

THE LEADER'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE



I would like to wish all Newport residents and businesses the very best for 2021. I hope you have all managed to have a happy Christmas despite the circumstances.

The year ahead contains many challenges, first and foremost of which will be the safe and effective delivery of a Covid vaccine, which our partners in Public Health Wales and the ABUHB will lead on.

For the council, this means making sure we are still delivering your services, while continuing to work on our Covid-recovery strategy.

It has been a challenging year for our officers, and I would like to pay tribute to their hard work over the last twelve

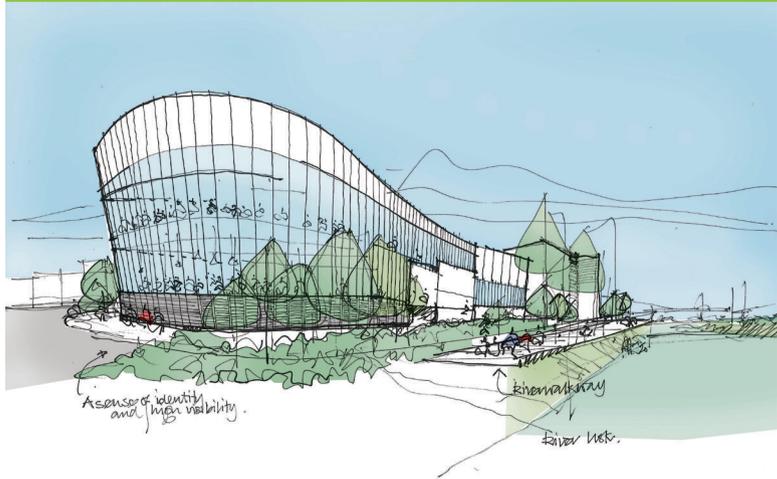
months keeping services operating as much as possible through the pandemic.

Once again we enter the new year looking ahead to our next budget. I hope as many of you as possible will take the time to read through our proposals and have your say on how we deliver your services. Details on how to have your say can be found within this paper.

It is a privilege to lead this city, and we will keep working hard over the next twelve months to deliver the high quality services that you deserve.

**Diolch,
Councillor Jane Mudd
Leader of the council.**

AMBITIOUS PROPOSALS FOR NEW LEISURE FACILITIES



There is still time to let us know what you would like to see in Newport's proposed new leisure and well-being centre.

A public consultation began in December and is due to finish on 29 January.

A proposed new leisure and well-being centre would include a

pool, fitness studio and health and well-being areas as well as modern changing facilities and a café.

It is planned to put the new state-of-the-art centre on a key brownfield site on the riverfront. This would enable the vacated Newport Centre site to be used by Coleg Gwent for a £90m further education campus creating the Newport Knowledge

Quarter and bringing hundreds of students and staff to the city centre

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council, said: *"We have an amazing opportunity to create a new leisure centre in the city centre. As a cabinet, we are very excited by the prospect of being able to provide fantastic new facilities, in an accessible location, for the citizens of Newport."*

"The next step, before we make a decision, is to hear from our residents. We want to know what you think of the proposals and what leisure facilities would be most important to you. Don't miss the chance to be a part of what promises to be a wonderful new chapter for the city and its residents."

Guy Lacey, principal of Coleg Gwent, said: *"This is a very exciting opportunity to create a home for the*

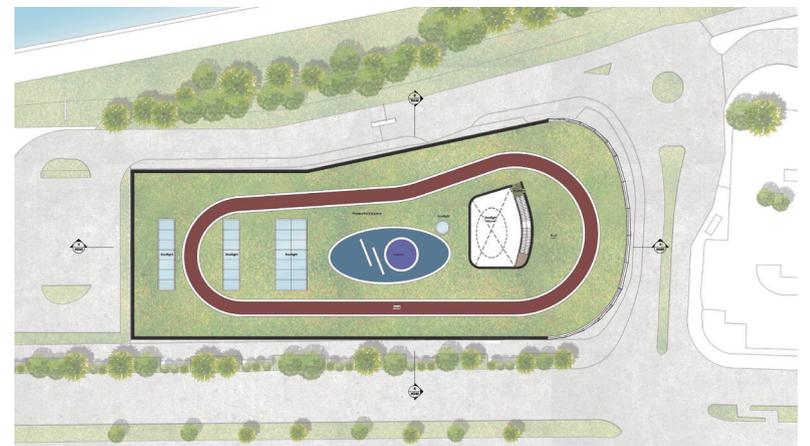
College in the heart of the city, as well as delivering brand new leisure facilities. It will enable us to provide excellent education and training, in state-of-the-art facilities, for all the people and businesses of Newport."

An application for part-funding towards the creation of a new leisure and well-being centre is being made to Welsh Government.

The balance of the cost will come from an agreed reduction in the cost of the Newport Live subsidy and council reserves.

Consultation begins on 17 December and will continue until 29 January.

To take part visit www.newport.gov.uk/haveyoursay



COMMISSION RECOMMENDS MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS FOR TRANSPORT

The South East Wales Transport Commission, which was established to recommend ways to reduce congestion on the M4, has published its final recommendations.

Their main proposal is for a 'network of alternatives' providing coordinated public transport

alternatives designed to give people and businesses new options that do not use the motorway.

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council, said: *"We are becoming increasingly aware of the need to change travel habits to address pollution and climate change so I welcome*

the proposals to enhance public transport networks. I look forward to Newport playing a leading role in the delivery of the recommendations and want our citizens engaged as part of the process.

"An affordable public transport system will encourage more people to leave their cars at home. Let us give people greater choice by providing better alternatives, rather than penalising people.

"We were promised that the

significant funding that was to be used for the relief road would be diverted to pay for alternatives. Without that commitment, these good intentions will come to nothing and that will be a terrible waste of the commission's considerable time and effort.

"I welcome the commitment of Welsh Government to work with Newport City Council to deliver these recommendations and call on UK Government to fully fund the required investment in

rail infrastructure.

Read the full report: www.gov.wales/south-east-wales-transport-commission-final-recommendations



COUNCIL SIGNS UP TO HEALTHY TRAVEL CHARTER



Over 20 organisations across Gwent have pledged to support healthier travel as part of a new initiative.

The Gwent healthy travel charter is the third such local partnership in Wales, and will see public sector organisations promote the benefits of walking, cycling, agile working and the use of public transport and ultra-low emission vehicles to staff and visitors.

The public sector in Gwent employs almost one in three working adults. By working together we hope to

increase sustainable journeys made to and from workplaces, reducing the impact on the environment and improving health in Gwent for current and future generations.

More information on the charter can be found at www.healthytravel.wales/gwent.html.



DO YOU NEED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US?

Your feedback helps us shape the services we deliver on your behalf.

Whether you want to thank us for something good we've done, or make a suggestion on how we can improve a service, you can let us know!

A lot of you have contacted us recently to pass on your thanks to our waste teams, both those collecting and at the household waste recycling centre, for the work they did during lockdown and beyond.

Following feedback, we've also worked with our recycling partners Wastesavers to improve our shared customer experience, by aligning our complaints procedures and management of customer contact.

These are just two examples of how you can let us know how we're doing.

Have your say through our online portal. Just head to the 'My Newport' app, or head to our website and search for 'report it'.

Alternatively, give us a call on **01633 656656**.



ACTIVE TRAVEL – HAVE YOUR SAY!

Councils across the country are currently undertaking a review of active travel networks in partnership with Welsh Government.

We are seeking the views of residents and stakeholder groups on existing active travel routes in the city, as well as your ideas for new routes.

Our survey opens in January and will run until late March.

For more info visit www.newport.gov.uk/en/Transport-Streets/Active-Travel/Active-travel.aspx



SOLAR PARTNERSHIP RECOGNISED WITH AWARD WIN

The council's solar panel partnership with Egni Co-op and the Welsh government energy service was recently recognised at a national awards ceremony.

The partnership won the Alan Clark Award for local/community energy in the Solar and Storage Live awards 2020. The partnership has resulted in solar panels being installed on 27 buildings across the city, including schools and Newport Live's Geraint Thomas National Velodrome of Wales.

The result has generated more than 1GWh of renewable electricity by the end of October, enough to power 340 homes for a year.



Our ambition of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 is a key tenet of our pledge to build a better Newport, and the renewable energy that all these sites will produce is a positive step towards meeting that ambition.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS INSTALLED ACROSS NEWPORT

Electric car owners in Newport can now benefit from an increase in the number of charging points available in the city.

Eighteen dual fast chargers and two rapid chargers have been installed across the following eight public car parks:

- Belle Vue Park
- Faulkner Road
- Hill Street
- Maindee

- Mill Parade
- Riverfront
- Rogerstone train station
- Stow Hill

The points have been installed under a Gwent-wide project using funding provided by the participating local authorities and the office for low emission vehicles (OLEV). In Newport, Welsh Government has match-funded installations via the local transport network fund.

The charging points have been installed and will be managed by Silverstone Green Energy under the Dragon Charging scheme, with payment by way of an RFID card or through the mobile phone app.

Cllr Deb Davies, cabinet member for sustainable development, said "Newport City Council is committed to making our city greener, not only through our work to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, but also by undertaking green infrastructure

initiatives such as this.

"We're delighted that this work has trebled the number of charging points available to residents and visitors, and we hope it will encourage more drivers in the city to choose greener vehicles."

For more information and to find your nearest charging point, visit www.newport.gov.uk/en/Transport-Streets/Electric-vehicle-charge-points.aspx



WASTE AND RECYCLING ROUND UP

Garden waste collections return in March

Garden waste collections will resume from 1 March 2021 following the winter break.

In the meantime green waste can be taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Docks Way for free collection. Flower cuts can be put in the food waste caddies with food waste.

If you had a real Christmas tree cut it up and pop it in the garden waste bin ready for the first collection in March. Alternatively take it to the HWRC for disposal.

To find out your collection date or to book a space at the HWRC visit www.newport.gov.uk/recycling.

Residents urged to dig out unused electricals

Wastesavers is urging residents to dig out unused electrical items and donate them for either reuse or recycling.

There is a mountain of unused electrical items in our homes, from hi-fi speakers to remote controls. Alun Harries, charity manager with Wastesavers said: "We estimate there are 5,000 households in Newport with Hi-Fi speakers that have not been used

for a decade. Don't let them just gather dust, donate them and help the environment, create local jobs and make someone else happy!"

Smaller electrical items that no longer work can be placed in your blue recycling box for collection at the kerbside. Find out more at www.wastesavers.co.uk.



NEWPORT ACHIEVES TEN PER CENT INCREASE IN RECYCLING RATE

New figures released by Welsh Government show that Newport has greatly increased its recycling rate.

The figures show that between April 2019 and March 2020, the city's recycling rate increased by over 10 per cent when compared with the previous twelve months.

The rate for 2019/20 is 66.4 per cent collection, which is an increase of seven percentage points from the 2018/19 rate of 59 per cent collection.

The rate is the eighth highest across all Welsh local authorities. It also places Newport well above the average collection figure for both Wales and the rest of the UK.

The increase follows changes to waste and recycling collection made by the council in 2019/20, which were designed to encourage



greater recycling by residents.

Cllr Roger Jeavons, deputy leader of the council, said: "We're delighted that the latest figures show such a big increase in the amount of recycling collected within the city.

"The changes to waste and recycling collection we put in

place last year have already had a positive impact, and we are pleased to have hit the new target set by Welsh Government in its first year.

"We will continue to work with our partners at Wastesavers to ensure we build on this success and keep increasing our rate."

Give your electricals a second life. Donate them to us.

Rhowch ail fywyd i'ch nwyddau trydanol. Cyfrannwch nhw i ni.



WASTESAVERS  recycle your electricals campaign

Gellir aildefnyddio neu ailgylchu unrhyw beth gyda phlwg, batri neu gebl.

Everything with a plug, battery or cable can be reused or recycled.

WASTESAVERS 

 recycle your electricals campaign

SANDPIPER PARK WORK COMPLETE

Work has recently been completed at Sandpiper Park in Duffryn.

Following feedback from residents, the council has constructed an alternative access track, and

installed a new barrier gate in order to stop unauthorised vehicles accessing the site.

Pedestrian barriers are in place to ensure walkers and cyclists can access the park, and large stone boulders

have also been installed on the grass verges to block unauthorised vehicles bypassing the barrier.

Authorised vehicles will be able to gain access to the site through the gate should they need it.

The work comes after anti-social behaviour was reported to the council following a number of unauthorised vehicles accessing the site.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HUBS – THERE FOR YOU

Four neighbourhood hubs set up by the council last year offer services for residents across the city.

- **North hub covers Malpas, Bettws, Shaftesbury and Caerleon**
- **Central hub covers Pill, Maindee, Stow Hill and Allt-yr-Yn.**
- **East hub covers Ringland, Alway, Somerton, Lliswerry, Beechwood, St Julians, Langstone and Underwood.**
- **West hub covers Maesglas, Gaer, Duffryn, Rogerstone and Marshfield**

They offer a wide range of services including Flying Start; free online parenting support; classes and opportunities for adults; libraries; support for young people aged 11-25 and community projects.

While some services have been paused as a result of Covid 19, the teams have still been working hard and offering a helping hand to those impacted by the pandemic, including vulnerable residents. For example, they have been helping people access food parcels and food banks and providing childcare for key workers and vulnerable children during school holidays.

Staff are still able to help people who need employment support over the phone and online. This includes assistance with job searches, CVs, interview techniques as well as free online training course and one-to-one mentoring.

Community development workers are available to help people who want to find out about local events, want to join or start a group, are interested in volunteering or just want some community advice.

This month north hub will relocate to Bettws Community Centre from Malpas Court Mansion House.

All the hubs can be contacted via their individual email addresses (below) or by calling freephone 08081 963482.

Email addresses are as follows:

North hub
northhub@newport.gov.uk
Central hub
centralhub@newport.gov.uk
East hub
easthub@newport.gov.uk
West hub
westhub@newport.gov.uk

Find out more about the hubs by visiting www.newport.gov.uk/en/About-Newport/Neighbourhood-Hubs/Neighbourhood-Hubs.aspx



NEWPORT CITY DOGS HOME GOES FOR GOLD

Newport City Dogs Home won gold at the 2020 RSPCA Cymru PawPrint awards for their work with stray dogs.



"This award is a well-deserved recognition for the tireless work done by everyone at Newport City Dogs Home. Congratulations to all involved and thank you for the work you do to provide a safe environment for the dogs in your care."

PawPrints is an annual award scheme that recognises good practice from public bodies in relation to animal welfare. There are number of categories including; recognition for stray dog provision, animal licensing work, contingency planning and housing policies. Each category is judged on specific criteria and there are bronze, silver and gold standards in each.

Councillor Ray Truman, cabinet member for licensing and regulation, congratulated the team on their achievement saying:

For more information on the work undertaken by Newport City Dogs Home visit www.newport.gov.uk/newportdogshome

See our Facebook page for dogs currently waiting to be rehomed.
<https://www.facebook.com/OptToAdoptNewport>

GIVE A DOG A HOME

Newport City Dogs Home accepts applications to re-home stray and unwanted dogs.



BUSINESS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (AS OF NOVEMBER 2020)



74 start-up grants to a value of **£185,000**



112 freelancer grants paid to a value of **£280,000**



303 lockdown discretionary grants paid out to a value of **£543,000**



2500 Covid business grants in the first round (March –June 20) **£30,571,201**

In the second round **1166 Lockdown Business Rate Grants - £3,393,000**



Business rates relief **£18,681,804** in relief benefitting **1307 businesses**

WE CAN HELP YOU GET A JOB

Have you recently been furloughed, made redundant or are you looking for employment?

Works and skills staff, based in our neighbourhood hubs, have teamed up with Newport's Halo Foods as it looks to take on new starters.

The company makes free from, nutritionally controlled, indulgent and healthy snacks that get shipped to all parts of the UK.

Our council team is offering:

- The opportunity to find out more about the plant so that you are better informed about what it is like to work there
- Free training to obtain a food hygiene certification
- Employment and interview mentoring

For more information call 07970 457521

CHILDCARE OFFER



Eligible working parents of three and four-year-olds can apply for a maximum 30 hours of combined education and children for up to 48 weeks of the year.

Welsh Government's childcare offer has been available in all areas of Newport since October 2018.

The offer is available for children from the term after their third birthday until the September following their fourth birthday when they are offered a full-time education place.

You are eligible for the childcare offer if:

- your child is 3 or 4 years old
- both parents work if you are a two parent family
- you work at least 16 hours at the national minimum or living wage
- you earn a weekly minimum equivalent of 16 hours at the national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW) (around £111 and £115 a week at the current 21-24 NMW and NLW rate respectively) but less than £100k per year

Eligible children may start their childcare offer entitlement during the term after their third birthday. Parents must talk to their childcare provider before applying.

For more information, including how to apply online, visit www.newport.gov.uk/childcareoffer

If you need further assistance call the Newport Family Information Service (FIS) on 0800 328 8483 or email familyinformationservice@newport.gov.uk.

NEW PROJECT TO SHOWCASE HOW THE USK HAS SHAPED NEWPORT

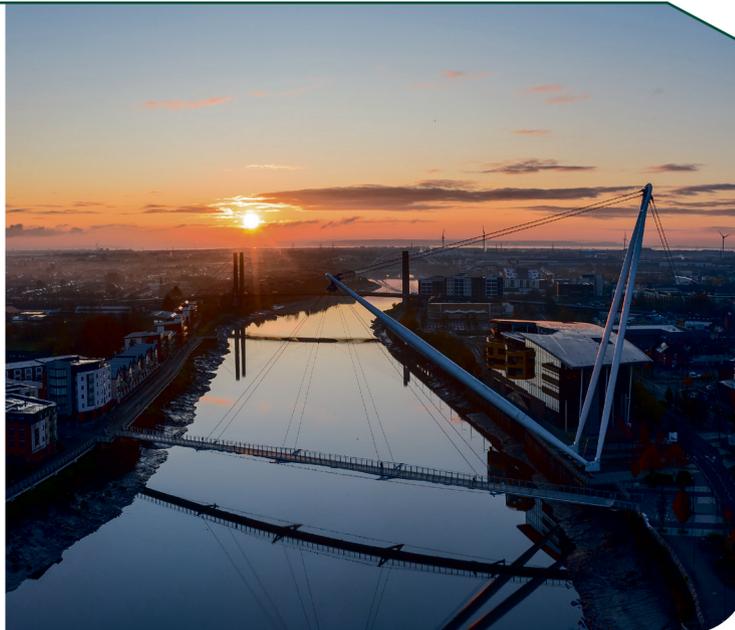
The history of the River Usk in Newport will be brought to life in an exciting new collaboration between Newport museums and heritage service and the Friends of Newport Museum and Art Gallery.

The Folk of the Footbridge project will tell the stories of the Usk, its banks and the people who cross it every day.

Using the city centre footbridge as a focal point, the project will seek to hear stories and share artwork from residents about their relationship with the river and their use of the footbridge.

The Usk has played a major part in shaping the city, and in hearing people's stories, the project hopes to help them place their lives and family history into the wider context of the history that lies on their doorstep.

The project will use existing digital platforms to share the stories, as well as developing a new podcast.



Should restrictions allow for it, the project will run performance based walking tours, in collaboration with Tin Shed Theatre and Operasonic.

All of the collected stories and images will be deposited with the People's Collection Wales, whose channels will also be used to share tales and memories during the project.

The project is funded through a 15 minute heritage grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and will run until the end of March 2021.

More information about the project, and details on how to get involved, can be found at www.fonmag.org.uk or through the Museum's social media channels (@NewportMuseum).

HOLIDAY PLAYSCHEMES

Playschemes run during the February and October half-term holidays, at Easter and for four weeks of the school summer holidays.

While these have been open to all children in the past, during the pandemic they were run specifically for children of key workers or youngsters with specific needs.

As well as playschemes for five to 12 year-olds, there were also sessions for younger children and all were held in a safe and stimulating environment.

At the time of going to press, no final decisions had been taken about how the playschemes will operate in February half-term but information will be updated at www.newport.gov.uk/play when it becomes available.



JOIN OUR FOSTER FAMILY

This year Newport is adding to its amazing network of foster carers with the recruitment of therapeutic foster carers.

MySt (My Support Team) is a multi-agency partnership which works to help children looked after to remain in their local communities.

It provides an effective alternative to residential care for children

with highly complex needs.

MySt therapeutic carers receive a range of support including 24-hours on call service for 365 days of the year; an extensive training package and a dedicated therapeutic practitioner.

They will be part of a passionate team helping the most disadvantaged children, using an innovative approach to children's mental health.

Therapeutic carers also receive a salary and expenses due to the very specialist nature of this service.

And they will have the opportunity to provide young people with positive experiences and promote their well-being, making a real difference to their lives.

To find out more about becoming a MySt therapeutic carer contact 01633 210272

Or you can contact the Foster Newport team to find out more about MySt or about fostering in Newport. Visit www.newport.gov.uk/fostering



UNDERSTANDING THE TRIGGERS

A new report published by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent that found recurring triggers in a group of local children identified through offending data.

These triggers included trauma within the home, such as witnessing or experiencing domestic abuse, and challenges within education, including the struggle to transition between primary and secondary school, and school exclusion.

Understanding The Triggers identifies a series of improvements that public services in Wales can make to tackle these issues at the earliest opportunity and reduce the risk of children becoming vulnerable to criminal exploitation.

The report was produced as part of a multi-agency research project carried out by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent in partnership with Newport City Council, Gwent Police and the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council, said: "Protecting vulnerable children from becoming victims of sexual and criminal predators and preventing young people from being drawn into crime is the responsibility of us all. It has to be at the heart of what all organisations do and we have to work together to break the circle.

"That is why this report is so valuable as it will assist us to take the most decisive and meaningful action to stop young lives, families and communities being devastated by heartless criminals. The council is committed to further improving service responses to safeguard those children at most risk of harm and is already implementing the report's findings."

The full report is available to read at www.gwent.pcc.police.uk



HAVE YOUR SAY ON BUDGET PROPOSALS

Newport City Council's cabinet has considered the budget for 2021-22 and how services could be delivered within the limited resources available.

A public consultation on a series of proposals for changes to services and support provided by the council will run until mid-February.

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of the council, said: "2020 was a very challenging year – not only has the Covid-19 pandemic affected the delivery of 'business as usual', it has further affected the demand on services and meant that the council has had to change the way it operates.

"We value the opinions of our residents and partners and urge them to take part in the budget consultation.

This feedback helps inform our strategic decisions and sense check how the decisions we are taking will affect the city and our customers."

More than three-quarters (76 per cent) of the council's budget is funded by a grant from the Welsh Government. Because of the impact of the pandemic, the council's draft settlement which details the amount of money we expect receive, was delayed until late December. Final confirmation of the grant is not expected until early March.

The balance is funded by council tax. For every one per cent cut in Welsh Government grant, council tax would have to increase by four per cent to maintain the same spending levels.

"We have done as much as we possibly can to adapt and plan for the coming year.

We have already made significant savings and efficiencies over the last decade and now we are also considering the longer-term impact the last year will undoubtedly have" added Councillor Mudd.

The council provides more than 800 services for more than 151,000 people living in more than 65,000 households.

Full details of the proposals for 2021-2022 are available to view at www.newport.gov.uk/budget where you can also find out more about where the council's funding comes from and the general budget challenge.

The public consultation will run until **12 February 2021** and all responses will then be considered by cabinet at their meeting later in the month.



READY, STEADY, CENSUS

The decennial census is almost upon us.

Households across Newport will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area.

This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census day is March 21. For more information, visit census.gov.uk.

cyfrifiad census 2021

MAY ELECTIONS

On Thursday 6 May, Newport residents will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them in the Senedd and on who will be the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner.

Plans are already being made to help you stay safe while casting your vote. There will be a number of ways to have your say in the elections - you can vote in a polling

station, by post, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote. You must be registered to vote and the easiest way to is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Next year will be the first time 16-17 year olds and qualifying foreign citizens will be able to vote for Members of the Senedd (MSs).

Find out more about the elections and how to register at www.newport.gov.uk/elections or contact the election team via email uvote@newport.gov.uk or call 01633 656656.



IN PERSON



BY POST



BY PROXY

EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME

Are you an EU/EAA national living in Wales?

There is a range of support to help you complete your application to the EU Settlement Scheme if you haven't done so already. Anyone wishing to live in the UK after 30 June 2021 will need to apply by this deadline.

To apply online visit www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families

To access support visit www.eusswales.com

To contact Newport City Council for advice, email equalities@newport.gov.uk

NHS SERVICES IN GWENT ARE CHANGING

In November last year, The Grange University Hospital opened in Cwmbran marking a change to services across Gwent.

It is important that you know how and where to access different services in our area.

For more information, visit abuhb.nhs.wales

NHS SERVICES IN GWENT ARE CHANGING

when The Grange University Hospital opens



CALL 999 OR GO TO THE GRANGE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL if you have a LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS or SERIOUS INJURY



GO TO A MINOR INJURY UNIT at Nevill Hall, the Royal Gwent, Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr or Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Hospitals, if you have a minor injury (Children under 1 year will need to go to The Grange University Hospital).



CONTACT YOUR GP if you have an illness or concern that is not immediately life-threatening.



CALL NHS 111 if you are unwell, unsure what to do and need help. You can also call 111 for urgent GP care when your own Surgery is closed.



TREAT AT HOME or CONTACT YOUR PHARMACIST if you have a minor illness or ailment such as a sore throat, cough, skin irritation or common mild illness.

For more information, visit abuhb.nhs.wales. Keep up to date and ask us questions by following us: [@AneurinBevanUHB](https://twitter.com/AneurinBevanUHB) [AneurinBevanHealthBoard](https://facebook.com/AneurinBevanHealthBoard)

[Dyfodol Clinigol Clinical Futures](http://DyfodolClinigolClinicalFutures)

ASPIRING TO CHANGE LIVES



Newport's Aspire alternative education programme has run throughout the pandemic.

The commitment of both the staff and young people involved in the programme has been commendable. Recently groups from Llisswerry and Llanwern participated in the South Wales Fire and Rescue's Phoenix Project.

An interactive experience, the young people took part in a range of activities and received a certificate at the end.

TRANSPORTER BRIDGE UPDATE

At the time of going to press we were still waiting to hear whether our bid to the National Lottery

Heritage Fund for a grant for the Transporter Bridge restoration works project was successful.

Keep an eye on our website and social media channels throughout January for further updates!