

NM
NEWPORT
MATTERS

The official newspaper of Newport City Council

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR CITY EVENTS



Newport can boast some top class events over the coming weeks and months that are helping raise the profile of the city.

Following on from the Admiral City of Newport Half Marathon that took place earlier this month, and continues to go from strength to strength, in this edition of Newport Matters you can find out about our upcoming sporting events.

In mid-April the city will welcome some of the nation's top athletes as the World Series Boxing comes to Newport Centre. The British Lionhearts will compete against the French Roosters – see page 3 for full details.

Later in the month, the first ABP Newport Wales Marathon and 10k will hit the city's streets. Competitors are travelling from all over the world to take part and clock some new personal bests!

There promises to be a fantastic atmosphere as 10,000 runners plus thousands more supporters descend on the city. With a family mile and entertainment as well, there will be something for everyone. See page 2 for more information including road closure maps.

And in July the Wales Velothon will return. A number of new race options have extended its appeal to cyclists of all abilities and experience. See page 2 for details.



AMBITIOUS PROPOSALS FOR KEY CITY BUILDINGS



Plans to give a new lease of life to two landmark buildings in Newport have been revealed.

Garrison Barclay Estates, working in partnership with the city council, have taken on the former sorting office in Mill Street and Chartist Tower in the city centre.

The ex-Royal Mail building is a prominent eyesore which sits close to the main London to South Wales rail line.

In December, the council's cabinet agreed a £12 million

loan towards the redevelopment of the building into high quality offices and a hotel.

Garrison Barclay Estates has also acquired a long lease from the council for Newport's tallest building, Chartist Tower, to help deliver continued growth in the city centre.

The block, which fronts onto Commercial Street, also encompasses a number of retail units, including the former BHS department store – part of the national chain which collapsed in 2016.

A number of options are being considered for the regeneration of the building including a four star hotel in the tower, with a restaurant on the top floor enjoying panoramic views, grade A office space and new shops in the currently vacant units.

Councillor Debbie Wilcox, Leader of Newport City Council, said:

"Confidence in Newport is growing. We're getting increased interest from companies that can see the city's potential and want to do business here."

"As a council, we want to do everything we can to see the city thrive and grow as this will bring benefits to those who live here."

"That means we have to be bold and innovative to ensure those opportunities do not slip through our fingers but become a reality as soon as possible."

Ian Carter, development director at Garrison Barclay Estates said

"Newport is a city with a long and proud history which over the past couple of years has had a real resurgence."

"There have been some exciting projects completed in and around the City, and we hope that our latest acquisitions will help with the continued regeneration of the Centre."

"We believe Newport is fast becoming a destination again. Through these two projects we are looking to build on that idea and in doing so are looking forward to continuing our positive work with Newport City Council."

See page 4 for more exciting news about the city and the council's support for businesses.

VELOTHON RETURNS THIS SUMMER



A revamped Velothon Wales returns for 2018 on Sunday 8 July.

Residents can expect significantly reduced road closures this year with all roads around Newport due to re-open by 11am.

Those affected will be written to by event organisers in May with detailed road closure maps and timings. More information will also be in the May edition of Newport Matters.

In addition to the popular 140km route, a pair of shorter routes will be on offer opening up the event to cyclists of all levels of ability and ambition.

The 125km route bypasses the notorious Tumble hill climb, while the new 60km route, a point-to-point starting in Usk and finishing in Cardiff is perfect for those new to cycling, keen to experience the thrill of closed-road cycling for the first time.

You can learn more or get involved at www.velothon.com/wales

100 YEARS SINCE WORLD WAR ONE

Groups, individuals and local clubs and societies across Newport are arranging events to mark 100 years since the end of World War One.

Talks, tours and workshops to help people find out more about the Great War in Gwent are planned throughout the year.

Newport City Council is looking to compile a round up of such events so if you would like to send us the details of anything planned later this year please contact public.relations@newport.gov.uk

NEWPORT MARATHON A SELL-OUT!



On Sunday 29 April the inaugural ABP Newport Wales Marathon and 10K will welcome over 10,000 runners to the city with marathoners from as far afield as Canada, Algeria and Japan due to attend.

This major sporting event is set to generate an economic impact of £1.1 million into the local economy, showcase the city's regenerated city-centre and raise

up to £1 million for good causes.

The event will be delivered by Run 4 Wales, the team behind events like the Cardiff Half Marathon and Velothon Wales, and has been made possible by the support of Associated British Ports, Newport City Council and the Welsh Government.

The Marathon, 10K and family mile races are set to kick off from 9am with activity and entertainment



focused around a race village near the Riverfront Theatre.

To facilitate the race and the safety of participants, it will be necessary to implement road closures along the route. Residents and businesses along the route will be written to with full details, which can also be found on the route map below or on the marathon website.

The marathon has sold out, but you can still get involved by signing up for the ABP Newport Wales 10K or family mile.

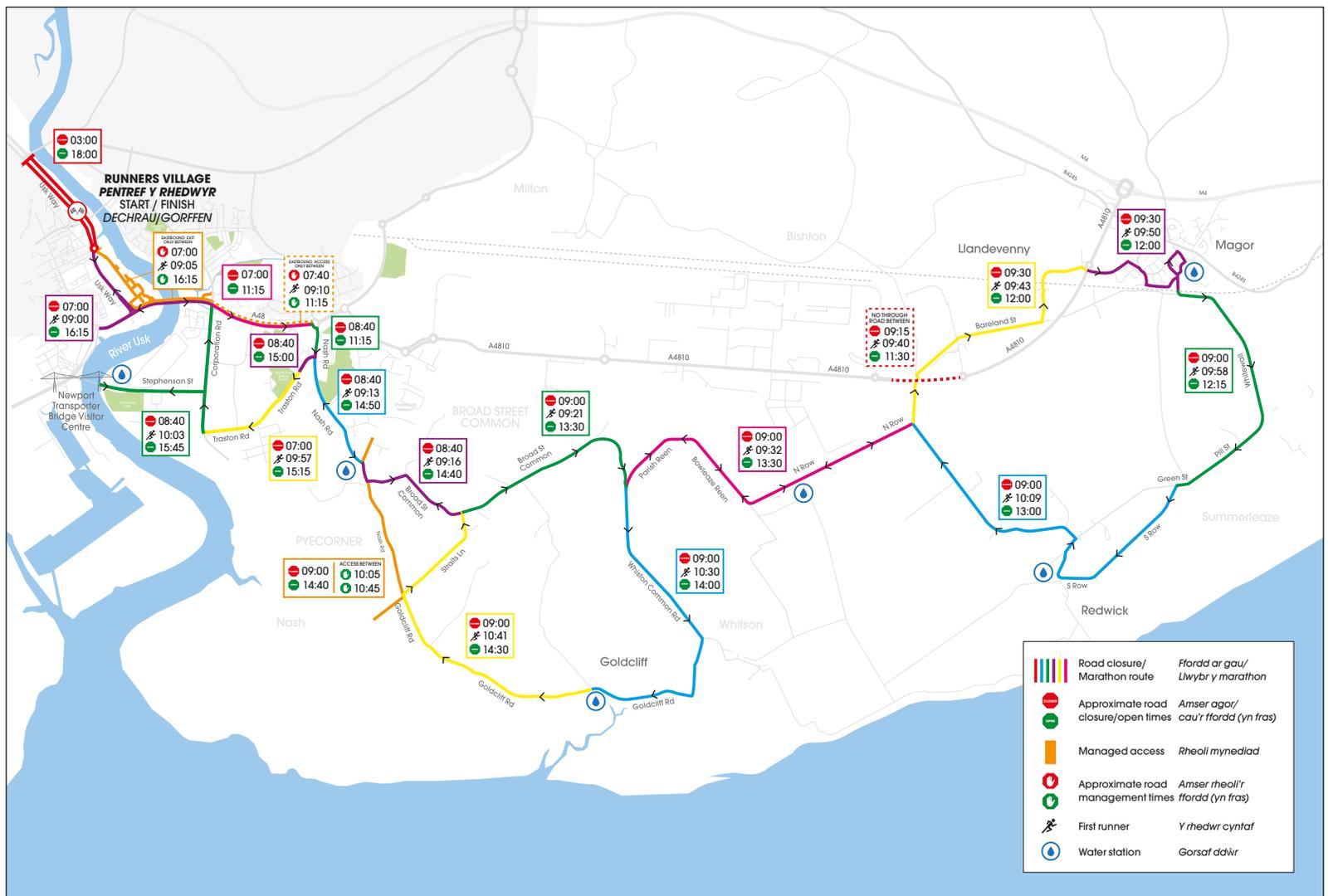
The 10K race will add an exciting extra dimension to the inaugural ABP Newport Wales Marathon, giving runners of all abilities the chance to be a part of one of Wales' largest weekends of running – without having to complete the

challenging marathon distance.

Prefer to take part in a more light-hearted race for the whole family? The family mile is designed for runners of all ages and to get more people involved in the day. There's really no pressure to set amazingly fast times or even run the whole distance. We're expecting inventive fancy dress, lots of smiles and even more support from a buzzing crowd. Runners will receive water, a sweet treat and a medal to acknowledge their achievement at the race finish!

If you don't fancy running, why not turn out on the day to join the thousands of spectators who will be cheering on the runners, or support by volunteering?

Find out more at www.newportwalesmarathon.co.uk



BUY WITH CONFIDENCE

Have you joined the 'Buy with Confidence' scheme yet?

The national scheme is open to local businesses and tradespeople who by joining can tell their customers they have been vetted and approved by Trading Standards to ensure they operate in a legal, honest and fair way.

Newport City Council's Trading Standards department promote the scheme locally offering help and advice to those interested in joining up.

If you want to know what benefits being a member can bring then have a look at a video which explains more at www.facebook.com/buywithconfidence

Businesses can apply or be recommended to join the scheme and must pass a set of tailored background checks.

Membership of the scheme is not given lightly – among other checks, each applicant will have their complaints history reviewed and will receive a visit from the council's trading standards team.

Councillor Ray Truman, cabinet member for licensing and regulation, said:

"This is a great way of helping people access trustworthy companies and make an informed choice."

"Our trading standards team work very hard to deter and prosecute rogue traders, and this excellent resource will complement this work and help protect the consumer."

"It's also a great thing for businesses and tradespeople to be associated with – what better way of attracting customers than with the strapline 'Trading Standards Approved'."

Congratulations go to two local scheme members who have recently renewed their membership including Britannia Motor Company and gardening firm Japonica.

To find out how your business could become Trading Standards Approved and how to apply for member visit www.newport.gov.uk/tradingstandards or www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

SIGN UP FOR TINY REBEL NEWPORT FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL



Anyone interested in booking a stall at this year's Tiny Rebel Newport Food and Drink Festival can now apply.

Forms to apply to take part in the event on Saturday 6 October can be found at www.newportfoodfestival.co.uk

Once you have completed the details the forms should be returned to Joanne Parcell, Newport Food Festival, Room 203w, Newport City Council, Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR.

The closing date for the first round of applications is 11 June.

Last year saw the event,

sponsored by Tiny Rebel, attracted record breaking crowds.

More than 75 stalls selling local produce and offering visitors a whole host of tasty food and drink options lined the city's streets.

Young and old found plenty to entertain them at the popular festival with teen chefs pitting their skills in the annual competition.

Stalls will again be sited along High Street, the pedestrianised area of Bridge Street and Westgate Square, and in and around Newport Market. Roaming street entertainment will also be provided.

Leader of Newport City Council

Councillor Debbie Wilcox said she is looking forward to this year's event building on the success of previous years.

"I would like to thank our main sponsors Tiny Rebel Brewery who as a local business are firmly committed to this event."

"The food festival is one of the highlights of the events calendar in Newport and it is always well supported by residents and visitors."

"I've no doubt this year will be as successful as in previous years and as a city we look forward to welcoming visitors from far and wide, there will be something on offer for all ages."

Top class international boxing is coming to Newport this spring when the British Lionhearts take-on the French Fighting Roosters in the World Series of Boxing (WSB).

On Saturday 14 April Newport Centre will welcome the athletes including three time European Champion and world championship medallist, Joe Ward of Ireland, and 2016 GB Boxing Champion, Cyrus Pattinson.

The British Lionhearts squad that competes in WSB is made-up of boxers from the GB Boxing Olympic squad along with a number of overseas selections, including Ward.

WSB is a global team boxing competition contested by the world's leading amateur boxers. It bridges the gap between Olympic and professional boxing and boxers compete over five three-minute rounds. A WSB match is contested over five bouts and the team that wins three or more is the winner.

Welterweight, Cyrus Pattinson, said:

"I love competing in WSB and am really looking forward to boxing in Newport. The WSB events are much more like a professional show with a weigh-in the day before, face-offs and a ringwalk on the night so it creates a really great atmosphere. As a member of the GB Boxing squad I usually compete overseas so to be able to box in the UK is going to be brilliant."

The British Lionhearts' Head Coach, Rob McCracken, who is also the Performance Director of GB Boxing and the coach of IBF, WBA and IBO world heavyweight boxing champion, Anthony Joshua, said:

INTERNATIONAL BOXING HEADS TO CITY



"WSB is a top class competition. All of the leading nations and the best boxers take part in it and WSB shows feature five, evenly matched, high quality bouts."

"Wales has consistently produced boxers that are part of the GB Boxing squad so it is great that we are able to bring this match to Newport and put on a show for the fans."

Councillor Debbie Wilcox, Leader of Newport City Council, said: *"This promises to be a*

great event with the chance to watch top class athletes in action. With the support of our leisure partners Newport Live, local people will have the opportunity to experience the atmosphere of the World Series Boxing on their door step. This is the latest in a series of high profile events we're hosting in Newport - really putting us on the sporting map."

For tickets and more details on the British Lionhearts visit www.gbboxing.org.uk/world-series-boxing

NEWPORT TRANSPORTER BRIDGE



You can enjoy going over the top at Newport Transporter Bridge as the visitor season begins.

Volunteers are hoping to be in action from Wednesday, 21 March when the bridge and gondola will be back in use following the winter season.

Newport City Council is also freezing the adult day visitor ticket is £3 and a child day visitor (aged 16 years and under) is £2 which means you can go over the top and see the fantastic view of the surrounding area.

These tickets also gives access to the motor house platform and unlimited crossings on the day of purchase.

An adult single crossing is £1 and child is 50p. A return crossing is £1.50 for an adult and £1 for a child. Children aged two years and under travel free.

More details can be found at www.newport.gov.uk/transporterbridge

COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT NEWPORT BUSINESSES

Newport City Council's expert economic development team are able to offer essential support and advice to new ventures and established businesses wanting to expand or relocate.

In some cases, they are also able to offer financial assistance thanks to new schemes.

One is the start-up business grant programme administered jointly by the council and Tata Steel subsidiary UK Steel Enterprise.

Paul Tully has recently benefited from a grant of £1500 to help launch his micro-pub, The Cellar Door

"The ethos is that small is

beautiful," said Paul. *"You can come in here and have a quiet drink, chat or just sit and read. There is no television, or other distractions that you might find in bigger pubs."*

The Cellar Door also received support from Business In Focus.

Another business to receive a grant was the Hot Yoga Health, run by father and daughter Geoff and Suzie Latham.

A former GP surgery in Baneswell has been refurbished to provide a studio, changing rooms and parking. Treatment rooms are also available.

For the last two years, the council has been offering grants to new enterprises and established businesses wishing to expand.

Le Pub is one of those that has received assistance towards the first year's rent at their premises in High Street.

This is a unique community benefit venture in the city centre which has a pub and café, serving vegan food, showcases talented local musicians and hosts art-based activities.

For further information on either scheme, and for details of how to contact the economic development team, contact **business.services@newport.gov.uk**



NEWPORT PLAYS PIVOTAL ROLE IN SUMMITS

Nearly 300 delegates attended the fifth City Summit, which was held at the Celtic Manor Resort in January.

Guest speakers outlined their positive views on the future of Newport and it also saw the

launch of a consultation on the city centre masterplan.

This sets out a strategy and priorities for the next phases of regeneration by focussing on three main areas: a northern gateway, the city core and the riverside.

Following the end of the consultation earlier this month, a report will now be prepared for cabinet to ask them to endorse the framework for future development.

Representatives from the council, including the leader Councillor Debbie Wilcox, also attended the Severn Growth Summit, organised by Welsh Secretary

Alan Cairns, in January.

This brought together around 350 cross-party politicians, economic experts and business leaders to look at the potential for a Western Powerhouse between Newport, Cardiff and Bristol.

Councillor Wilcox said:

"Newport has a key role to play in both the Great Western Cities partnership and the Cardiff Capital Region. It is strategically placed to benefit from the economic opportunities being generated by these significant developments."

► Leader Cllr Debbie Wilcox



STANDARDS COMMITTEE VACANCY

Newport City Council is looking to appoint a new independent member to its standards committee.

The committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of ethical conduct by elected and co-opted members of the council and local community councils, monitoring compliance with the members' code of conduct, and determining any appropriate action.

To be eligible, applicants must be independent of the council and should have a knowledge and understanding of local government, not be active in local or national politics, recognise and understand the principles of high ethical standards in public life, be able to display independent thought and an unbiased attitude and be able to understand and weigh up evidence.

The committee meets at least four times a year and a fee as prescribed by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales is payable.

For more information visit **www.newport.gov.uk/jobs**
The deadline for applications is March 26, 2018.

NEWPORT ECONOMIC NETWORK RELAUNCHES

Simon Gibson, one of Wales' leading business figures, is now chairing the Newport Economic Network as it moves to a new level of maturity.

The network has regularly met on an informal basis over the last three years but a number of significant factors

have recently emerged which means a more formal economic body is needed to exploit opportunities and promote the best interests of the city.

These include the Cardiff Capital Region partnership and City Deal; the reduction in, and likely abolition of, the Severn Bridge tolls; and the Great Western Cities initiative.

Professor Gibson said:

"I am delighted to have been invited to chair the Newport Economic Network at an exciting time of challenge and opportunity for the city. A great deal has been achieved since we launched the

ReNewport Taskforce and now is the right time to reinvigorate the economic partnerships within the city to drive future growth."

Councillor Debbie Wilcox, Leader of Newport City Council, said:

"It is essential that we form strong partnerships to make the most of the economic opportunities that are emerging in and around the city."



DECRIMINILISATION OF PARKING

A report on introducing decriminilisation of parking across the whole of Newport has been discussed by councillors.

The scheme has been in the pipeline for some months after Gwent Police announced they would eventually be stepping away from enforcement action.

Newport City Council now faces the challenge of getting legislation in place following an application to Welsh Government to start proceedings.

Congestion, illegal and inconsiderate parking and who should take responsibility for tackling offenders has been the subject of many debates via social media and in correspondence.

Members of the council's Scrutiny and Management Committee recommended the council pursue the action of bringing in decriminilised parking/civil parking enforcement (CPE) at a meeting in December last year (2017).

And on 30 January this year a report was supported by all parties who unanimously agreed

to back the recommendations at a meeting of full council.

Councillor Roger Jeavons, Newport City Council's Cabinet Member for Streetscene welcomed the decision by full council.

"The council has had numerous complaints from fed up residents who are calling for action to stop inconsiderate and illegal parking across the city.

"Everyone is rightly very concerned about the number of motorists who selfishly park wherever they want, ignoring traffic orders such as double yellow lines and zigzags on crossing near schools.

"I have gone on record many times warning there is a real danger someone will be seriously hurt or even killed because of motorists ignoring the basic rules.

I welcome the fact the process to bring in CPE has now started," said Cllr Jeavons.

The application to start the process of getting legislation approved via Welsh Government is underway. In the meantime Gwent Police pledged to carry on parking enforcement until an official date for CPE to formally start is introduced.

While the Traffic Management Act 2004 enables local authorities to adopt the powers of enforcing civil parking, implementation of all that involves could take between 18 months and two years, a report to full council said.



FAKE GOODS WORTH £65,000 SEIZED

Following an investigation by the council's trading standards team, an online seller of counterfeit clothing was successfully prosecuted.

Alireza Balmey, previously trading as Yes Clearance, appeared at Cwmbran Magistrates Court on 18 December 2017 and pleaded guilty to offences under the Trade Mark Act 1994.

He was later sentenced to nine weeks in custody, suspended for 12 months, ordered to pay costs of £2,342 to the council, £140 victim surcharge and forfeit all seized items with an estimated value of £65,000.

AMBITIOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Newport schools are set to see a £70 million investment thanks to a successful funding bid.

The council is delighted that Welsh Government has confirmed their in-principle support for plans to make improvements across a number of schools and that work can now begin on the next steps of the plan.

The aim of Welsh Government's 21st Century School and Education programme is to reduce the number of schools and colleges in poor condition and ensure Wales has the right size schools and colleges in the right locations.

Councillor Gail Giles, cabinet member for education and skills, said:

"This is fantastic news for Newport schools. This money will not only enable us to make some much-needed improvements, it will also help us

ensure our schools are fit to offer current and future generations the best possible educational experience."

Councillor Debbie Wilcox, Leader of Newport City Council, said:

"We have made a clear commitment to schools and education and have backed it up with additional cash injections in this financial year and proposals to continue such support in the coming year. However, the funds available to us are very limited and the challenge facing us and schools continues to grow. This makes this support and financial injection from Welsh Government all the more welcomed – it will go a long way to help us deliver on our priorities for young people in our city."

Under the programme, local authorities were invited to bid for funds to carry out such works in their area.

Newport put forward a programme of improvements to the value of £70 million in anticipation that Welsh Government would fund 50 per cent.

The schools included in the proposal were selected in line with the council's strategic aims and the priorities of the programme. Those taking priority have been selected based on condition, the number of school places available in the area and ways in which we can make best use of current assets.

Work on the detailed plans, businesses cases and work programme will now begin and will be further considered by Welsh Government as required by the funding programme.

For more information and details of the schools included in the plans, visit www.newport.gov.uk/news



supported by One Newport.

The Mini Police take part in community events close to their schools, help to tackle local issues and educate fellow pupils about community safety

Councillor Gail Giles, the council's cabinet member for education and skills, said:

"I would like to congratulate the pupils, and the schools, for being the first in Wales to sign-up to Mini Police.

"The pupils clearly relish their responsibilities, learning from their police mentors and engaging with their communities, not to mention their smart uniforms. They should be very proud of themselves, they are a credit to their schools, their families and to the city."



NEWPORT PUPILS JOIN MINI POLICE FORCE

Nine to 11-year-olds from Millbrook, Pillgwenlly and Ringland Primary Schools are the first to take part in a fun and interactive volunteering project for children.

Pupils are working with neighbourhood police teams as part of the pilot scheme which has been endorsed by the Police and Crime Commissioner and

COUNCIL BUDGET PLEDGES EXTRA FUNDS FOR KEY SERVICES

Despite the ongoing challenges of reduced funding for local government, Newport City Council is injecting a further £10m of investment into key services.

Following an extensive consultation with the public and partners, Cabinet discussed feedback on the draft savings proposals at their meeting in February and made recommendations for the 2018/19 budget.

Councillor Debbie Wilcox, Leader of the council, said: "Quite simply we have less money and staff than

ever but are still expected to deliver hundreds of services for the city.

"Throughout this process our key focus is always how we can protect essential services and our most vulnerable residents, and ensure the future growth of our city.

"I am proud that despite these considerable challenges we have continued to manage our finances effectively and target resources to the key priorities set out in our manifesto and the corporate plan. In particular, we have committed more support for the city's schools. As well as the additional funding

allocated for new schools and making permanent the £1.1m boost awarded last year, Cabinet has also agreed a further £420k be added to the schools budget.

"However, this is by no means the end of the challenge – we fully anticipate further cuts next year – but we mustn't lose sight of what has already been achieved. In particular, we have delivered savings of £41m over the last five years while still improving services; we have targeted over £30m of investments in front line services over the last four years over and above inflation; and now we have proposed a budget for

2018/19 which includes a further £10m investment into key services."

Cabinet also recommended a council tax increase of 4.8 per cent which equates to an extra £48.42 a year or 94p a week on a Band D property. Even with this rise, it expected Newport will still have one of the lowest council tax rates in Wales.

The budget, including the council tax increase, was then presented to full Council at the end of February.

Papers from the meeting are available at www.newport.gov.uk

UNDERSTANDING COUNCIL TAX

Council tax contributes only about 14 per cent of the council's costs towards the running expenses of providing services such as education, social services, waste collection and maintaining parks.

It can be paid in a number of ways including by direct debit and online and certain people can apply for discounts or exemptions.

For instance, council tax may be reduced if a permanently disabled person (adult or child) lives in

a dwelling which has certain features without which they would find it impossible or extremely difficult to live in their home.

There is also a discount available for people who can be "disregarded" as far as council tax is concerned and this can include student nurses, students in full-time education and people living in a care home.

It may also be applied to people with a severe mental impairment, including mental health problems or dementia.

For more information visit <http://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Council-Tax-Benefits/Discounts--exemptions/Disabilities-reduction.aspx> or telephone **01633 656656**.

Recruitment of Members for Education Appeal Panels School Standards Framework Act 1998

Newport City Council is required to establish education appeal panels to hear appeals regarding the admission and exclusion of pupils. We are looking for both lay members and experienced members to sit on these panels.

To be considered as a lay member, you must not have any personal experience in the management of any school or the provision of education in any school (other than as a Governor or in any other voluntary capacity).

For experienced panel members you will have experience in education, be familiar with educational conditions in Newport, or are a parent of registered pupils at a school.

Panel members are entitled to receive a financial loss allowance to compensate them for any loss of earnings incurred as a result of attending panel meetings and can claim reimbursement of travelling and subsistence expenses. Those persons appointed to sit on the panels will receive training for this.

For further information and to apply visit www.newport.gov.uk/jobs

Closing date: 16 April 2018.

Reference number: School Appeals Panel



BECOME A HEALTH COUNCIL MEMBER

The Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council acts as the eyes and ears of patients and the public across Gwent.

As an independent organisation, the Community Health Council visits hospitals, clinics and GP surgeries to talk to patients about their experience of the service.

The health council also engages with local communities to find out what is important to them and works directly with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to ensure that patients and the

public are at the centre of changes being made to services, or new services that are being developed.

Council members are vital in ensuring the patient and public voice is represented. Members are volunteers who are passionate about healthcare services but do not need any medical training or healthcare background.

They will need to have a genuine interest in listening to others, have strong social skills and be able to work as part of a team. Everything else they need to know is covered in members' training.

If you are interested in becoming a member or would like to find out more about the role, contact 01633 838516 or enquiries.aneurinbevanchc@waleschc.org.uk

WHAT'S ON



There is lots to see and do over the coming month in Newport including...

RIVERFRONT THEATRE
01633 656757

www.newportlive.co.uk/riverfront
14 March

The Wood: a new play written to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I.

16 March

Eugene Onegin: Mid Wales Opera features in Pushkin's compelling and heart-breaking story.

17 March

You've Got Dragons: A delightful tale of one child's journey to come to terms with their dragons told in this company's unique style.

20 April

Terra Firma: National Dance Company Wales performs a four part tale telling stories drawn from the very ground on which we build our communities.

NEWPORT MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

www.newport.gov.uk/heritage
Until 21 April

Exhibition: a collaboration between Coleg Gwent and Newport Museum and Art Gallery celebrating the city's rich heritage, industrial past right up to today's riverside development.

Until 29 December

Exhibition: Women's Suffrage Banners celebrating centenary of women getting the vote.

DOLMAN THEATRE
KINGSWAY, NEWPORT
BOX OFFICE: 01633 656757
21 -24 March

Wind in the Willows: New Venture Players presents the world amateur premier of this new musical featuring Ratty, Mole, Badger, Mrs Otter and the impulsive Mr Toad.

10 – 14 April

Crown Matrimonial: Newport Players present this gripping drama focusing on the crisis which faces the nation when Edward VIII declares his deep love for the divorced American socialite Wallis Simpson.