently the most difficult day in terms of parking due to the number of visitors being able to park in the areas usually restricted for those with permits.”*

*“Extend the times of operation for permit holders only where there aren't enough spaces to accommodate current residents.”*

# Supporting comments on Too Many Commercial Vehicles (12%)

*"No business should be allocated a permit to stay all day, only for loading."*

*"Commercial vehicles should be made to park in the out-of-town car parks that you have provided."*

*"Business vehicles should not be allowed to park, except when attending residents' houses for delivery/maintenance."*

*"Commercial vehicles are an issue on our street and are often left outside our property for days and on occasions weeks. I think further controls regarding commercial vans are required."*



# Supporting comments on Unable to Park despite Permit (7%)

*"I currently can't park within 2 streets of my house at most times, yet I pay for a permit."*

*"Absolutely disgusting that I pay for a permit and am unable to park within a reasonable distance of my house after a 12hr shift!"*

*"I'm paying £15 a year for a permit I can only use 50% of the time."*

*"I think there should be MORE permit holders only parking, because even with a permit I often find all the spaces full."*

# Summary

- 71% of residents say the current policy does not meet their needs
- The top two policy areas in need of updating are (i) the maximum times of operation, and (ii) the non-resident element of parking must be at least 25%
- The top two comment themes are (i) greater enforcement, and (ii) remove limited parking

## Information gathered at Task Review meetings since December 2022.

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED	EVIDENCE RECEIVED
Is an update of the Resident Parking Policy needed?	<p>Parking restrictions were last reviewed in 2012. <b>(Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023).</b></p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer advised Members that on the key question “did the current policy meet the needs of you and your household?” 71% of respondents replied no and 29% of those surveyed thought that it did. <b>(Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023).</b></p>
Should the Times of Operation be extended?	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>FOR</u></b></p> <p>The top policy part that needed updating according to residents was “the maximum times of operation are Mondays to Saturdays, 8am to 6pm” with 91 nominations. <b>(Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023).</b></p> <p>The third top theme taken from survey comments was “extend the hours of operation.” 15% of comments. <b>(Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023).</b></p> <p>The Chair observed that in his Ward many residents would like the hours of operation to be between 8am and 8pm. <b>(Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023).</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>AGAINST</u></b></p> <p>The Principal Engineer advised that extending this restriction later into the evening would risk diverting parking enforcement resources from the working day at such locations as schools for example. <b>(Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023).</b></p> <p>The Chair highlighted that in Newport some operating restrictions were from 8am to 8pm. The Principal Engineer suggested that this might be appropriate in cities where demand was greater in the evenings because of activities such as sporting</p>

	<p>events for example. <b>(Meeting held on 30th January 2023).</b></p> <p>It was also suggested to Members that consultation on changes to times of operation should be conducted on a street-by-street basis as part of Traffic Order changes. It was highlighted that some residents with more than one vehicle might prefer ending regulations at 6pm so that additional vehicles can be parked at the end of the working day. <b>(Meeting held on 27th February 2023).</b></p> <p>Members heard about the challenges posed by a limited traffic enforcement budget and the consequences if times of restricted parking were extended. A thin resource would be spread more thinly if times of operation were extended. <b>(Meeting held on 27th February 2023).</b></p> <p>The Principal Engineer highlighted the confliction between wanting greater enforcement and extending the hours of operation. As resources would be spread more thinly especially if Sundays were also included. <b>(Meeting held on 16th October 2023).</b></p> <p>During the ensuing discussion officers outlined some of the challenges associated with extending the hours of operation in terms of the safety of enforcement officers and setting realistic expectations amongst residents. <b>(Meeting held on 16th October 2023).</b></p>
<p>Limited Waiting in Residential Parking Areas.</p>	<p>The Principal Engineer, Traffic Management advised that historically Limited Waiting Bays had been introduced to allow visitor parking. But as Visitor Permits were now allowed under the current policy the Principal Engineer advised that Limited Waiting Bays would be reduced as part of Phase 3 of the Traffic Order Programme. <b>(Meeting held on 30th January 2023).</b></p> <p>The Member outlined that in his Ward there was a lot of contention amongst residents with the limited parking arrangements for non-residents on residential streets. The</p>

	<p>Principal Engineer advised that limited waiting restrictions could be removed, and resident parking extended through the Traffic Regulation Order process. The purpose of the scheme criteria was for new resident parking schemes only. The Principal Engineer highlighted the challenges with retrospectively applying a changed parking policy. <b>(Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023).</b></p> <p>The second to top policy part that needed updating according to residents was “the non-resident element of parking must be at least 25%” with 90 nominations. <b>(Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023).</b></p> <p>The second top theme taken from survey comments was “remove limited parking.” 18% of comments. <b>(Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023).</b></p> <p>Another Member outlined the frustration of permitholders in his Ward caused by the large number of motorists using Limited Parking provision on a regular basis. <b>(Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023).</b></p>
Greater Enforcement.	<p>The top theme taken from survey comments was the need for greater enforcement. 19% of comments. <b>(Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023).</b></p>
Commercial Vehicles.	<p>Too many Commercial Vehicles was a theme arising from survey comments. 12% of comments. <b>(Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023).</b></p>
Different ways of working.	<p>One Member reiterated the need for the Group to discuss the criteria for permits and suggested that questionnaires could be sent to residents as part of the annual renewal of current parking permits. <b>(Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022).</b></p> <p>A Member of the group asked if a Camera Car would be a more effective enforcement tool rather than foot patrols given that there were 6,200 metres of resident parking within the County Borough. The Principal Engineer advised that this was a good idea but outlined the regulations on what can be enforced via a Camera Car. Only no</p>

	<p>stopping restrictions such as at bus stops and near schools could be enforced. They could not be used for residential parking were issues such as a reasonable observation period was required before issuing a fine. <b>(Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023).</b></p> <p>One Member enquired if moving away from parallel parking on one-way streets had been considered. Provided there was adequate road width the Member was of the view that angled parking would be a better use of space. The Principal Engineer advised that echelon parking had been introduced in Nelson but most of the streets under consideration were not wide enough to introduce it. However, he gave assurances it would be one of the considerations under the Phase 3 review. <b>(Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023).</b></p>
Factors for consideration.	<p>The Transportation Engineering Manager added that there were significant challenges and as there were more vehicles than parking spaces the final policy would need to be a balance of compromises. He also highlighted the danger of introducing changes which had unintended consequences. <b>(Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023).</b></p> <p>The Transportation Engineering Manager warned Members about the risk of raising expectations amongst residents beyond what can be realistically delivered. <b>(Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023).</b></p> <p>The Transportation Engineering Manager observed that the survey showed the variety of opinion that existed and how it would be impossible to please everybody. The Group were asked to consider where the balance should be between residents, visitors, and businesses. He highlighted that permitholders were not paying for a space to park, they were paying for the administration and enforcement of the scheme. There was no guarantee of a space. Enforcement Officers did not have access to the DVLA database and could not check addresses for example, they could purely enforce consistently on whether or not a permit was displayed between the</p>

	<p>hours of operation. <b>(Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023).</b></p> <p>Members had to consider what provision they wanted for visitors' parking and observed that this was especially important for those receiving care in their homes. <b>(Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023).</b></p> <p>Members also suggested using the local media to highlight the enforcement action taking place, this could be press releases on the issue of Penalty Charge Notices. <b>(Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023).</b></p>
What Next?	<p>The Principal Engineer advised that wider consultation would be needed for any policy changes which are outside the Traffic Order process. The Transportation Engineering Manager advised that any consultation of this kind would need to be County-wide and more detailed than a survey of the 1,900 households who currently hold parking permits. <b>(Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023).</b></p>

**Some suggested recommendations based on the evidence received for Member consideration.**

- Caerphilly County Borough Council prioritises the provision of bereavement counselling across the County Borough during future meetings with partners.
- Caerphilly County Borough Council uses its influence within the WLGA to recognise the importance of the role played by Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners and recommends a collective appeal from all Welsh Councils for additional funding from the Welsh Government for this vital service.
- Council communications platforms are actively used to promote community health and wellbeing activities such as Bereavement Cafes organised via the Integrated Wellbeing Network.
- Caerphilly County Borough Council liaises closely with partners in order to explore ways of allowing increased community self-determination for post-COVID wellbeing recovery through processes such as Participatory Budgeting.
- Caerphilly County Borough Council actively encourages CCBC staff and Members to undertake Gwent Connect 5 training in order to help improve population mental wellbeing.
- Caerphilly County Borough Council works with partners to develop a "Tool Kit" outlining some of the key symptoms of Mental Health issues and signposting users to the help available such as the Melo website.

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## **HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

**SUBJECT: INTERIM STRATEGY FOR SERIOUS VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION FOR GWENT 2024-25**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND  
ENVIRONMENT**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Scrutiny Committee on the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty and the development of the Interim Strategy for Serious Violence Prevention for Gwent 2024-25.
- 1.2 To seek Scrutiny Committee views on the Strategy prior to presenting it to Cabinet for approval.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 In 2019 the Government announced its intentions to introduce a Serious Violence Duty to ensure that all relevant agencies work together to share information and develop local interventions to reduce and prevent serious violence within their local communities.
- 2.2 The Serious Violence Duty commenced across Wales and England on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 and stipulated that each local authority area had to have a strategic needs assessment and strategy for serious violence in place by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. In Gwent, the Police and Crime Commissioner has taken on the lead convener role and has supported the specified authorities in developing a regional needs assessment and strategy. Working collaboratively partners have now developed a Serious Violence Strategy for Gwent which is attached as Appendix 1.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Committee members' views are requested on the strategy prior to presenting it to Cabinet for approval.

## **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 So that Cabinet can consider the views of Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee prior to approving the strategy.

4.2 To comply with the statutory duty of developing a Serious Violence Strategy.

## **5. THE REPORT**

5.1 On 28 April 2022, the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act received Royal Assent. The PCSC Act legislates the Serious Violence Duty (the Duty), a multi-agency approach to prevent and reduce serious violence in England and Wales. It sets out that 'specified authorities' across England and Wales must collaborate to share information to address priorities, where possible through existing partnership structures when implementing the Duty. 'Specified authorities' comprise of:

- The Chief Officer of Police
- Fire and Rescue Authorities
- Local Health Boards
- Local Authorities
- Youth Offending Teams
- Probation Service

5.2 The Serious Violence Duty commenced on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 and stipulates that agencies must work collaboratively and share data and information to put in place a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence. In addition to the Duty the Government also amended the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to place an explicit duty on Community Safety Partnerships to have a strategy in place to tackle serious violence.

5.3 In response to the Duty, a Gwent Serious Violence Prevention Working Group was established by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as lead convener in Gwent. The group consisted of representatives from all the specified authorities listed under the Duty who agreed to collaborate on the development of a serious violence needs assessment and consequent serious violence strategy. The first task for the working group was to develop a strategic needs assessment to fully understand the serious violence crime trends and problems and the underlying factors that increase the risk of these incidents happening.

5.4 As part of the requirements of the serious violence duty, local areas are responsible for developing a 'definition' of violence based on local issues and key information available that describes the picture locally. This is in addition to those key national issues that the Home Office want to see reductions in. In the development of the needs assessment the partners agreed to adopt a broad definition of violence, or areas to focus on as follows:

- Homicide,
- Knife and gun crime,
- Public space youth violence,
- Youth violence in schools,
- Grievous bodily harm (GBH) and actual bodily harm (ABH),

- Robbery,
- Sexual violence and domestic abuse including stalking and harassment,
- Arson with threats to life,
- Assaults against professionals.

It is with this definition that the needs assessment has focused the research and data analysis, starting with a profile of each of these violence types. However, it has been acknowledged by all partners that this definition may change and adapt over time.

5.5 Whilst the needs assessment highlighted that all five local authority areas have experienced increasing trends in serious violent crimes since 2019-20 partners acknowledged that there were significant issues at the data gathering and analysis stage of the process. Currently across Gwent there is no system in place to collect regional and local partner serious violence data. There is also a lack of dedicated analytical resource to analyse and interpret the data. This has therefore been highlighted as an area for development over the next twelve months as without sufficient data analysis partners cannot effectively set long term priorities or develop effective Community Safety Partnership delivery plans. The first Serious Violence Strategy will therefore be an interim strategy whilst the data and intelligence gaps are addressed and used to refresh the strategy for 2025 onwards.

5.6 The first Gwent Serious Violence Prevention Strategy therefore sets out the priorities to be achieved in 2024-25 as follows:

- Strategic Priority One: Better use of data to inform action.
- Strategic Priority Two: Prioritise addressing the risk factors for violence with evidence-based interventions.
- Strategic Priority Three: Join the dots to better understand and maximise impact.
- Strategic Priority Four: Adopt a place-based approach that utilises local experience, listens to community voices and is strengthened through regional governance.

Details on each of the priorities can be found within the full strategy document at Appendix 1.

5.7 Discussions have taken place within the working group about where the governance for this work should sit in each of the local authority areas. It has been proposed that Community Safety Partnerships are well placed to oversee the work of the strategies, develop action plans and commission initiatives/services to address the identified priorities. It is therefore proposed that the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership takes responsibility and ownership of implementing the strategy.

## **Conclusion**

5.8 The development of the interim strategy is a positive step in identifying and addressing the serious violence priorities in Caerphilly County Borough. Over the next twelve months the Community Safety Partnership will work to develop an action plan and introduce interventions to tackle this problem and work with partners to ultimately reduce the level of serious violence incidents in the area.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no assumptions associated with this report.

## **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The reduction of serious violence in public places across the county borough will benefit children, young people and adults and help provide safer communities for everyone to enjoy. No negative impacts have been identified.

**[Link to IIA](#)**

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There will be a financial cost of developing and implementing initiatives/services to address the serious violence priorities identified within the strategy. The Home Office has provided a limited amount of funding to support this work which is managed by Police and Crime Commissioners.

8.2 Through consultation with partners involved in the Gwent working group it has been agreed that the majority of the grant allocation for 2024/25 will be split equitably across the five local authority areas and each area will receive £24,000.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There will be an increase in workload for staff within the Community Safety Team who will oversee the work involved in developing and reviewing the strategy, action plan and commissioning projects to address the priorities.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 The consultees listed below have been consulted on this report and their views have been incorporated accordingly.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and the Crime And Disorder Act 1998, as amended.

Author: Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services

Consultees: Cllr Phillipa Leonard, Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection  
Councillor Andrew Whitcombe, Chair Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Shane Williams, Vice Chair Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee  
Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive  
Mark S Williams – Corporate Director, Economy and Environment  
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer  
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer  
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services  
Ceri Edwards Environmental Health and Community Safety Manager  
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)  
Jo Williams, Assistant Director Adult Services  
Gareth Jenkins, Interim Director of Social Services  
Nick Taylor-Williams, Head of Housing  
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer  
Ch. Insp. Paul Biggs, Gwent Police  
Eira Turner, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board  
Guy Browett, Probation Service  
Sam Slater, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner  
Mike Wyatt, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service  
Michaela Rogers, Youth Offending Service Manager  
Lisa Lane, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Interim Strategy for Serious Violence Prevention for Gwent 2024-25

Background papers: None

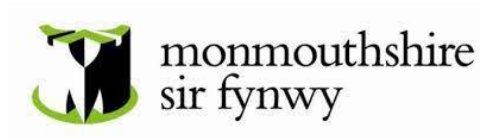
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# Serious Violence Duty

## Interim Strategy for Serious Violence Prevention for Gwent 2024-25

*'A Gwent Without Violence'*

Developing our Strategic Framework for Action: 2024-2025



**Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service**

**Newport Youth Offending Service**



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## Executive Summary

Serious violence has a devastating impact on the lives of victims and families, instils fear in communities and results in wide-ranging social and economic costs to society, communities, families, and individuals. Incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales in recent years. In Gwent, unfortunately, we are witnessing the same pattern. To reverse this trend a whole-system multi-agency approach is needed with everyone working towards a shared strategic vision of 'A Gwent without violence'.

Our collective approach should be based on a comprehensive understanding of the current serious violence landscape in Gwent, the evidence-based prevention and early interventions required to reverse this trend, what interventions and services are currently available and then detail where further action is needed. This is supported by a clear understanding of mutually beneficial partnership and inter-partnership priorities all informed and developed through meaningful community insight.

In 2019 the UK Government announced impending new legislation introducing a Serious Violence Duty<sup>1</sup> ('the Duty') to ensure that all relevant services work together to share information to target local interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities. The Duty encouraged local areas to adopt a public health approach to addressing violence when developing the strategy. This is an approach that seeks to improve the health and safety of all individuals by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence.

In response to the Duty, a Serious Violence Prevention Working Group ('Working Group') was established by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) as lead convener in Gwent early 2023. Membership of the Working Group includes relevant partners, as outlined in the Duty and known as 'Specified Authorities'. The first task for the Working Group was to develop a regional Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to fully understand the serious violence landscape in Gwent. This was the first regional SNA for Gwent and as such has been a huge task for partners, led by the OPCC.

The first Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) covers the five-year period 2018-19 to 2022-23 and was published on the same date as this interim strategy, as stipulated by the Duty, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. The current iteration of the SNA highlighted that the level of serious violent crime has been steadily increasing in Gwent over the last five years. All five of our local authorities have

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<sup>1</sup> [Serious Violence Duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/serious-violence-duty) (accessed 22/12/23)

experienced increasing trends in serious violent crimes since 2019-20 when all crime was reduced due to the covid-19 pandemic.

In Gwent, there is currently no system in place to systematically collect regional and local partner serious violence data, which is compounded by a lack of dedicated data analytic resource to analyse and interpret the data shared. The current picture of serious violence in Gwent is therefore not complete, particularly regarding understanding and interpreting what the existing data tells us about where action is required. This imposes limitations on the effectiveness of setting longer-term priorities within the regional Strategy and local CSP delivery plans. To achieve our vision of 'A Gwent Without Violence' we need a much better understanding of the serious violence landscape to inform our strategic direction that incorporates appropriate partner and partnership data.

This first Gwent Serious Violence Prevention Strategy therefore intentionally sets out the priorities to be achieved in 2024-25 which will enable time to address the data and intelligence gaps, which can then be used to refresh this Strategy from 2025 onwards. For 2024/25, four strategic priorities have been identified that will have enabling functions to establish the essential pillars upon which an effective Serious Violence Prevention strategy will be based:

***Strategic Priority One: Better use of data to inform action***

*In Gwent we will strive to achieve a data driven approach to preventing serious violence.*

- A data driven approach requires dedicated data analytical capacity, a robust regional data collection and analysis function, with appropriate governance. Opportunities to share current partner and partnership data, analytical capacity and expertise will be explored and if required new and dedicated data analytic resource funded. Once identified, minimum data sets will be agreed, and data flow systems established. Future SNAs will be strengthened by additional partner data, from sources such as individual agencies/specified authorities, Third Sector partners and local community insights. Wider partnership data would also strengthen future SNAs. This could include data from regional governance structures such as Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV), Local Criminal Justice Board and Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board.
- This priority does not just meet the SV Duty in isolation, as there are clear links to wider CSP priorities, and the work of other partnerships (such as those above) impacting on serious violence across Gwent. This will require greater partner and partnership working, trust, and sharing of resources. This approach will provide the necessary intelligence to put in

place the most appropriate and targeted interventions to achieve reductions in serious violence.

***Strategic Priority Two: Prioritise addressing the risk factors for violence with evidence-based interventions***

*In Gwent we will strive to understand the causes of serious violence to enable us to consistently take an evidence-informed approach to preventing serious violence.*

- A consistent Gwent-wide approach is required to understand, prioritise, and apply evidence-base knowledge on the causes and the risk factors of serious violence. Whilst there is clear evidence of risk factors for perpetrators and victims of violence, which include age, gender, sexuality, education, social and cultural norms, mental health, substance use, and childhood trauma (ACEs) and that there are recognised repositories providing guidance on evidence-based interventions, this information is not systematically available, accessible, and applicable in the local context. Nor is this consistently referenced in partner and partnership plans.
- Future regional and local strategies and action plans will explicitly detail prevention and early intervention outcomes and the application of evidence-based interventions, supported by outcome measures which will be monitored and evaluated. Consideration of evidence-informed practice and robust monitoring and evaluation processes will be integral to future regional and local planning and commissioning.

***Strategic Priority Three: Join the dots to better understand and maximise impact.***

*In Gwent we will strive to understand the local landscape, as well as seeking to learn from activity and good practice in other areas within and outside Gwent.*

- To maximise the impact of greater partnership working, partnership collaboration and integration of services/resources to prevent serious violence, we need to join the dots. The statutory responsibility for community safety in each of our five local authority areas lies with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and each CSP has an action plan based on local SNA's. However, due to the scale of vulnerability and susceptibility factors that influence violence there are a wide range of regional and local partnerships and networks whose priorities also impact on preventing serious violence.

- These forums have been highlighted in the Appendices but include the Public Safety Board (PSB), VAWDASV Board, Local Criminal Justice Board, Strategic Housing Coordination Group, Gwent Safeguarding Board, and the Gwent Regional Area Planning Board for Substance Misuse (APB) – all of which have statutory responsibilities. There are several well-established local forums which address similar priorities, such as 'Youth Justice Management Boards' and emerging ones such as 'Gwent Serious Organised Crime Partnership Meeting'. The priorities and activities of all these forums must be considered to avoid duplication of effort, and instead amplify the efforts to achieve mutual goals.

***Strategic Priority Four: Adopt a place-based approach that utilises local experience, listens to community voices and is strengthened through regional governance***

*We will build on local experience and understanding of violence through a place-based approach which is supported by regional partnerships.*

- An effective response to serious violence needs to utilise local experience, as well as listening and responding to community voices. Across the region of Gwent, the Working Group agree that although there is a shared vision to prevent serious violence, the patterns of serious violence are not the same across our localities.
- Although specified authority partners have agreed to collaborate on a Gwent-wide strategy and support, serious violence prevention interventions and activities will also still be driven by local need and guided by local intelligence including community voices. Regional to local governance will need strengthening after considering the findings of the PSB's CSP review.

In Gwent we are committed to securing the foundations required to establish a strategy which achieves our vision of 'A Gwent Without Violence'. This interim strategy establishes what we need to put in place prior to setting out a longer-term strategy to prevent serious violence.

## Introduction

### The Duty

In 2019 the UK Government announced legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty<sup>2</sup> ('the Duty') on a range of Specified Authorities<sup>3</sup>. The Duty ensures that all relevant services work together to share information to target local interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities.

The Duty set out the specific requirements for:

- 'Specified Authorities' to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence "*including identifying the kind of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence, and to **prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area***"<sup>4</sup>.
- Local areas to set out their medium and long-term priorities, and subsequent actions/interventions required based on a **theory of change model** AND encouraged the adoption of the World Health Organisations' (WHO) definition of a **public health approach** to reducing violence<sup>5</sup> by using the WHO's four step framework<sup>6</sup>.

The Duty was introduced to address the devastating impact of serious violence on the lives of victims and families, fear in communities and the cost to society and communities. Incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales in recent years, which is mirrored in Gwent.

### The Local Response

In 2023, the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner initiated a Serious Violence Working Group, as lead convener, made up of representatives from Specified Authorities in Gwent. The Working Group was tasked with coproducing a regional Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) and Serious Violence Prevention Strategy.

This is the first time that a regional SNA and Strategy have been produced in Gwent. Prior to 2024, broader community safety SNA's and strategies have been required to be produced on a Local Authority level by Community Safety

<sup>2</sup> [Serious Violence Duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) {accessed 22/12/23}

<sup>3</sup> Police, Justice (Probation and YOS), Fire and Rescue, Local Health Board, Local Councils in Wales

<sup>4</sup> WHO Definition of Serious Violence [Violence Prevention Alliance Approach \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int) {accessed on 22/01/24}: "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group of community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation"

<sup>5</sup> Page 8 - [Serious Violence Duty - Statutory Guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

<sup>6</sup> [Violence Prevention Alliance Approach \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int)

Partnerships, often through Wellbeing Plans under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. In Gwent there are five Local Authorities: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, and Newport, each now have Community Safety Partnership structures. Most CSPs in Gwent have only recently been reformed independent of the PSB's previous local Wellbeing Partnership structures.

The Public Health team within Gwent's local Health Board: Aneurin Bevan's University Health Board (ABUHB), led the development of this strategy in collaboration with Specified Authorities. Two partner workshops and a succession of Working Group and partner meetings, added to the available intelligence gathered in the SNA and guided the development of this interim strategy.

Our local vision has been agreed as: "**A Gwent without violence**". To achieve this vision requires a strategic approach based on a comprehensive understanding of the data, intelligence, evidence-base, partner and partnership priorities and community insight. This strategy identifies the initial key strategic priorities that are required to develop our understanding of existing data and intelligence, engagement with communities to seek their views and align and strengthen the maturing community partnership structures at both local and regional level in Gwent.

The strategy highlights actions for 24/25 which will provide the insight and impetus for what is needed to effectively reduce and prevent serious violence in Gwent.

## Current Situation

### Background

The Duty stipulates that a local Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) should provide the intelligence to inform the development of strategic priorities, with the detail of how these priorities are addressed being articulated in a local strategy. The local SNA should provide intelligence on:

- What kind of violence is taking place
- Who is affected by violence
- Where violence is happening
- When violence is happening
- And where possible, what interventions are needed

This is the first time a region-wide Serious Violence SNA and Strategy have been drafted in Gwent. The Duty required that both be completed by the 31st of January 2024, and as such the development of this strategy was based on an evolving version of the SNA.

### Gwent's 'definition' of Serious Violence

In Gwent, the agreed definition, or 'areas of focus', for serious violence have been identified as:

- Homicide
- Knife and gun crime
- Public space youth violence
- Youth violence in schools
- Grievous bodily harm (GBH) and actual bodily harm (ABH)
- Robbery
- Sexual violence and domestic abuse including stalking and harassment
- Arson with threats to life
- Assaults against professionals.

This definition was agreed by the Gwent Serious Violence Duty Working Group, with representation from all Specified Authorities.

### Current picture in Gwent

#### *What?*

The Gwent Strategic Needs Assessment (2018-19 to 2022-23) has highlighted that the level of serious violent crime has been steadily increasing in Gwent over the last five years.

Serious violent crimes with the highest crime rate per 1 thousand population of Gwent are: '*stalking and harassment*', '*actual bodily harm*' and '*weapon related crime*.' In 2022/23, homicide reached its highest recorded level, and a significant increase has been seen in reported '*assaults on professionals*',

'robbery' and 'weapon offences (specifically bladed implements)'. NB: This is based on the current data set and does not include domestic violence data or crimes that are precursors to violence-related crime. This demonstrates the urgent and vital need for concerted and coordinated action within Gwent to achieve our vision of 'A Gwent Without Violence'.

In developing this strategy, the specified authority partners agreed to collaborate with the Gwent Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Commissioning Board, to co-commission a consultant to complete a detailed analysis of the current sexual violence and domestic abuse picture across Gwent. This report is expected in Spring 2024 and relevant information will be added to this SNA at that time.

### *What and where?*

All five of our Local Authority areas include 'stalking and harassment' and 'actual bodily harm' in their top three recorded serious violent crimes. Four out of five of our Local Authorities: Caerphilly, Newport, Torfaen, and Monmouthshire have also seen increases in homicides. The exception is Blaenau Gwent which did not have any homicides recorded. Blaenau Gwent's main recorded serious violent crimes were 'stalking & harassment', followed by 'ABH' and 'weapon related crime'.

Stalking and harassment accounts for the majority of recorded violent crime in Gwent, in terms of crime rates and volume. The recorded rate across Gwent for stalking and harassment has increased by 32% in the previous five years. Although all Local Authority areas recorded an increase in rates, the highest rate increases were recorded in Blaenau Gwent (57%), followed by Monmouthshire (48%) and Caerphilly (35%). More detailed analysis and narrative will be included in future iterations of data reports which will include consideration of VAWDASV data.

ABH is the second highest violent crime recorded in Gwent. Although the Gwent ABH recorded rates have been stable over the last five years, this picture masks the variation across the five Local Authority areas. There has been an increasing trend in four of our five local authority areas, which has been counteracted by the decreasing trend in Newport. Monmouthshire has seen the biggest increase in recorded ABH, with a rise of 11% over the last five years.

Weapon related crime is the third highest violent crime recorded in Gwent. It has shown a gradual increase in each of the 5 local authorities in Gwent. In 2022/23 Blaenau Gwent's weapon related crime rate has increased by 51%, Caerphilly 21%, Monmouthshire 20%, Newport 22%, and Torfaen 18%.

### *Who?*

For most violent crimes, the SNA currently indicates that victims and offenders, are of similar age: between 26-35, are white and male. This is slightly different



for homicides where victims are typically over 46 and offenders between 18-25. With stalking and harassment, victims are on average between 26-35 and female with the majority of recorded ethnicity as 'white'. Further data and analysis are required to fully understand this picture. Also, it is important to note when considering this data that it is based on the numbers of 'reported crimes' and there should be consideration on the groups of the population who are more likely and less likely to report crimes.

#### *When?*

Violent crime is recorded as being most frequently committed between the months of April and December, during the weekend and from 3pm to midnight. Most of the violent crimes are recorded as occurring around midnight. Going forward more detailed analysis and narrative will be produced in Problem Profiles which will give the detail necessary to drive activity locally. Such as details on location of crime (i.e. in homes, parks, licensed premises) which will enable more targeted initiatives and preventative projects.

#### *Why?*

There remain some data gaps which need addressing prior to undertaking a more detailed analysis of the data to understand the local serious violence landscape. For example, domestic/sexual violence data has not yet been incorporated in detail due to a standalone needs assessment being commissioned in partnership with the Gwent VAWDASV Board. Future iterations of the SNA will provide a more comprehensive data set, but this will require dedicated and sustained data analytic capacity.

A data driven approach, which incorporates analysis and narrative, complemented by a good understanding of the evidence base is an essential precursor to understanding why serious violence is occurring in our localities. Future iterations of the SNA will also provide a more comprehensive description of the vulnerability and risk factors and drivers of serious violence, providing the intelligence required to better understand why the patterns of serious violence are occurring across Gwent, as well as to identify effective preventative interventions.

The Duty states that an effective strategy considers other strategies/partnerships which have a role in preventing serious violence to ensure greater cohesion, partnership working and no duplication in effort and resources. This is a priority for future iterations of the SNA and Strategy.

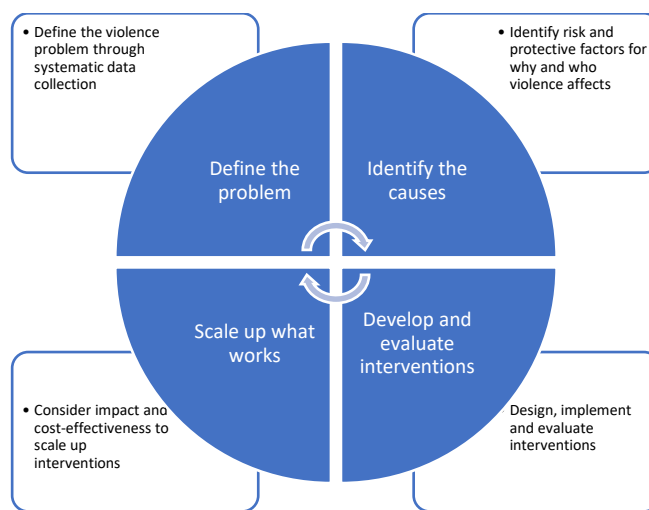
With this context, the Working Group agreed to the development of an interim strategy which outlines the key strategic priorities required to provide the intelligence, supported by appropriate governance, required to develop a long-term strategy to prevent serious violence in Gwent. There is a commitment to continuing to develop and improve the Gwent Serious Violence SNA and

Strategy, with partner agreement to review and update both documents within six months of publication, allowing time to consider the role of other local partnerships.

## Our Approach - How we will reduce serious violence in Gwent

As advised by the Duty, the Working Group agreed to adopt a public health approach to violence. This is an approach that seeks to improve the health and safety of *all individuals* by addressing *underlying risk factors* that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence. This requires thinking about the *whole population* and *communities* rather than individuals with a move in focus from individual crimes to *impacts on families and communities*.

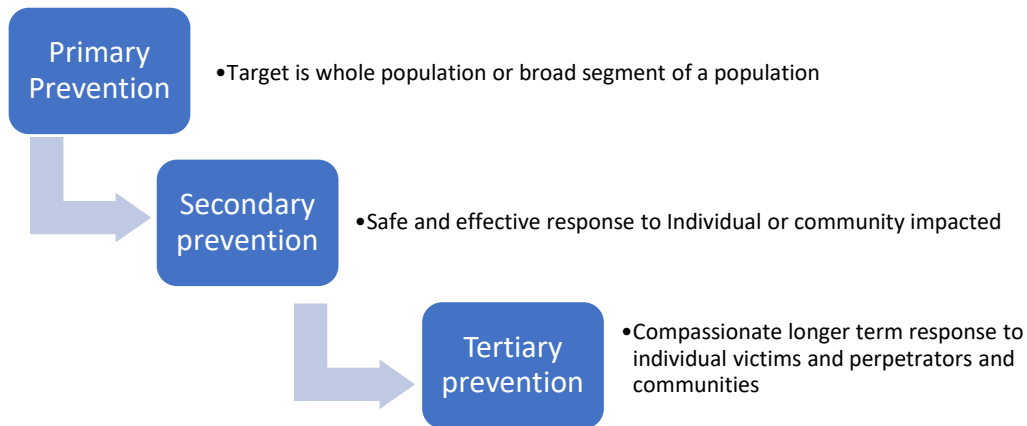
The Working Group agreed to use World Health Organisations framework: 'Four Steps approach'<sup>7</sup> which is guided by the principles of public health:



Firstly, there is a need to know the facts, working in partnership to understand and define the problem. This will require assessing underlying causes, risk and protective factors and include data, local intelligence, and community insight. Solutions then need to be explored by assessing evidence of 'what works' to prevent violence, and interventions designed. These interventions should be evaluated with those deemed effective and cost effective scaled up as necessary.

Prevention can be considered across three level: primary prevention which aims to prevent violence before it occurs; secondary prevention which focuses on the immediate response to violence and tertiary prevention which reduces harm after violence has occurred. Our local response will need to consider all these levels of prevention.

<sup>7</sup> [Violence Prevention Alliance Approach \(who.int\)](#) {accessed 05.01.24}



Essentially, our communities should be at the heart of all action to address violence. We will seek and consider the voices of our local communities in providing insights through our data and intelligence gathering. Their voices will provide the local context to risk and protective factors which we acknowledge will vary across Gwent as well as seek to ensure that any planned intervention is acceptable and appropriate.

## **Strategic Priority One - Better use of data to inform action**

*In Gwent we will strive to achieve a data driven approach to preventing serious violence.*

Despite the OPCC dedicating substantial data analytical resource to collate and analyse partner data for the first Gwent SNA, the current iteration of the SNA does not fully reflect all relevant data that is held and available to partners. There remains a need to better understand the current serious violence landscape by gathering and interpreting additional partner and partnership data, on an ongoing basis.

Specified Authorities have welcomed the increased flow of data resulting from the development of the first Gwent SNA. However, there is a need for wider partner data and more comprehensive data set which include, at a minimum, domestic violence data, and data analysis with narrative to enable interpretation of the data. There is acknowledgment that there is no system in place to receive and include qualitative data from partners and community members, or to identify potentially emerging issues.

To achieve this strategic priority there is a need to identify and develop a robust mechanism to receive, collate, analyse, interpret, and share partner data in a systematic, timely and sustainable way. The data set to be shared needs to be agreed but should include data from Specified Authority partners, local CSPs, wider partnership/forum data such as data from Public Safety Board (PSB), VAWDASV Board, Local Criminal Justice Board, Strategic Housing Coordination Group, Gwent Safeguarding Board, and the Gwent Regional Area Planning Board for Substance Misuse (APB). The Gwent Joint Strategic Assessment, and local community insight data will also provide rich sources of data. There is a vast bank of data and intelligence which could support the serious violence prevention agenda, and this data and access to it needs to be explored.

This will require dedicated data analytic resource, greater partner, and partnership collaboration and inclusion of community insight data. A system with appropriate governance will need to be identified.

The Working Group recognise that there is a wealth of data analytical capacity and expertise within Gwent, but currently this resource is allocated to working in siloes within their partner/partnership. Given the range of partners and partnerships that have a role to play in responding to serious violence prevention, the Working Group will explore the possibility of pooling this resource, before seeking any additional data analytical resource/mechanism. This is consistent with taking a whole system multi-agency approach to preventing serious violence. It is also in compliance with the requirement specified within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015<sup>8</sup> for

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<sup>88</sup> [42329 WBFEG Essentials Guide \(gov.wales\)](#) {accessed 24/02/24}

public bodies to demonstrate in their decision making that they are implementing the Five Ways of Working principles. 'Integration' is one of these principles, and exploring the pooling of partnership analytical capacity would demonstrate the implementation of these principles.

The Working Group are committed to better using partner and partnership data, shared local intelligence, and community insight to inform practice. Therefore, routinely sharing of agreed data between partners and partnerships, which is then analysed and interpreted will enable interventions to be based on a well-analysed and accurate picture of serious violence.

**Action:** Over the next year we will work together to:

1. Agree data sets, and information to be shared systematically.
2. Identify opportunities across partners and partnerships (as detailed above and in Appendix B) to routinely and sustainability share data and information.
3. Agree a regional mechanism and/or role to receive, collate, analyse, interpret, and share data and information, from National to Regional to Local Level.
4. Identify dedicated and/or pooled data analytical capacity, and funding, if necessary, to analyse and present agreed data sets and information which inform planning and commissioning priorities.
5. Ensure appropriate Welsh Accord on the Sharing of Personal Information (WASPI) agreements in place.

## **Strategic Priority Two: Prioritise addressing the risk factors for violence with evidence-based interventions**

*In Gwent we will strive to understand the causes of serious violence to enable us to take an evidence-informed approach to preventing serious violence.*

To enable the Working Group's agreed priority of more emphasis being placed on prevention and early intervention, there is a need for our understanding of the causes and the risk factors of serious violence and evidence-based responses to be demonstrated and applied to all local interventions.

In Gwent, we are committed to identifying drivers of serious violence and addressing these in an evidence-informed way, based on what cause people and communities to be more vulnerable and susceptible to the harms of violence.

There is clear evidence of risk factors for perpetrators and victims of violence, which include substance use, age, gender, sexuality, education, social and cultural norms, mental health, and childhood trauma (ACEs). Alongside significant academic literature, there is guidance for evidence-based approaches to prevent serious violence, available through several reputable repositories, such as the Wales Violence Prevention Unit, the ACE Hub Wales, the Wales Safer Communities Network, and the College of Policing. Understanding and applying this evidence is a core role of regional and local planning and commissioning, and the Working Group agree that this should be more transparent with partners being more accountable to apply this evidence.

Working Group partners are committed to applying evidence informed learning when planning and commissioning future intervention. The best available evidence of what works will be applied, along with testing new and innovative approaches. Routine monitoring and evaluating the impact of interventions will further contribute to the evidence base. In line with the public health approach to violence prevention using evidence to inform local solutions, monitoring and evaluation their impacts will be core practice.

Given that there is a complex interaction of factors that impact on serious violence, there will not be one solution, one agency or partnership that can prevent it. Understanding and addressing risk factors will require collaborative working. Although this will be time consuming and complex, it is essential to prevent serious violence. The benefits will be far reaching. For example, if the evidence base indicated investment in early years/parenting programmes to prevent serious violence, this could be beneficial for other programme priorities such as improving mental health and wellbeing, and reducing the susceptibility to addictions such as alcohol, drugs, and gambling.

The Working Group are committed to focusing greater effort on prevention and early intervention activities, guided by the evidence-base, which are monitored

and evaluated. Learning will be shared across partners and partnerships, and effective and cost-effective interventions will be rolled across our local authority areas proportionate to need.

**Action:** Over the next year we will work together to:

1. Continually consider quality assured, published research and best practice of 'what works' when planning and funding interventions, as well as reviewing the effectiveness of core business and universal services.
2. Ensure all actions/interventions within local CSP strategies and plans are systematically underpinned by the best available evidence and include clear outcome measures and explicit evaluation methods.
3. Map where Prevention and Early Intervention is currently delivered at both Regional and Local levels, across partners and partnerships.
4. Source appropriate funding to introduce effective interventions based on available evidence and local learning.



### **Strategic Priority Three: Join the dots to better understand and maximise impact.**

*In Gwent we will strive to understand the local landscape, as well as seeking to learn from activity and good practice in other areas within and outside Gwent.*

The Working Group acknowledge the established Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) with statutory responsibility for community safety in each of our five local authority areas, each developing a local action plan based on local SNAs. We are also conscious that at the time of developing this interim strategy, a PSB review of the CSP landscape is currently in progress. However, the CSPs are not the only Boards which have a role to play in preventing serious violence.

Due to the scale of vulnerability and susceptibility factors that influence violence there are a wide range of regional and local partnerships, boards, and networks whose priorities and activities can play a role in the prevention of serious violence (Appendix B for a list).

Several well-established Forums/Boards, such as the PSB, VAWDASV, APB, have statutory responsibilities which impact on the prevention of serious violence, in addition to a wide number of established groups (see Appendix B for a list) and as well as the wider Specified Authority agencies. Established groups with similar priorities and actions which positively impact on the reduction and prevention of serious violence, such as VAWDASV, must be considered when developing future iterations of the of the Gwent Serious Violence SNA, Strategy, and action plans. This will avoid duplication and increase the impact of achieving mutual goals.

It is essential that we build on the collaborative working that already exists in Gwent, and clarify the structural governance arrangements, dependencies, and interdependencies between each partnership. To achieve our vision of preventing serious violence, we must focus efforts on inter-partnership as well as on increased partnership working to address the underlying risk factors for serious violence, which include poverty, homelessness, substance misuse. Some of these are outlined in the '*Building a Fairer Gwent: Improving Health equity and the Social Determinants*' report. Challenges and solutions are often interconnected which requires the alignment of delivery, policy, and strategy, and ultimately the commissioning of services and projects.

There already exists positive activity and interventions to address serious violence across Gwent. In addition to understanding the partnership landscape, there is also a need to better understand what is going on locally across the five local authority CSPs and Specified Authorities, to identify both good practice and gaps in existing service provision. This will provide an opportunity to scale up good practice interventions, proportionate to need.

**Action:** Over the next year we will work together to:

1. Map and gap partner and partnership plans where collaboration could help prevent serious violence.
2. Align the governance for implementation of the Serious Violence Duty within the context of the PSB Community Safety review in Gwent.
3. Strive towards rationalising the partnership landscape where more effective delivery can be achieved.

### **Strategic Priority Four: Adopt a place-based approach that utilises local experience, listens to community voices and is strengthened through regional governance**

*We will build on local experience and understanding of violence through a place-based approach which is supported by regional partnerships.*

Across the region of Gwent, the agreed goal for all Specified Authorities is consistent: the 'prevention of serious violence'. However, the first iteration of the SNA, which is supported by local intelligence, indicates that the patterns of serious violence are not consistent across our localities.

Local intelligence is essential to develop a meaningful strategy which is effective at a regional and local authority level. Local intelligence must be supported by community insight to enable the development of appropriate responses informed by lived experience. The Working Group agree that interventions should be informed by ongoing and meaningful community engagement to provide local insight to guide appropriate responses. It is acknowledged that there is a need to seek to understand the voices of those affected or harmed, as well as those who perpetrate the harm, as well as the voices of people at most risk of being victims of serious violence.

Going forward the Working Group will seek to learn from organisations, such as Youth Offending Service, who routinely undertake engagement. We acknowledge the risk of engagement fatigue for communities, so will seek to align community engagement activities with other partners' community engagement calendars. We will also agree a set of common questions to include within community safety engagement activities to enable us to compare data and intelligence across localities.

**Action:** Over the next year we will work together to:

1. Identify learning from existing local mechanisms which seek, capture, and respond to community insight, whilst maintaining on-going engagement with local communities.
2. Ensure that community voices are a key element of future SNA's and formation and evaluation of updated strategies.
3. Clarify the regional and local structural governance arrangements to support the effective implementation, monitoring and review of the place-based Serious Violence Plans and Regional Serious Violence Strategy.

## Conclusions

The introduction of the Serious Violence Duty has challenged partners to come together and consider their current agency and collective responses to violence and the causes of violence and consider what more can be done.

The Strategic Needs Assessment tells us that serious violence is happening in the homes and communities of Gwent, and the problem is growing. Some areas are more susceptible than others through their various societal risk factors. There are commonalities across Gwent in some types of violence, frequency, severity, and other factors, but there are also differences in each local area. This means careful consideration needs to be made about a response strategy.

This Strategy, therefore, is the first iteration of a long-term commitment by all Specified Authority duty holders to prevent and reduce serious violence across Gwent. It provides a broad framework alongside specific actions, within which partners and partnerships can act. Those action plans will now be developed in the next 12 months, by local CSPs, Gwent-wide, and potentially wider. Our collective aim is to introduce new and innovative interventions, supported by comprehensive performance monitoring to ensure as a collective group of partners we can tackle this problem, and strive to make a 'Gwent without Violence'.

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Note: Representatives from Gwent Police, local Youth Offending Services and Probation have contributed to this Strategy development via local Workshops and Working Group meetings.

**APPENDIX A: Vision: A Gwent Without Violence**

Inputs		Short Term Outputs	Outcomes		Strategic Priorities
Activities	Resources		Intermediate	Long Term	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree regional mechanism to receive, collate, analyse, interpret, and share data</li> <li>Review data set, information and governance required</li> <li>Identify data analysis capacity within current system and/or need for dedicated resource</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data analytical capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data sets and data report template agreed (i.e. data and narrative to be provided)</li> <li>Data sharing agreements in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established data flows between partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linked data sets providing timely, systematic and comprehensive reports to enable local and regional planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieve a data driven approach to preventing serious violence, by understanding where violence occurs and who is affected</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map current prevention and early intervention activity</li> <li>Continually review quality assured, published research and best practice of 'what works' and apply to all interventions</li> <li>Funding allocation based on evidence of need, effectiveness</li> <li>All interventions to be evaluated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National repositories of evidence and toolkits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding of current intervention landscape</li> <li>Evaluation built into all local interventions</li> <li>Understanding of evidence base for interventions to tackle drivers and precursors of SV (e.g. ASB) established)</li> <li>Greater accountability within local plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing of learning/evaluation of local interventions</li> <li>Effectiveness and cost effectiveness of interventions systematically considered</li> <li>Evaluation integral to interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional and local preventative interventions commissioned based on effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and local learning</li> <li>Greater understanding of drivers of violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address the risk factors for violence with evidence-based interventions which are routinely evaluated.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map SVP activity/interventions across CSPs</li> <li>Map partner and partnership plans (with a link to SV) and associated funding</li> <li>Align governance of SVD in context of PSB CSP review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated resource (postholder/organisation) to complete mapping and joining the dots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of commonality, governance arrangements and funding across partnerships</li> <li>Aligned governance for SVD with other partnerships</li> <li>Sharing of local CSP SNAs and plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarity of current funding streams and shared priorities across partnerships</li> <li>Sharing of learning from local SNAs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed common priorities across partnerships and some shared funding of evidence informed interventions</li> <li>Rationalised partnership landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Join the dots to better understand and maximise impact by (i) recognising and building on what is being delivered and (ii) strengthening partnerships at a strategic level.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community insights gathered on a local level systematically and in meaningful way</li> <li>Learning from good practice</li> <li>Regional and local structural governance structures identified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated resource at local level to complete activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local SNA informed by community insights.</li> <li>Regional SNA informed by qualitative data from local SNAs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local action plans informed by data, evidence and local insights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interventions and support that reflects and responds to local needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt a place-based approach that utilises local experience, listens to community voices and is strengthened through regional governance</li> </ul>

**External Factors:** Funding allocations to core and statutory services, partnerships.

**Assumptions/Requirements:** understanding of other partnership common priorities, dependencies, interdependencies, overlaps and funding. Local needs assessments through CSPs and community insights shared. Funding available to achieve strategic priorities

## Appendix B: Partner and Partnerships Plans and Priorities to consider when developing future strategies (in no order)

- Marmot/Building a Fairer Gwent
- Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board
- Regional criminal/youth justice boards
- Gwent Licensing Forum (licensing of licensed premises)
- Public Service Boards (under WBFG Act 2015)
- RPB (Regional Partnership Board) (Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act 2014)
- Regional Safeguarding Boards – Adults and Children – Social Services and Wellbeing act 2014
- Regional and Local CSPs
- Gwent Regional VAWDASV Board and Strategy
- Wales Police Schools Programme
- ACE and the Adverse Hub for Wales
- Third sector partners
- Victims, survivors, and perpetrators of crime
- Regional Housing Collaboratives
- Gwent Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Strategic Partnership
- Integrated Service Partnership Board
- Local Wellbeing Partnership Boards

### National Legislation

- ASB (Crime and Disorder Act/Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policy Act 2014)
- Counter Terrorism Act
- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- WBFG Act – places a duty on sustainable development, how maximise contribution to the 7 WB goals, embed sustainable development principles, Five Ways of Working
- Community Safety Partnerships – Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – statutory obligatory to produce evidence-based strategies – ‘Strategic Assessments’. Could be stand alone or incorporated into Wellbeing Plans. The PCSC Act amended the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to require CSPs to prepare strategies addressing 2 further matters – preventing people from becoming involved in SV and reducing instances of SV in the area.
- A Healthier Wales – treat and support individuals affected by SV. Pressures on urgent care services can be reduced if SV addressed in locality. Need to play active part in supporting and delivery against Duty.
- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. Specified authorities – Safeguarding Boards

- Rights of CYP (Wales) measure
- Housing (Wales) Act – priority needs status including person subject to DA 18-21 at risk of sexual or financial exploitation
- Socio-economic duty – requires public authorities when making decisions of a strategic nature due regard to exercising them in a way designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage. Purpose of act encourage better decision making, ensuring more equal outcomes. Need to consider how plans reduce inequalities of outcomes resulting socio-economic disadvantage
- Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 – health and wellbeing area of learning and experience – focus on health and wellbeing of learners including relationships and sexuality education.

#### National Strategies:

- National VAWDASV Strategy 2023-2027
- WG Substance Misuse Delivery Plan
- Whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing
- Youth Work strategy for Wales
- Youth Engagement and progression Framework and Young Person's Guarantee
- Anti Racist Action Plan for Wales
- LGBTQIA+ Action Plan – SV plan seek to challenge discrimination and violence against people identifying as LGBTIA+
- Together for Mental Health
- Homicide prevention (College of Policing) – serious violence and vulnerability. Resources for tackling serious violence and vulnerability. Similar strategies e.g. College of Policing: Homicide Prevention Strategy

Regional Strategies and Plans must also be considered.