

**NEW LEADER FOR COUNCIL**



**Councillor Jane Mudd was confirmed as the new Leader of Newport City Council at the end of November.**

Councillor Mudd succeeds former Leader, Baroness Wilcox of Newport, who has stepped down following her elevation to the peerage.

The Malpas ward member, who has served as cabinet member for regeneration and housing since 2017, said: *"It is a great honour to lead the council and I look forward to serving the council and the city."*

*"I was born and brought up in Newport, attending local*

*schools, and bringing my family up here so the city, its past, present and future, is extremely important to me.*

*"My aspirations will include the continuation of vital regeneration work and making sure we realise the potential of the city and its residents."*

Councillor Roger Jeavons, the council's cabinet member for city services, was appointed as deputy leader.

There are also two new cabinet members: Councillor Deb Davies for sustainable development and Councillor Abdul-Majid Rahman for assets.

**Could you make 2020 the year you make a difference to a child's life?**

**There are 20 good reasons why you should take this positive step in 2020:**

- You'll give a child a chance in life
- You can change your career
- You can help a child reach their full potential
- Fostering gives you new perspectives
- Kindness feels good
- Local children and young people urgently need a home
- You'll help build positive futures
- Fostering is amazing and rewarding
- You'll make a difference that lasts a lifetime
- Meet other caring people - just like you
- It's a different way to grow your family
- Choose which type of fostering is right for you
- Develop new skills and gain qualifications
- You can help a child who's had a difficult past
- Become part of our fostering community
- You can make a difference locally
- Help keep a child in their school
- You'll be a positive role model
- You'll give a child a sense of belonging
- You'll help build a child's confidence

We want local people to foster our children. Your love and care will give a child the support and confidence they need to grow and develop to build a better future.

Fostering for Newport means you will be part of a team working together to help children succeed. It could range from short-term respite to long-term stable placements.

To find out more, call in to one of our drop-in sessions in the Castle Room, Newport Centre, Kingsway, between 2pm and 4pm or between 5pm and 7pm on Wednesday 29 January. Our fostering team will be on hand to answer any questions.

We would like to thank Newport Live for kindly hosting these sessions and we look forward to seeing you there but, in the meantime, you can find more information about how to become a foster carer in, and for Newport, at [www.newport.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.newport.gov.uk/fostering)



# TWENTY REASONS TO FOSTER A CHILD IN 2020



## MAKING HOMES SAFE, WARM AND SECURE

**Housing improvement loans are available to landlords and private homeowners whose properties are in need of repair or modernisation.**

One of the aims of the loans is to bring empty properties back into use but they are also available to owner-occupiers to make their homes safe, warm and secure.

They are for the repair or improvement of individual homes, to renovate empty properties or to convert empty non-residential properties into one or more units of residential accommodation, when commercial finance is not easily available.

Funding can be given to eligible homeowners who will occupy the property when the work is completed. It can be particularly helpful for older people who have no mortgage but are on a low income.

Landlords can also apply for loans to bring empty properties, both residential and commercial buildings, back into use as new homes.

Welsh Government has provided the funding for the safe, warm and secure scheme which is administered by the city council.

To find out more visit [www.newport.gov.uk/housing](http://www.newport.gov.uk/housing); email [housing.strategy@newport.gov.uk](mailto:housing.strategy@newport.gov.uk) for more information or call the housing delivery manager on **01633 233592**.

## CHAPERONE LICENCES

**Did you know you need a chaperone licence if you help backstage at children's performances such as dance, concerts, pantomimes or if you supervise youngsters for filming work?**

It is a legal requirement designed to protect children. You can find more information at [www.newport.gov.uk/schools](http://www.newport.gov.uk/schools) and follow the link.

# HAVE YOUR SAY ON BUDGET PROPOSALS

**Newport City Council's cabinet has considered the budget for 2020-21 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 is now running until the end of January 2020.

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

At the council's December cabinet meeting, Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council outlined the picture and the difficult choices that would have to be made.

*"We have already made significant savings and efficiencies – £41 million over the last five years.*

*However, the demands on services, particularly in social care and education, show absolutely no sign of diminishing in the future. As a result we must find even more 'new' savings – at least £21m over the next three years.*

*"We are trying very hard to plan for a sustainable future, but with less money, fewer staff and services stretched almost to breaking point, it is incredibly difficult.*

*"The real challenge however is that we want to do more than just provide the basic services that we have to provide by law – we want to ensure Newport is an attractive place to live, thereby attracting employers and creating jobs.*

*"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 are taking will affect*

*the city and our customers.*

*"One area of the budget where it is always hard to strike the balance is council tax. Although it contributes less than a quarter towards the total budget, we understand that it is a considerable outgoing for our residents. Newport has consistently had one of the lowest council tax rates in Wales – however much we might not want to do it, we have to consider raising it, but even then we would expect to still be very low in comparison to other authorities."*

Full details of the proposals for 2020-21 are available to view at [www.newport.gov.uk/budget](http://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 31 January 2020 and all responses will then be considered by cabinet at their February meeting.



## PILTON VALE NOW A HAVEN FOR WALKERS



► Pilton Vale site visit: back left, Cllr David Mayer, NCC officer Luke Stacey and Cllr James Clarke with front left, Cllr Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council and Cllr Deb Harvey

**A project to improve and revamp walking routes around Pilton Vale has been carried out by Newport City Council.**

The environmental open space, home to a variety of habitats from grassland and woodland to bracken and wetland,

gives walkers the chance to explore this wonderful site and see for themselves the work which has taken place.

The project, which took just over two months to complete, replaced the old wooden bridges and boardwalks which had deteriorated over the years with more durable recycled plastic and metal structures.

A more easily accessible circular route with an improved accessibility ramp has been created so visitors can explore and look out for the local wildlife.

Councillor Debbie Harvey, cabinet member for culture and leisure said:

## STRONG PLANNING PERFORMANCE

**An annual report shows that Newport City Council's planners are working well as the city continues to grow.**

The fifth planning report looks at some major developments and milestones for Newport as well as planning performance.

Once again the council has performed well against Welsh Government targets and had no areas for improvement.

For nearly every measure they were better than the target with the majority in the good category and only four rated as fair.

Newport was one of six planning authorities in Wales (out of 22) with the required housing land supply of 5 years with 5.6 years.

The percentage of major applications decided within the required time was 77 per cent compared with 68 per cent across Wales.



*"We are delighted we have been able to improve this open space which in recent years had fallen into disrepair and in some parts had been vandalised.*

*"I hope visitors can now enjoy the site which offers a more pleasant environment for all ages."*

The site can be accessed off Pillmawr Road where there is space for a small number of cars or via pedestrian access points from the Pilton Vale estate.

Newport Bus services also run through the estate. For more information on what you can expect to find at this site visit:

[www.newport.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.newport.gov.uk/countryside)

## EU SETTLEMENT STATUS

**Newport City Council is working closely with Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association, neighbouring authorities and other organisations to ensure the smooth running of services following Brexit.**

EU citizens and family members who want to continue to live, work or study in the UK will need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. A package of support is available and a document checking service is now available through Newport City Council.

Applicants have until 31 December 2020 (if UK leaves with a No Deal) or 30 June 2021 (if UK leaves with a deal). Applications to the Home Office can be made online or via a smartphone app free of charge.

However, not everyone has access to such devices or may feel confident using them. Newport City Council now provides a service to check and upload required identity documents to the Home Office and therefore assist in the process. A small fee applies.

For more information about the service and general Brexit preparations visit [www.newport.gov.uk/brexit](http://www.newport.gov.uk/brexit) or call **01633 656656**.

## SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

**Financial support is available from Newport City Council and UK Steel Enterprise for start-ups and growing businesses in Newport.**

Grants can be used for first year's rent, plant and equipment, non-statutory training and professional fees, software and websites. Terms and conditions apply.

For more information email [business.services@newport.gov.uk](mailto:business.services@newport.gov.uk) or call **01633 656656**

## INCREASE IN FIXED PENALTY NOTICES

**Newport City Council's community safety wardens changed their hours of operation in October last year resulting in a crackdown on fly tipping and dog fouling.**

A change of shift pattern was

introduced so they could spend more hours during the daytime in the city centre and other hotspot areas.

Community safety wardens respond to complaints about anti-social behaviour, noise nuisance, littering and dog fouling.

Since 7 October, they have been out-and-about from 1pm, seven days a week.

In the first month of the new hours, the wardens issued 77 fixed penalty notices (FPNs), mainly for littering but also for

fly tipping and dog fouling.

This compares with 12 in October 2018 and is a significant increase with the rest of this year – 31 in April; 12 in May; 13 in June; 27 in July, 12 in August and 35 in September.

Councillor Ray Truman, the council's cabinet member for licensing and regulation, said:

*"We wanted the wardens to be more visible and to be on the streets when it was felt they would have most impact.*

*"The significant increase in the*

*number of FPNs issued during the first month following the new shift pattern appears to support that approach and I hope it will continue.*

*"I would like to thank the wardens for accepting the change of hours and for their excellent work which makes an important contribution to improving the city's environment."*

Members of the public can report incidents via **incidents.wardens@newport.gov.uk**; [www.newport.gov.uk/report](http://www.newport.gov.uk/report); **01633 656656** (8am to 6pm) or **01633 656667** after 6pm.

**A transformed building at the heart of a community was the venue for the launch of a new streamlined model for delivering vital services.**

Newport City Council has developed a neighbourhood "hubs and spokes" model to ensure a more joined-up approach for residents who need assistance from more than one service.

As part of the new approach, a major refurbishment has been carried out of the Ringland Centre, the focus of the East Hub which includes Alway, East Newport (Moorland Park), Somerton Hope Centre and the Beaufort Centre in St Julian's.

The others are Central Hub based in Pill Mill Centre with spokes in Old Pill Library, Sea Breeze and Stow Hill; North Hub in Bettws with Malpas and Shaftesbury; West Hub in Maesglas with Gaer and Duffryn centres.

## BRINGING SERVICES TOGETHER FOR NEWPORT RESIDENTS



## COULD WE HELP MAKE LIFE EASIER?

**Newport City Council can fund minor adaptations to the homes of people with disabilities and the service will manage the project from start to finish.**

Safety at home and disabled facilities grants are available to homeowners and private tenants.

The housing grants improvement team can help people who need adaptations such as grab rails; half height steps, stair lifts, wet room and ramps.

**You can apply online at [www.newport.gov.uk/adaptations](http://www.newport.gov.uk/adaptations)**

## NEWPORT'S THRIVING VISITOR ECONOMY

**Last year, around 4.7 million people visited Newport and they spent about £412.5 million supporting more than 4,000 jobs, according to official figures.**

In just over a decade, the value of the visitor sector in the city has more than doubled.

Newport has benefited from a number of major events that this year attracted more than £3.3 million in local spending and an additional 250,000 visitors.

These included the brilliant British Transplant Games, described by the organisers as the best ever, and Newport Food Festival.

Rural areas as well as the city centre have also had funding boosts. As part of the Vale of Usk rural development programme, Newport had £117,530 of support for projects such as group travel training, social media classes for volunteers and mountain bike guide development.

The Living Levels programme is progressing well with developing new physical and virtual interpretation schemes, a sculpture trail and a year-round calendar of events.

Backed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the work also includes bringing back native orchards, capturing oral stories

and even its own local brew, Stank Hen. The £4 million scheme is well on track to achieve its outcomes.

The council was part of a successful £40,000 bid to Welsh Government (Visit Wales) for a Regional Tourism Engagement Fund (RTEF) for strategic marketing across the Severn Bridges following the abolition of the tolls. More than 50 businesses signed up to participate in the 15-month campaign.

Newport was also involved in a partnership RTEF funding application that won a £150,000 grant for the Southern Wales Marketing Hub.

Council Leader Councillor Jane Mudd said:

*"We are fortunate to have some fantastic businesses and organisations*

*in the tourism sector but attracting people to the city makes a wider contribution to the local economy.*

*"Whether they are coming to major events, such as the ABP Newport Wales Marathon, or going to visit local landmarks, they can be sure of a warm welcome in the city.*

*"We expect to see numbers increasing further as a result of the International Conference Centre Wales and we are already seeing a number of new hotels being built and opening.*

*"In the autumn, we held a destination development day and invited key businesses and organisations to give their input into our visions and plans for the city. Together, we can make Newport a great place to live, work and visit."*

# YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROMISE AND NEW ARTWORK

**Newport has recently become one of the first areas in Wales to agree a Young People's Promise – a charter of the rights and expectations that will shape the way that the council works with and for young people.**

In November Newport City Council's cabinet gathered to formally launch the Promise and a new artwork representing young people from across the city.

The photo mosaic features 'selfie' images of young people posing with a graphic of the Civic Centre – all of whom have contributed to the discussion or been involved in developing the Promise.

Councillor Debbie Wilcox, who was Leader of the council at the time of the launch, said: *"I am delighted that this was one of the key commitments my cabinet delivered, especially because of my background as a teacher and lifelong commitment to recognising young people's rights and nurturing their talents.*

*"I also felt it important that this artwork should take pride of place in our main committee room. It will be a prominent reminder to all politicians that young people are not just one third of our population, they are all of our future."*

The Young People's Promise is one of the pledges set out in the council's corporate plan and following the

extensive work with young people in Newport, they came up with a six point Promise, reminiscent of the six points of the People's Charter, historically associated with Newport.

The commitments in the Promise are:

1. All young people are listened to and are included in decisions that affect them
2. All young people have access to education and learning opportunities
3. All young people have the same opportunities to reach their potential regardless



The Promise launch

of race, gender, religion, disability, LGBTQ+ status, language preference (Welsh)

4. Newport Council will work with other services to help keep young people safe

5. All young people's mental, physical health and wellbeing are considered in decisions that affect them

6. All young people have access to safe spaces to play and socialise

Several young people involved in the development of the Promise, including representatives of Newport Youth Council, attended the launch. (pictured)

**For more information visit [www.newport.gov.uk](http://www.newport.gov.uk)**

## INSPIRE TO ACHIEVE

**Inspire to Achieve aims to engage with nearly 4,000 young people who are not progressing into employment, education or training in south-east Wales.**

It works to reduce and prevent early school and college leaving as well as providing other ways into education and training.

The team can help young people through any difficulty that may

put them at risk of dropping out of school or college or being withdrawn from a course.

This can include academic support; study skills; dealing with stress and anxiety or financial advice.

Benefits of the scheme also include improved health and well-being of young people alongside instilling a work ethic and higher aspirations.

Newport City Council is leading and managing the project on behalf of four councils, Careers Wales and two further education colleges. Funding for the three year Inspire to Achieve programme comes from the European Social Fund.

## FLY-TIPPING REPORTS FALL

**Newport City Council believes partnership working and the hard work from its dedicated PINT (Pride in Newport) fly-tipping team has resulted in a reduction of incidents according to figures from Welsh Government released last month.**

Figures released by Stats Wales which examined fly-tipping numbers across all local authorities highlighted that in Newport

the number fell from 3,588 in 2017/18 to 2,697 in 2018/19.

The drop in figures partly comes from a change in the way fly-tipping incidents are reported - as set out by Fly-tipping Wales in 2018 - coupled with the work by the PINT team.

This meant before 2018 'excess waste' collections and fly-tipped waste were counted together whereas now the figures reflect true fly-tipping incidents.

*"The PINT teams work really hard to prevent fly-tipping and also engage with many community groups to carry out litter picks. They also work alongside our partners in the*

*police and fire brigade to raise awareness, so these efforts have also helped the reduction in incidents.*

While there has been a net reduction in fly-tipping overall, we would like to see further improvements in reducing the numbers of commercial scale fly-tipping in the city and would like to remind residents that they have a legal obligation (duty of care) to take all reasonable measures to ensure that their waste is disposed of properly. We also ask them to check that any company they use have a valid Waste Carriers Licence.

However we would like to thank everyone who helps in our fight to tackle fly-tipping,

## MARATHON

**Newport will once again be gearing up to welcome thousands of runners and visitors to this year's Associated British Ports Newport Marathon and 10k which takes place on Sunday 19 April 2020.**

Hundreds of runners have already taken advantage of the launch price entry admissions with places sold out almost as soon as they were released.

However there is still chance to register to take part if you get in quick, visit [newportwalesmarathon.co.uk/register-marathon/](http://newportwalesmarathon.co.uk/register-marathon/)

[co.uk/register-marathon/](http://newportwalesmarathon.co.uk/register-marathon/)

The event could not go ahead without the support of sponsors with the main marathon sponsor being ABP supported by Healthspan, Monmouthshire Building Society, the University of South Wales, Newport City Council and Welsh Government. The lead charity for 2020 is NSPCC Wales.

Last year's event was won by Chris Bird of Chichester who completed the course in a record time of 2 hours, 31 minutes and 34 seconds to win by two clear minutes from Otley AC's Scott Harrington and strip one minute 44 seconds off last year's winning time.

Newport's Carla Swithenbank, a former police woman, took the

honours on her own doorstep to triumph in the women's race knocking 24 seconds off her previous best time as she made it a double for the Mickey Morris Racing Club as she followed in the footsteps of the inaugural champion, Natasha Cockram.

The marathon route is popular with runners because the route is one of Europe's flattest marathon races so ideal for first timers or those looking for a fast time.

It starts and finishes on the city's vibrant riverfront and takes runners past iconic landmarks including the city's Transporter Bridge and the stunning scenery of the surrounding Gwent Levels with coastal wildlife and picturesque medieval villages.



## COULD YOU RECYCLE MORE?

foil trays and metal cans.

**Green box:** Cardboard and tetrapaks plus glass bottles and jars. If you have excess cardboard Wastesavers advise put out the green box plus the same size in a box or bundle per week.

**Blue box:** Paper (not shiny wrapping paper as this is not recyclable) clothes and shoes and small electrical items that fit in the box such as a toaster.

Food waste goes in the small brown caddy for your kitchen with food waste bags then being collected in the bigger caddy which is emptied weekly.



**Thousands of people across the city happily recycle household items every week for the kerbside collections carried out by Newport City Council partners Wastesavers.**

For people who struggle deciding what items goes in which box it is worth checking Wastesavers' website – [www.wastesavers.co.uk](http://www.wastesavers.co.uk) – for the full list.

**As a quick reminder here is what goes in each box or bag:**

**Red bag:** Plastics including butter/margarine cartons, yoghurt pots and drinks bottles plus clean

## STUCK IN A CAREER RUT?

**Coleg Gwent is working with the Welsh Government on an initiative offering people the chance to gain the skills and qualifications they need to rewrite their career.**

Courses are designed to tackle skills shortages in Wales in the engineering, construction and ICT sector to help people who are looking to enhance their career or change it all together.

A Personal Learning Account (PLA) is available to anyone over the age of 19 who is in employment, but earning less than £26k per year. The scheme offers them access to free and flexible courses to gain the relevant skills and qualifications needed to kick-start a new career.

All courses will be run during the

evenings or weekends, as well as during the week, to offer flexible and convenient learning around existing work and family commitments. This means you can remain in existing employment while gaining the skills and qualifications that employers want and need.

Coleg Gwent is the only college in South Wales to run this two year



pilot scheme backed by the Welsh Government. It is expected that the project will support around 1,000 participants over the lifetime of the pilot.

Kirsty Williams, the Minister for Education, said: "Employers within the engineering, construction and ICT sectors are experiencing rising skill shortages and are looking to recruit individuals with the relevant vocational skills and qualifications they need to fill current and future gaps. This new project will help them to do that."

**Apply now - [www.colegwent.ac.uk/pla](http://www.colegwent.ac.uk/pla)**

## PROPOSED NEW VISITOR CENTRE FOR NEWPORT TRANSPORTER BRIDGE

**Plans for the proposed new visitor centre at Newport Transporter Bridge have been lodged with Newport City Council.**

The scheme is part of the multi million pound Heritage Fund project to secure the future of the iconic structure and carry out a programme of essential maintenance at the site.

The new visitor centre has been designed by AWW Architects to be both contemporary in nature but reflect the area's rich industrial history and architecture.

Chris Mitchell, architect and director of AWW said:

*"We are delighted to contribute to these exciting proposals through the design of a new building that will enhance the Transporter Bridge, helping to create a world class heritage attraction in Newport."*

The Heritage Fund project supports the regeneration and repositioning of Newport as a visitor destination while the visitor centre design links the building to the bridge exploring and enhancing the visitor experience of climbing to the top of the bridge and back across the gondola.

Newport City Council cabinet member for culture and leisure, Councillor Debbie Harvey said the new visitor centre can be used by schools, visitors and local community groups:

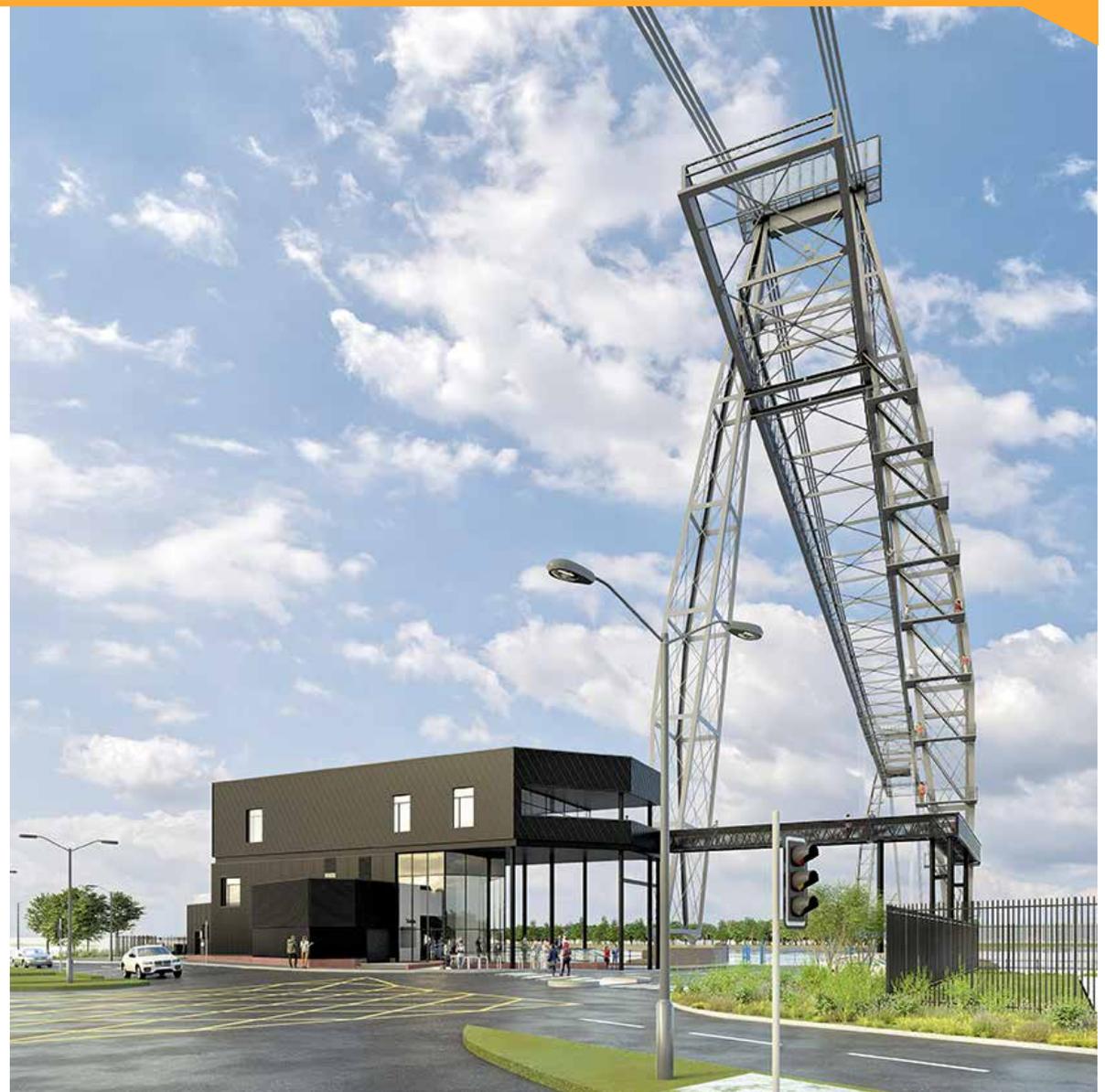
*"The visitor centre has been designed so that it will become a resource for the local community and an attraction that can cater for a variety of functions through the inclusion of community rooms, event spaces and a new café overlooking the bridge."*

*"In the future people can hold family celebrations at the centre in what will be a unique venue. We are very excited for the future."*

The Transporter Bridge is currently closed for the tourist season but will be back in operation from 1 April 2020 until 27 September.

The normal bridge opening hours during the season are from 10am until 5pm, Wednesday to Sunday.

Further details of events in the season will be featured on the council website, please visit [www.newport.gov.uk/transporterbridge](http://www.newport.gov.uk/transporterbridge) and details will also be featured on the council social media channels, follow us on **Facebook/nptbridge** and **Twitter @NpTBridge**



# #TELLUS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

**#TellUs is the message of a new campaign launched by Newport City Council for local schools.**

It was launched after a series of incidents involving pupils and their parents with schools and individuals coming under fire on social media channels – in many cases without the knowledge of the school involved.

The #TellUs campaign urges carers and parents of pupils to contact a school if there is a problem instead of turning to social media and using it as a bullying weapon.

Using the #TellUs message the council hopes to encourage a more positive response among school communities.

The council's cabinet member for education and skills, Councillor Gail Giles, said that while there were many useful aspects of

social media such as spreading good news about school activities and successes it could also be a force for spreading discontent.

She said: "We appreciate that the majority of people will report matters to school staff but our #TellUs campaign is reaching out to those who don't do this to come and report it to the school first.

"It is very hurtful, and sometimes harmful, for head teachers and staff to discover there is a problem when the first they hear of it is via social media channels.

"And it opens the flood gates for people, who have no knowledge of the problem or even of the people involved, to then spread misinformation.

"Schools want to know if there is a problem so they can hold discussions with all involved amicably."

The #TellUs campaign also wants to encourage the spread of good news and schools are welcoming the input of their local communities to pass on their ideas.

Posters to highlight the #TellUs campaign are in schools and include the email address of the school concerned so parents and carers have a direct point of contact.

If a problem can't be solved via #TellUs parents and carers can go through the school's complaints procedure, details are on each school's website.

Nationally there are well documented tales where social media channels have been used to undermine individuals and groups and used as a weapon by bullies allowing little or no room for a target to redress the balance.

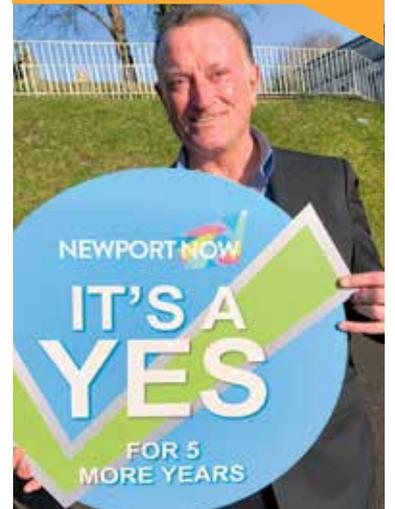
By law all schools have an anti-bullying policy to reduce and prevent bullying.

Pupils are encouraged to tell their parents, carer or teacher if they are being bullied. There is advice on the council website **visit [www.newport.gov.uk/en/Schools-Education/Bullying.aspx](http://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Schools-Education/Bullying.aspx)**



► The #TellUs campaign poster

## NEWPORT NOW BID TO CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER FIVE YEARS



► Newport Now BID chair Zep Bellavia after the successful ballot result

**Newport Now Business Improvement District (BID) has been backed for another five-year term following a successful ballot of city centre businesses.**

A total of 64 per cent of businesses who took part in the ballot voted in favour of the BID's continued tenure.

The result shows that businesses with a combined rateable value of more than £2.2 million voted positively.

Turnout was 22 per cent. Newport Now BID will manage more than £1.3 million worth of investment over the next five years, building on their success of the last five years

Kevin Ward, BID Manager, said: "We are delighted with the results of the ballot, which show businesses in the city centre understand the importance of having a BID to represent them and to help improve our city centre.

"We are now looking forward to expanding the BID area to include vibrant businesses on parts of the riverfront, Clarence Place and Clytha Park Road."

Zep Bellavia, Chair of the BID Board, said: "City centre businesses are passionate about Newport and it is the BID's role to represent their interests and ensure their money is spent appropriately."

Newport Now BID2 will operate from April, 2020 for five years.

## ECO STARS LAUNCH FIRST FLEET RECOGNITION SCHEME IN WALES

**Newport City Council is the first local authority in Wales to join the ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme.**

ECO Stars is a voluntary fleet recognition scheme which encourages and supports operators of HGVs, vans, buses and coaches to run their fleets more efficiently and improve local air quality.

Newport City Council's transport unit, Newport Norse and Wastesavers have signed up, alongside the Owens Group, Amberon Traffic Management and Jumbo Cruiser.

And now the council is looking for more companies to sign up and save on their fuel costs.

Councillor Ray Truman, cabinet member for licensing and regulation hosted a launch at the civic centre in Newport in November last year to recognise the efforts of those who have joined the scheme so far and to outline the benefits of local companies signing up.

"We are delighted to be bringing

the ECO Stars scheme to Newport and will be spreading the word about the benefits of fleet operators signing up to get help and advice on how to operate more efficiently, reduce fuel consumptions and as a result reduce costs.

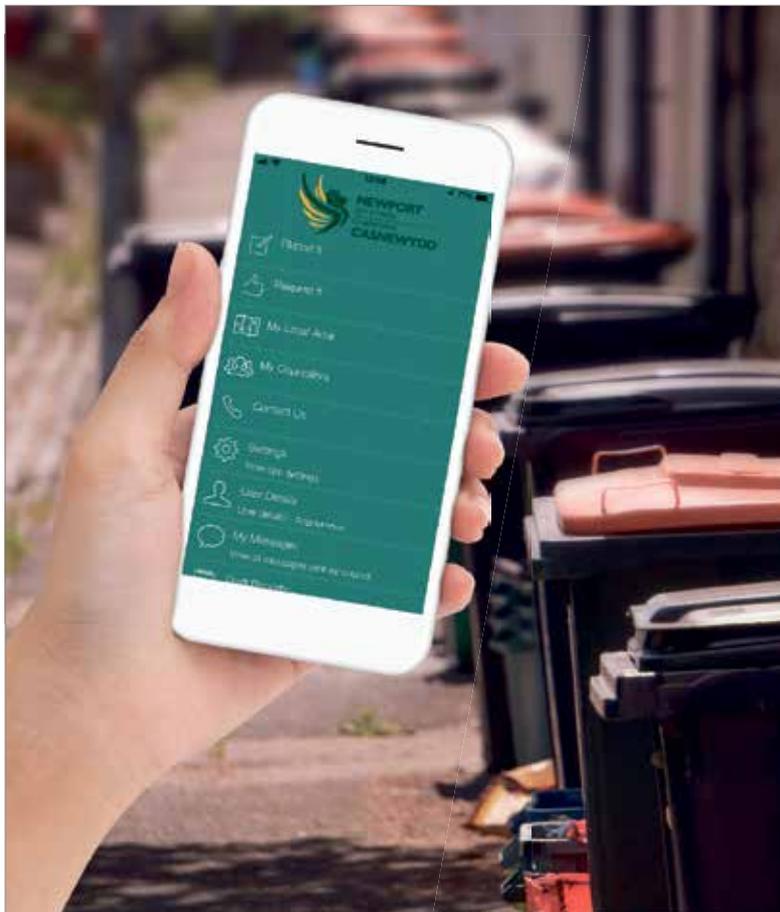
"This will help the council's drive towards a cleaner greener Newport."

Newport City Council's Transport Unit has been awarded a four star rating from the scheme.

Ann Beddoes, ECO Stars scheme manager from Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, said:

"I am delighted to welcome Newport City Council as members of ECO Stars, the first scheme in Wales. I wish them every success in their drive to reduce air pollution and improve air quality."

To find out how to join ECO Stars visit **[www.newport.gov.uk](http://www.newport.gov.uk)**



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Ewch ar-lein

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