

**TORFAEN
COUNTY
BOROUGH**



**BWRDEISTREF
SIROL
TORFAEN**

Torfaen County Borough Council

Well-being Statement 2022 – 27

This document is available in Welsh
Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg



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1. Introduction

Under the Well-being of Future Generations Act, public bodies have a duty to deliver sustainable development. This means improving social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being by seeking to ensure ‘that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. This is known as the Sustainable Development Principle.

To do this, the Future Generations Act sets out:



Figure 1: The National Well-being Goals and the 5 ways of working from the Well-being of Future Generations Act

This well-being statement sets out what we are doing as an organisation to maximise our contribution towards the national well-being goals and how we are using the five ways of working to help us do this.

2. How we are working

- Developing our plan and objectives

Our County Plan and Well-being Objectives have been built on solid foundations formed from a combination of local, regional and national intelligence and drivers. These include key local plans and strategies, inspections and audit outcomes, regulatory reports, place making plans, internal monitoring and election manifesto promises. They also include rich intelligence from our frontline services and directorates.

The Regional Partnership Board population needs assessment has informed our ambition to prevent need arising and escalating as well as the extent to which residents or their carers require our support. The Gwent Public Service Board [Well-being Assessment](#), including well-being assessments for [Cwmbran](#), [Pontypool](#) and [Blaenavon](#) and their surrounding communities, tell us about wider aspects of well-being across the county today but also how it is most likely to develop in the future based on challenges such as social and economic differences, an ageing population, health inequality, educational attainment gaps and climate change.

Nationally, a range of trend, well-being and resourcing reports have helped to inform risks and opportunities for Torfaen including for business, infrastructure, housing, the natural environment and our population's health.

In developing our well-being objectives, we have also sense checked them against key evidence which include:

- [The Future Generations Report](#)
- [The Future Trends Report](#)
- [The National Well-being indicators](#)
- [Welsh Report of the Climate Change Risk](#)
- [Relevant examinations by the Auditor General for Wales](#)
- [The Planning Survey](#)
- [Strategic Equality Plan](#)

Our County Plan and Well-being Objectives provide a clear framework within which change can be encouraged, directed and responded to. The plan is brought to life and our objectives will be delivered through the inclusion of annual delivery plans that will be iterative and agile so that new initiatives, challenges and opportunities can be responded to throughout the life of the plan.

Our approach is underpinned by a commitment to ongoing engagement with our local communities and partners that will help us to deliver our shared vision, determine future strategy, set priorities and ensure they are at the heart of all we do.

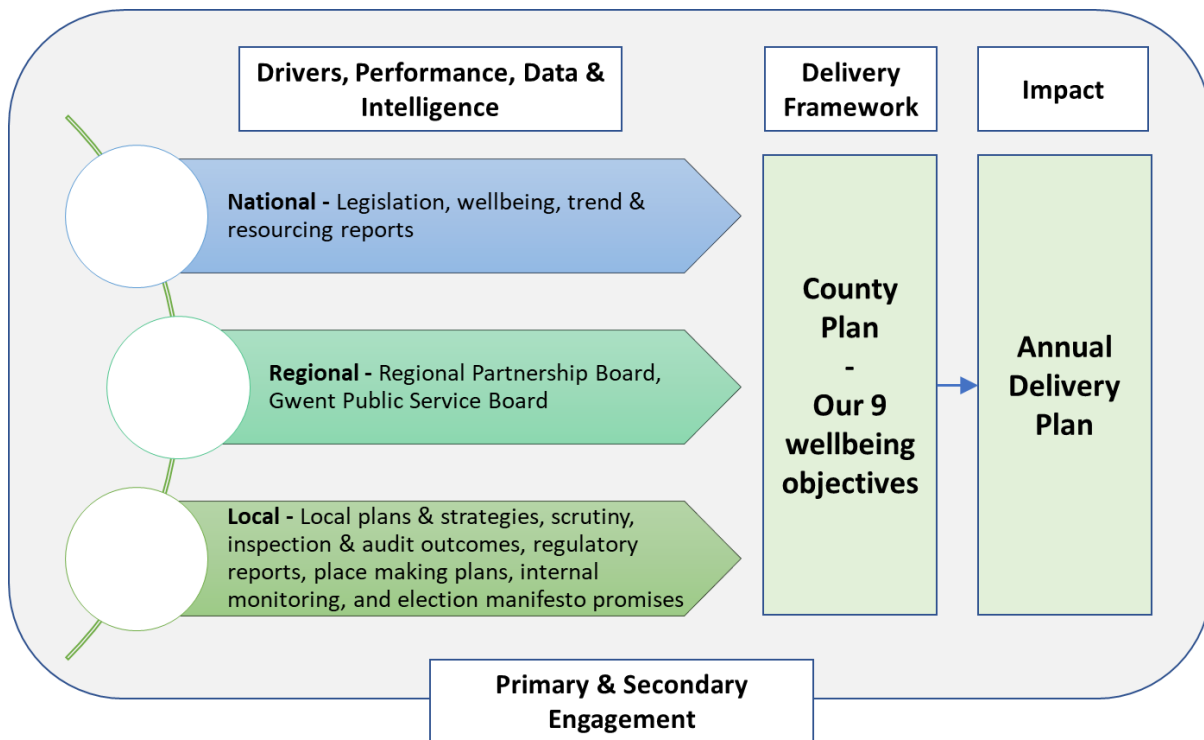


Figure 2: Framework for the County Plan

As well as considering how each of our well-being objectives can maximise our contribution to the national well-being goals, we have also thought about how they impact on each other and how by delivering the steps in different ways we can get even more well-being benefits from our activities.

As part of developing the County plan we set out a new vision *‘to improve the sustainability, connectivity and well-being of our county by strengthening our communities, by creating a thriving local economy and by protecting and enhancing our environment’*.

To guide our policy making and service design over the coming years, the themes of connectivity, well-being, sustainability and culture and heritage will help to ensure decisions and planning are focused around the big picture and vision for the County.

- Involvement

Our well-being objectives are increasingly being underpinned by key strategies and plans which provide more detail about what we are going to do. Primary involvement of our communities and others at the strategy and plan development stage helps to ensure that our priorities and actions are the right ones.

We have also undertaken secondary involvement during November 2022 by asking our communities what they think of our vision for Torfaen by 2027, if our plan matches their ambitions for the county and if anything important has been missed. An online survey was created, and six public drop-in sessions were arranged – two in Blaenavon, two in Pontypool and two in Cwmbran. The survey and public drop-in sessions were promoted via posters and social media. Staff and members were also notified by email. The communications and

engagement team also contacted the Council’s citizen panels and three Community Councils. Members of the team held sessions with the Torfaen People’s Panel; Blaenavon, Pontypool and Cwmbran Over 50s group; Torfaen Youth Forum; Torfaen Access Forum and Pontypool and Cwmbran Community Councils. Details of the consultation were also sent to Blaenavon Community Council and the Climate Ambassadors Network.

By working more collaboratively both across our organisation, with our partners and involving more people in our work we are more likely to solve the complex challenges faced by many living in communities where disadvantage may be concentrated.

- Delivering our plan and objectives

The County Plan is a 5-year plan that sets out our overall vision for supporting Torfaen’s well-being, our objectives and what we will deliver for the year ahead. At the end of each year, we will review our progress and consider what we need to do the following year to ensure we keep on track.

There are things we need to do to support well-being in our communities now, but we’ve also looked at how well-being could develop in the future and how we can prevent issues occurring or from becoming worse.

To help us create the right conditions to apply the five ways of working in a consistent and meaningful way we have developed eight characteristics of an outstanding Council and these along with our core values shape how we work as an organisation.

Creating the right conditions to apply the five ways of working in a consistent and meaningful way:	
Characteristics of an outstanding Council	
1. Innovative - Using innovative approaches to tackle causes rather than symptoms, so that we can prevent challenges occurring.	2. Aspirational and visionary - Planning for the long-term to develop responses that prevent and mitigate risk and enable opportunities to be captured for future generations.
3. High performing - Working in an integrated way to achieve our well-being objectives and so we can maximise our contribution to the national well-being goals.	4. Collaborative and inclusive - Working collaboratively with all parts of our communities, across the council and with external partners to achieve our well-being objectives.
5. Well-managed - Improving quality, maximising efficiency and delivering dynamic and responsive services that support well-being.	6. Engaging and accessible - Involving all parts of our communities in identifying our well-being challenges and the steps to be taken to address them.
7. Financially astute - Delivering services that are cost-effective, integrated and sustainable, including in the long term	8. Digital and data led - Accounting for the trends and externalities which are likely to impact Torfaen over the next 20-30 years which have the potential to drive

so that we target support to those that need it most.	further inequalities, lower resilience and impact on demand for services.
Core values	
<p>✓ Innovative - Using innovative approaches to tackle causes rather than the symptoms, so that we can prevent challenges occurring.</p> <p>✓ Supportive - Training our staff to work accordance with the sustainable development principle.</p>	<p>✓ Fair -Valuing people’s opinions and perspectives and providing inclusive opportunities for collaboration and involvement</p> <p>✓ Effective - Showing the progress we are making towards achieving our well-being objectives.</p>

3. Maximising contribution to the national well-being goals and using the five ways of working

The following section sets out our well-being objectives, how we have considered the five ways of working in their development and in the steps we will take to achieve them. It also describes how the objectives will maximise contribution to the national well-being goals and how they work together to improve well-being in Torfaen.








1. Raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives	2. Encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive	3. Tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives
4. Make Torfaen more sustainable by connecting people and communities, socially, digitally and physically	5. Respond to the climate and nature emergencies, recycle more and make improvements to the local environment	6. Make Torfaen a great place to do business by working with local employers, encouraging new business start-ups and entrepreneurial activities
7. Promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical well-being	8. Support our local culture and heritage and make Torfaen a thriving, safe and attractive place to live and visit	9. Provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services

Figure 3: Our Well-being Objectives



Objective 1 - Raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives


We will:

- ✓ Support young people to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives
- ✓ Improve outcomes for learners, particularly in secondary schools
- ✓ Effectively respond to Estyn inspections
- ✓ Provide the right help at the right time to children, young people and families
- ✓ Continue to create and sustain secure employment for our residents
- ✓ Support an economy which is socially inclusive helping vulnerable groups into employment
- ✓ Build communities by improving information and advice to residents to prevent problems occurring
- ✓ Improve Welsh language provision



	A prosperous Wales		A Wales of cohesive communities		A more equal Wales		A globally responsible Wales
	A resilient Wales		A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language		A healthier Wales		Key=National Well-being Goals



How this objective contributes to national well-being goals:



Tackling educational attainment gaps and improving educational outcomes, especially for young people from low-income families or with additional learning needs, can remove barriers to employment in later life and help reduce the inequalities that exist in some of our communities.  


Supporting adult learning and skill development can provide opportunities in later life for gaining work, employment progression and career change. 


Having a wide range of employment opportunities, people with the right skills to benefit from them and by supporting vulnerable groups into employment contributes to a social inclusive and successful local economy.  

Supporting children, young people and adults to take up opportunities for learning or employment, can have long term positive impacts on their health and well-being.  


Ensuring that children can have access to a good meal can help learning, improve health and support families that are finding it hard to pay for the basics of life.  

Providing opportunities for young people to develop as active citizens and feel connected to the wider world is important if we are to see new generations of adults that 'think globally and act locally' and will help ensure that Torfaen is welcoming and safe including to those seeking asylum.  

Making sure that children, regardless of their circumstances have good access to healthy and functional natural spaces that support outdoor play, active lifestyles and learning. Torfaen's natural resources can provide opportunities for volunteering and for gaining skills that can help access future employment. Teaching young people about the importance of protecting the environment will help ensure our natural resources are protected and enhanced for generations to come. 

Learning environments can provide opportunities for young people and adults to gain the social skills, build social networks and to get on well with people from different backgrounds. 

Schools and other educational settings can be a place where new cultural activities are experienced, and Welsh language skills are developed.

Community learning lifestyle courses such as arts, crafts, languages and family history, support culture to flourish and act as a gateway into further learning, skills development and employment. 

Involvement



To help us develop this objective, we:

- ✓ Worked with Torfaen Strategic Economic Forum, made up of our larger employers from across the sectors.
- ✓ Sense checked with academics at Cardiff University.
- ✓ Incorporated recommendations from Scrutiny.
- ✓ Sense checked with Torfaen Strategic Economic Forum.
- ✓ Carried out a public consultation to engage with the wider business community.
- ✓ Consulted with Elected Members, Torfaen Youth Alliance members, the Public Services Board and Positive Pathways, Council's Leadership Team, Primary and Secondary Heads and service delivery leads on the draft Children and Young People Service Delivery Plan.
- ✓ Held workshops with lead officers from across the Council to develop the Children and Young People Service Delivery Plan.

To involve people in our work, we will:

- ✓ Use Torfaen Youth Alliance digital platform to bring young people together to share the issues that are important to them.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for young people of all backgrounds can get involved in public services through our public services work experience programme.
- ✓ Provide inclusive and accessible opportunities for residents to engage in learning through our library programmes, one-to-one mentoring, health and wellbeing support, and lifestyle and leisure activities.

Collaboration



To help us develop this objective we worked with:

- ✓ Schools, the Welsh Medium 6th form provision, Coleg Gwent, the Strategic Economic Forum and Careers Wales to better understand the challenges.
- ✓ The regional Education Achievement Service (EAS) to support all schools to prepare for the new Curriculum for Wales.
- ✓ Torfaen Young People's Forum to raise awareness of the new Additional Learning Needs Act.

✓ Held a seminar for Members, facilitated an online discussion with Torfaen Youth Alliance, had a workshop discussion with Public Service Board and Positive Pathways - Lead Delivery Officers to develop the Children and Young People Service Delivery Plan.

To deliver our steps we will work with:

- ✓ The regional Education Achievement Service (EAS) targeting bespoke support to schools.
- ✓ A new Strategic Improvement Partnership Board to provide external expertise and challenge to help ensure we respond effectively to Estyn inspections. We will share our progress with elected Members and the public.
- ✓ Schools, Coleg Gwent, the Strategic Economic Forum and Careers Wales to raise aspirations amongst young people.
- ✓ Torfaen Young People's Forum, youth groups, schools and the community to ensure young people with Additional Learning Needs are supported to achieve their educational goals.
- ✓ Work-based learning providers to help meet labour market demand
- ✓ The Regional Skills Partnership to target investment to local need.
- ✓ Cardiff Capital Region to maximise opportunities for local businesses and skill development.

Prevention



To help us develop this objective we have considered the issues preventing children and young people reaching their full educational potential and the barriers adults face to gaining employment or progressing in the workplace.

Our approach will:

- ✓ Tackle educational attainment gaps and improving educational outcomes and skills, especially for young people from low-income families.
- ✓ Support school attendance and positive pupil behaviours to prevent young people from disengaging with learning.
- ✓ Provide access to a good school meal to improve health and support learning.
- ✓ Expand access to funded childcare including Welsh medium provision, to support parents to access work.
- ✓ Provide additional Welsh Language Immersion support for pupils in our Welsh Medium primary schools and our secondary school.
- ✓ Deliver essential skills and job specific learning through our adult and community learning franchise.
- ✓ Support young people at risk of being NEET and target employability support and mentoring to those who have become NEET.

Long-term



To help us develop our objective we have thought about challenges and opportunities that could impact on future educational and employment, so that we can help improve long-term life chances

Welsh Governments Future Trends Report¹ highlights that:

- Technology will play an increasing role in work in the future and employers will need people with the right skills.

¹ Future Trends Report Wales 2021. Welsh Government. <https://gov.wales/future-trends-2021>

- Younger people and women are more likely to be employed in jobs that will be automated in the future.
- Non-working households continue to be at greatest risk from relative income poverty.
- Wales has an aging population and healthy life expectancy in Wales is lower than the UK average.
- Digital exclusion disproportionately impacts on certain groups and increasing reliance on digital technologies could widen inequalities.
- The number of people speaking Welsh is projected to increase
- The increase is expected to be highest in younger age groups

Cardiff City Region has identified key employment areas as being important for the region's prosperity over the next 10-20 years. These are: life sciences, financial technology, artificial intelligence, the creative economy, transport engineering, semi-conductor production, cyber security and analytics and energy and environment².

Our approach will:

- ✓ Provide support to businesses who want to innovate.
- ✓ Align skills, training and learning to the sectors of the future, raise young peoples' aspirations and promote local careers to create high skilled employment opportunities for local young people and contribute to the long-term economic well-being of Torfaen's communities.
- ✓ Provide apprenticeships, work-placements and a relevant adult community learning offer to help create & sustain high employment levels.
- ✓ Support those at risk at becoming NEETs and remove some of the barriers that prevent adults gaining employment or progressing in the workplace.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for continued learning during adulthood to support employment progression and enable career change.
- ✓ Support apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning to develop vocational skills critical to the success of our key sectors including manufacturing, hospitality, construction and the foundational economy - this includes health and social care services, especially as an aging population may increase future demand.
- ✓ Promote healthy lifestyles to tackle poor health that can impact on educational performance and people's ability to find or sustain decent work.
- ✓ Improve digital skills through our Adult and Community Learning offer.
- ✓ Improve Welsh Language provision.

Integration



How this objective, impacts on the Council's other well-being objectives:

Encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive:

- A good quality education will support young people to have the best start in life and contribute to their economic well-being in later life.
- Gaining essential skills and undertaking job specific learning through our adult and community learning franchise, helps remove some of the barriers that prevent adults gaining employment or progressing in the workplace.

² Cardiff Capital Region Industrial and Economic Plan

- Working with young people at risk of anti-social behaviour and crime by signposting them to youth support services to support them to make better choices and continue to engage with learning.

Tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives:

- Reducing educational attainment gaps and improving educational outcomes, especially for young people from low-income families, will support them to reach their full educational potential.
- Removing barriers that prevent adults gaining employment or progressing in the workplace can improve their life chances.
- Providing on-going support for young people at risk of being NEET and targeted employability help and mentoring will support those who have become NEET to improve their life chances.

Make Torfaen more sustainable by connecting people and communities, socially, digitally and physically:

- Bringing young people together to share the issues that are important to them through the Torfaen Youth Alliance platform.
- Library programmes, one-to-one mentoring, health and wellbeing support, lifestyle and leisure activities can strengthen community cohesion and provide inclusive opportunities for residents to engage in learning, includes support to improve digital skills.
- Providing local work experience opportunities will help raise aspirations and promote careers in local businesses.

Respond to the climate and nature emergencies, recycle more and make improvements to the local environment:

- Designing our new schools with net zero considerations in mind, already we are working on our first Passivhaus school in Cwmbran.
- Rolling out water and energy efficiency improvements across our schools will contribute to our net zero carbon journey.
- Working with schools to share waste awareness messages and on energy awareness activities.
- Work with schools to encourage seed collecting and sapling growing within school grounds.
- Preparing for a changing climate and the impacts that it will bring including for learning.
- Ensuring the workforce has the right skills to support the net zero journey.
- Encouraging business innovation in public priorities like climate change. Significant renewable energy potential has been identified across Gwent, that if realised could support the zero-carbon journey and contribute to local prosperity.

Make Torfaen a great place to do business by working with local employers, encouraging new business start-ups and entrepreneurial activities:

- Collaborating with work-based learning providers will help meet labour market demand and anticipate future demand.
- Working closely with the Torfaen Strategic Economic Forum, our local education providers and graduates to raise awareness of local careers and opportunities.

Promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical wellbeing:

- Supporting children, young people and adults to take up opportunities for learning or employment can have long term positive impacts on their health and well-being.
- Encouraging healthy lifestyles can support educational performance and people's ability to find or sustain decent work.

Support our local culture and heritage and make Torfaen a thriving, safe and attractive place to live and visit:

- Schools and other educational settings can be a place where new cultural activities are experienced, and Welsh language skills are developed.
- Giving children and young people opportunities to engage in new activities will support them to form new friendships and form social networks that are important for culture to thrive.
- Lifestyle, leisure courses and clubs in areas such as arts, crafts, languages and family history, support culture to flourish, and help our residents to improve confidence, social networks and mental health. They can also be a gateway into further learning, skills development and employment.

Provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services:

- Improving digital skills through our Adult and Community Learning offer will empowering people to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Objective 2 – Encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive

We will:

- ✓ Improve learning facilities and supporting modern teaching methods through the 21st century schools' programme
- ✓ Build on our Children's Services multi-agency approach to the safe triaging of referrals
- ✓ Build on our strength-based practice within Children's Services in order to support children to remain safely at home
- ✓ Enhance our early intervention and prevention services
- ✓ Work with young people at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and crime
- ✓ Support refugees and asylum seekers receiving sanctuary
- ✓ Expand access to funded childcare including Welsh medium provision
- ✓ Support young people to develop social and independent living skills
- ✓ Provide inclusive play opportunities



A prosperous Wales






A Wales of cohesive communities




A more equal Wales





A globally responsible Wales


	A resilient Wales		A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language		A healthier Wales		Key=National Well-being Goals
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How this objective contributes to national well-being goals:


Ensuring that children and young people get the support they need at the right time will help them have a good start in life and grow up healthy and cared for. 

Protecting Torfaen’s children and families from exploitation, violence and abuse will support their long-term health and well-being and will contribute to safer communities and supporting children and families to have a fair chance in life regardless of their background or ability will create a more equal Torfaen. 

For children and families to thrive they need to live in a safe secure and clean environment with access to green spaces. Having access to a broad range of community-based support can help create independence and a feeling of belonging to the place people live. 

Tackling antisocial-behaviour will help ensure that Torfaen is welcoming and safe – including to those seeking asylum. Encouraging children and young people to develop as active citizens and feel connected to the wider world is important if we are to see new generations that ‘think globally and act locally’. 

Ensuring that Torfaen’s children and families experience quality, inclusive and participatory education and skills development will help them meet their full potential and will contribute towards a prosperous Torfaen and improving learning facilities with net zero carbon considerations in mind will help us respond to the climate emergency and support modern teaching methods. 

Taking part in cultural activities and learning can be positive alternative to anti-social behaviour, creating safer and more inclusive communities. 

Involvement



To help us develop this objective, we:

- ✓ Listened to children and young people’s voices and aligned our approach with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- ✓ Listened to local leaders, families and headteachers about how to work effectively in the local community context.
- ✓ Engaged with Torfaen’s communities to better understand their unique strengths and needs.

To help us involve people in our work, we will:

- ✓ Use family group conferences to target support and help prevent problems occurring.
- ✓ Develop customer journeys to better understand the needs of vulnerable children and young people, so the service is fit for purpose.
- ✓ Support the Children and Young Person’s Alliance to ensure the views and aspirations of children and young people shape future planning and evaluation of services.
- ✓ Involve local leaders, families and headteachers in our work going forward.

Collaboration



To help us develop this objective we:

- ✓ Consulted with Elected Members, Torfaen Youth Alliance members (TYA), the Public Services Board and Positive Pathways, Council's Leadership Team, Primary and Secondary Heads and C&YP service delivery leads on the draft Children and Young People Service Delivery Plan.
- ✓ Held workshops with lead officers from across the Council to develop the Children and Young People Service Delivery Plan.
- ✓ Held a seminar for Members, facilitated an online discussion with members of the Torfaen Youth Alliance, had a workshop discussion with Public Service Board and Positive Pathways - Lead Delivery Officers.

To deliver our steps we will work with:

- ✓ Torfaen's families to develop parenting skills and provide opportunities to participate in community life.
- ✓ Partner agencies and the community to support young people and their families. This includes safe triaging of referrals through the Multi Agency Support Services Hub (MASSH).
- ✓ Young people and families to engage with learning and skills development.
- ✓ Young people to support them make better choices with their free time.
- ✓ Communities, elected members, local and national partners and children and families. to ensure continuous improvement of services.
- ✓ Children and young people to ensure they have opportunities to meet friends and have places to play and enjoy themselves.

Prevention



To help us develop this objective we have considered the issues preventing the best outcomes for children, young people and their families. Health, housing, employment, finances, education and social support networks all have the potential to impact on family life.

Our approach will:

- ✓ Identify and provide effective early support, particularly for those who are at risk of poorer outcomes.
- ✓ Create an early help delivery framework based around school 'hubs' to direct young people and their families at the soonest point possible to the right help, and the right time.
- ✓ Take a joined-up approach to service provision, including through the Multi Agency Support Services Hub, we can help ensure that opportunities aren't missed to protect children and young people at risk from exploitation, violence and abuse.
- ✓ Effectively monitor the overall system so that partners are aware of emerging challenges and changing patterns of needs
- ✓ Work with young people at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour or crime to support them to make better choices with their free time.
- ✓ Provide inclusive play opportunities that meet the needs of children and young people.

Long-term

To help us develop our objective we have thought about long-term challenges and opportunities that could impact on family life and childhood experiences.



Welsh Governments Future Trends Report³ highlights that:

- Reductions in income poverty are not occurring equally and gaps in income equality for certain groups still exist in Wales
- Non-working households continue to be at greatest risk from relative income poverty
- The percentage of children living in relative income poverty since 2014/15 has increased, with levels highest amongst those living within workless households
- The principal migration projection for Wales points to an increasing population up to 2037
- Annual net international migration to Wales is projected to be at around 6,000 per year from mid-2025 onwards
- Healthy life expectancy in Wales is lower than the UK average, and has shown little change over time
- Self-reported health has shown little improvement in recent years, with the gap between the most and least deprived widening slightly
- Non-EU net migration has been increasing in the UK since 2013, while EU net migration has stabilised since 2018
- Annual net international migration to Wales is projected to be at around 6,000 per year from mid-2025 onwards.

Our approach will:

- ✓ Provide early support to children and families so they have a fair chance in life regardless of their background or ability will help them reach their potential and experience fulfilling lives.
- ✓ Contribute to individual economic well-being by providing a good quality education to support young people to have the best start in life.
- ✓ Expand access to funded childcare including Welsh medium provision, to support parents to access work.
- ✓ Support refugees and asylum seekers receiving sanctuary.

Integration

How this objective, impacts on the Council's other well-being objectives:



Raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives:

- Providing a good quality education will support young people to have the best start in life and contribute to their economic well-being in later life.
- Working with young people at risk of anti-social behaviour and crime will support them to make better choices and continue to engage with learning.

Tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives:

³ Future Trends Report Wales 2021. Welsh Government. <https://gov.wales/future-trends-2021>

- Providing effective early support to children and families so they have a fair chance in life regardless of their background or ability will help them reach their potential and experience fulfilling lives.

Make Torfaen more sustainable by connecting people and communities, socially, digitally and physically:

- Involving children and young people in decision making will encourage ownership of the challenges we face, including making our communities safe places.
- Providing opportunities for participation in community life and ensuring that children and young people have opportunities to meet friends and have places to play and enjoy themselves will support communities to be viable, well-connected and thriving.
- Having access to a broad range of community-based support can help create independence and a feeling of belonging to the place people live.

Respond to the climate and nature emergencies, recycle more and make improvements to the local environment:

- The cost-of-living crisis may mean that more people are in fuel poverty, and this can impact on family life. We will continue to promote warm home schemes and work with partners in the Cardiff Capital Region to develop a regional Eco-flex scheme aimed at improving energy efficiency in the home.
- Making sure that children and young people have access to good quality green space and that Torfaen's natural resources are in good condition so they can best support well-being will help them to have the best start in life.
- Ensuring our natural assets are well managed and in good condition will mean that future generations of children and young people can experience their well-being benefits.

Make Torfaen a great place to do business by working with local employers, encouraging new business start-ups and entrepreneurial activities:

- Ensuring vulnerable children, young people and families experience quality, inclusive and participatory learning and skills development, will support them to meet their full potential and make a valuable contribution to the future workforce.
- By tackling anti-social behaviour we are making Torfaen a more attractive place to do business.

Promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical wellbeing:

- Ensuring that children and young people get the support they need at the right time will help them have a good start in life.
- Developing parenting skills will help ensure that children grow up healthy and cared for.
- Protecting Torfaen's children and families from exploitation, violence and abuse will support their long-term health and well-being.
- Childhood experiences can seed a lifelong interest in sports and the mental and physical benefits that exercise can provide.

Support our local culture and heritage and make Torfaen a thriving, safe and attractive place to live and visit:

- Proving opportunities for participation in cultural and community life and ensuring that children and young people have opportunities to meet friends and have places to play and enjoy themselves will support communities to be viable, well-connected and thriving.
- Community-based support can help create independence and a feeling of belonging to the place people live.
- Tackling antisocial behaviour will help will contribute to safer and thriving communities.
- Supporting refugees and asylum seekers to integrate within our communities will provide opportunities to experience new cultures and support vibrant communities.

Provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services:




- Improve learning facilities and supporting modern teaching methods will support children and young people to thrive.

Objective 3 – Tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives


We will:


- ✓ Provide Council tax and benefit support and respond to the cost-of-living crisis
- ✓ Support community capacity building on strengths
- ✓ Engage young people in purposeful activity within school and community settings
- ✓ Provide mental health support services
- ✓ Enhance our early intervention and prevention services
- ✓ Work in partnership across directorates, with external agencies and with communities to enable citizens to access early, non-statutory support
- ✓ Target support for young people and families where issues such a poverty inhibit their ability to get support and access services
- ✓ Deliver Fun and food camp provide free nutritious breakfast and lunch
- ✓ Support the unstable domiciliary care market and respond to increasing demand and complexity of domiciliary care
- ✓ Operate the Ty Glas Yr Dorlan Community Enablement Hub to promote independence and reduce isolation and loneliness.
- ✓ Help residents with care and support needs have a good day through community day opportunities
- ✓ Work with individuals and families requiring housing advice and guidance and to prevent homelessness from occurring
- ✓ Continue to create and sustain secure employment for our residents
- ✓ Provide free school meals for all nursery and primary aged children


	A prosperous Wales		A Wales of cohesive communities		A more equal Wales		A globally responsible Wales
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	A resilient Wales		A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language		A healthier Wales		Key=National Well-being Goals
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How this objective contributes to national well-being goals:

Keeping people well, living in the community, and out of hospital for longer will help people to live healthier, more independent lives and to feel part of their communities. 


Preventing homelessness and providing housing advice will help ensure that local housing needs are met and will support long-term health and well-being. 


Supporting residents in financial difficulty to maximise their income can contribute towards both mental and physical well-being and give people the opportunity to afford healthier choices. 

Access to high quality counselling services for children and young people will support good mental health. 

Prevent children entering the criminal justice system and working to tackle anti-social behaviour will support more cohesive communities where people feel safe and will help ensure that Torfaen is welcoming and safe, including to those seeking asylum.





Supporting children and young people with additional learning needs so they can fulfil their potential in later life will contribute to a more equal Torfaen. 


Encouraging children and young people to develop as active citizens and feel connected to supporting well-being in the wider world is important if we are to see new generations of adults that feel and accept responsibility for ‘thinking globally and acting locally’. 


Supporting youth engagement and progression through early identification and on-going support will help support young people at risk of being NEET and targeted employability and mentoring will support those who have become NEET to improve their life chances.





Creating employment opportunities for residents when we procure major contracts or deliver construction projects and supporting the most disadvantaged into decent employment through our adult and community learning offer will help tackle the inequalities that exist in our communities. 

Implementing a Domiciliary Care Strategy to tackle the unstable social care market and respond to increasing demand and complexity of social care, will contribute to a more prosperous Torfaen that meets the everyday needs of its residents. 

Milder winters can be expected as a result of the changing climate which will help to reduce fuel use, however much of our housing stock has poor thermal efficiency meaning it is harder and more expensive to heat in cold weather or to cool in hot weather. Supporting the Welsh Government’s Warm Homes Nest scheme will provide energy advice and efficiencies for the home and contribute to Torfaen’s net zero carbon journey. Also by helping people with the cost-of living crisis by making winter fuel payments will support the most vulnerable in our communities. 

Proving well-being advice and guidance will encourage social inclusion and help build community capacity. 

Fun and food camps provide a free nutritious breakfast and lunch and are an opportunity for young people to make new friends and experience activities that contribute to a vibrant local culture. 

Creating inclusive opportunities for a good day within the community day service – including through engagement with culture and the arts, will achieve more positive life outcomes and support good mental health. 

Involvement



To help us develop this objective, we:

- ✓ Listened to users, carers, staff and other professionals to find out what a *good day* – day service looks like. We also engaged with the marketplace.
- ✓ Liaised with older people in our communities and public services staff to understand what support people require to live independent, healthy and fulfilling lives for longer.

To involve people in our work, we will:

- ✓ Consult with children and young people to get views on how mental health support services can be further improved.
- ✓ Engage with domiciliary care providers to plan and deliver care services in Torfaen.

Collaboration



To help us develop this objective, we:

- ✓ Co- designed and consulted on a new model for youth engagement (Torfaen Youth Alliance) so that young people can tell us about the matters that are important to them.
- ✓ Worked with Multi-agency pupil intervention service.
- ✓ Worked with The Community Resilience Group to better understand the challenges facing Torfaen's communities.

To deliver our steps we will work with:

- ✓ The local health board to improve transfers of care, reduce waiting times for care packages and prevent avoidable admission to hospital via services in the community.
- ✓ Carers and adult social care service users in developing care plans
- ✓ Care sector partners and the Regional Partnership Board to promote 'care as a career' and to reduce vacancies in domiciliary care.
- ✓ Internal and external partners to identify and work with young people and families to ensure that they are supported and engaged to prevent anti-social behaviour and exclusion.
- ✓ Community Councils to improve community well-being and in the early identification of community challenges.
- ✓ The multi-agency Community Resilience Group to build community capacity.
- ✓ Welsh Government to support the Warm Homes Nest scheme.
- ✓ The Citizen's Advice Bureau to provide advice and support around financial inclusion and to ensure residents maximise incomes

✓ The Department for Work and Pensions to help prevent homelessness by contributing towards Discretionary Housing Payments

Prevention



To help us develop this objective we have considered the wider social and economic factors contributing to inequalities in our communities and how we can support community resilience and independence.

Our approach will:

- ✓ Provide appropriate solutions for individuals through our Community Enablement Hub, that promote independence, positive risk taking and social inclusion, enabling people to live the way they chose to. This will reduce the need for domiciliary care support, residential / nursing care and avoid hospital stays.
- ✓ Work proactively with those individuals/families' requiring housing advice and guidance to those presenting as homeless and to prevent homelessness from occurring.
- ✓ Provide supported housing, including step up/step down supported housing facilities to transition at risk individuals into secure tenancies with independence as the key outcome.
- ✓ Support children and young people through multi-agency pupil intervention activity to prevent them entering the criminal justice system.
- ✓ Create and sustain secure employment for our residents will help prevent economic inequalities in our communities.
- ✓ Help people avoid poverty through rent benefits and council tax support
- ✓ Help people avoid rent arrears or from losing their home through discretionary housing payments.
- ✓ Help people with the cost-of-living crisis by making winter fuel payments
- ✓ Develop cost of living information on the council website and through our Nifty Thrifty e-bulletin newsletter provide updates on the latest benefits, grants and support available to help save money and to prevent problems occurring.

Long-term



An ageing population and limited resources mean we must take action to keep people well and independent or demands on public services will become unsustainable. To help us develop our objective we have thought about long-term challenges and opportunities that could widen inequalities in our communities.

Welsh Governments Future Trends Report⁴ highlights that:

- *Reductions in income poverty are not occurring equally and gaps in income equality for certain groups still exist in Wales*
- *Non-working households continue to be at greatest risk from relative income poverty*
- *The percentage of children living in relative income poverty since 2014/15 has increased, with levels highest amongst those living within workless households*
- *Wales has an aging population and healthy life expectancy in Wales is lower than the UK average*

⁴ Future Trends Report Wales 2021. Welsh Government. <https://gov.wales/future-trends-2021>

- Demand for public services will increase in the future as demographic structures change and the population becomes older
- Technology is changing the way we interact with and meet demand for health and social care services
- People aged 65+ more likely to experience chronic health conditions and multi-morbidities, both of which increase pressures on health and social care services
- Projections indicate a substantial rise in demand in the health and social care sector.
- Increasing climate risks will affect all of Wales, but some people and areas are especially vulnerable to change with a risk of exacerbating inequalities.

Our approach will:

- ✓ Aim to keep people healthy and independent for as long as possible through re-ablement.
- ✓ Support the unstable domiciliary care market and respond to increasing demand and complexity of domiciliary care.
- ✓ Use assistive technology where appropriate to support people to lead independent lives.
- ✓ Help to prevent economic inequalities further developing in our communities by creating and sustaining secure employment for our residents.
- ✓ Build capacity through the Community Resilience Group by supporting the strengths of communities so they thrive and become resilient, both now and in the long-term.
- ✓ Provide wellbeing advice & guidance to encourage social inclusion and proving support unemployed or economically inactive young people will improve their prospects of employment and support their long-term well-being.
- ✓ Provide support to prevent homelessness from occurring.

Integration



How this objective, impacts on the Council’s other well-being objectives:

Raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives:

- The inequalities that exist in our communities around health, housing and education are often interconnected; housing quality can impact on health and poor health can impact on educational performance and skills development.

Encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive:

- Supporting children and families to have a fair chance in life regardless of their ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or ability will enable people to fulfil their potential and create a more equal Torfaen.

Make Torfaen more sustainable by connecting people and communities, socially, digitally and physically:

- Supporting community capacity and its strengths will help support cohesive and supportive communities.
- Ensuring there is the right sort of housing, including affordable housing will support the needs of the community.

- Supported housing programmes, enable independence so that people can stay living in and continue to feel part of their communities.

Respond to the climate and nature emergencies, recycle more and make improvements to the local environment:

- The impacts of climate change have the potential to further increase inequalities within our communities and to have greater impact on vulnerable groups. Some communities will also be at greater risk to a changing climate due to where they are located. Taking preventative action to mitigate the risks of climate change will contribute to the well-being of future generations.
- Making sure that children and young people have access to good quality green space and that Torfaen's natural resources are in good condition so they can best support well-being will help them to have the best start in life.
- Whilst milder winters will help to reduce fuel use, we know that much of our building/housing stock has poor thermal efficiency which is harder and more expensive to heat in cold weather or cool in hot weather. Achieving a just transition to net zero is essential and we will continue to promote warm home schemes and work with partners in the Cardiff City Region to develop a regional Eco-flex scheme.

Make Torfaen a great place to do business by working with local employers, encouraging new business start-ups and entrepreneurial activities:

- Creating inclusive employment opportunities and supporting the most disadvantaged into decent employment through our adult and community learning offer will help create a more equal Torfaen.

Promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical wellbeing:

- Keeping people well, living in the community, and out of hospital for longer will help people to live healthier, more independent lives and to feel part of their communities.
- Preventing homelessness and providing housing advice will help ensure that local housing needs are met and will support long-term health and well-being
- Supporting residents in financial difficulty to maximise their income can contribute towards both mental and physical well-being and give people the opportunity to afford healthier choices.
- Access to high quality counselling services for children and young people will support good mental health.
- Summer holiday provision of a free nutritious breakfast and lunch through fun and food camps and ensuring all children have access to a good meal at school can improve health.
- Adult Services that start with the person, will help ensure services users health needs are met.
- Tackling anti-social behaviour can improve feelings of safety and support peoples mental and physical well-being.
- Supporting households already struggling with a debt burden can help contribute towards both mental and physical well-being and will give people the opportunity to afford healthier choices.

Support our local culture and heritage and make Torfaen a thriving, safe and attractive place to live and visit:

- Preventing children entering the criminal justice system and working to tackle anti-social behaviour will support more cohesive communities where people feel safe.
- Supporting community capacity and its strengths through the Community Resilience Group (CRG) will help support cohesive and supportive communities.
- Ensuring there is the right sort of housing, including affordable housing will support the needs of the community.
- Supported housing programmes, enable independence so that people can stay living in and continue to feel part of their communities.
- Preventing children from entering the criminal justice system and working to tackle anti-social behaviour will support more cohesive communities where people feel safe.








Provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services:

- Using assistive technology where appropriate, can support people to lead independent lives.


Objective 4 – Make Torfaen more sustainable by connecting people and communities, socially, digitally and physically


We will:


- ✓ Work with communities to ensure that there are sustainable sporting opportunities for all people to access, through infrastructure and sustainable club structures
- ✓ Empower customers and staff to thrive in an increasingly digital world
- ✓ Build communities by improving information and advice to residents to prevent problems occurring
- ✓ Increase volunteering opportunities and the numbers of people volunteering
- ✓ Improve active travel infrastructure to support the transition from reliance on the car for short journeys
- ✓ Improve road safety
- ✓ Encourage more people to use public transport


	A prosperous Wales		A Wales of cohesive communities		A more equal Wales		A globally responsible Wales
	A resilient Wales		A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language		A healthier Wales		Key=National Well-being Goals


How this objective contributes to national well-being goals:


The ability to travel is very important for reducing loneliness and isolation and can support mental well-being. Improving public transport and walking and cycling routes could help support people find employment or to access training. Active travel also supports healthy lifestyles. 


Supporting the shift towards greener transport solutions for the region will help reduce air pollution, exposure to which can adversely affect the health of the most vulnerable in the population. Reducing transport emissions by encouraging more active travel, use of public transport and ultra-low emission vehicles will help mitigate the impacts of climate change. 

Feeling safe and being able to move around easily to get children to school, to access work and leisure and to connect with friends and family is important for inclusive thriving communities. Good transport links can also help people reach the countryside for recreation and to visit historic attractions, helping support local culture to thrive. 

Supporting digitally inclusive communities provides opportunities for people and businesses to connect with each other and to access many of the services they need. 

Volunteering can be a good way to meet new people, connect with their communities and contribute positively to its well-being. Volunteering opportunities, especially those related to improving the resilience of the natural environment can also contribute to a globally responsible Torfaen. 

Good, safe transport links are an important part of making Torfaen a good place to do business, enabling the movement of goods, services, and raw materials and people and encouraging uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles will help promote an innovative, low carbon society. 

Ensure that there are sustainable sporting opportunities for all people to access, through infrastructure and sustainable club structures will support good health and Torfaen's local culture. 

Involvement



To help us develop this objective, we:

- ✓ Consulted with our communities on the Active Travel Network Map to help determine where new routes were needed.
- ✓ Listened to pupils, schools and parents when developing school travel plans.
- ✓ Engaged with Torfaen Access Forum to ensure our active travel approaches are inclusive for all.
- ✓ Spoke to sports clubs about their needs.

To involve people in our work, we will:

- ✓ Continue to hold drop-in sessions with schools so that pupils can help inform the development of school travel plans. We will also ask parents for their views.

- ✓ Consult with members, emergency services and where appropriate, will hold public consultations when we introduce road safety engineering measures
- ✓ Continue to work with schools to deliver road safety initiatives including teaching children how to cross the roads safely and national standards cycle training.
- ✓ Direct people to the “Connect Torfaen” website to match volunteers with volunteering opportunities and sign-post local events.

Collaboration



To help us develop this objective we:

- ✓ Worked with sports clubs to understand their needs.
- ✓ Worked with the health board and Torfaen Voluntary Alliance to understand community need and create the “Connect Torfaen website.”

To deliver our steps we will work with:

- ✓ Cardiff Capital Region to deliver more electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- ✓ Telecom providers to reduce digital exclusion by improving broadband and mobile coverage.
- ✓ Partners to introduce Long-Range Wireless Access Networks to improve our town centre management.
- ✓ Torfaen Voluntary Alliance to increase community volunteering opportunities and volunteers.
- ✓ Sports clubs and provide funding to support them develop their facilities and thrive.
- ✓ Internal and external partners to develop sporting facilities and infrastructure to meet the needs of clubs and communities.

Prevention



More walking, cycling, and use of public transport can help to address issues of congestion, improve air quality and support good health.

Our approach will:

- ✓ Work with schools to encourage active travel rather than car-journeys that can contribute to air pollution and carbon emissions.
- ✓ Invest in active travel which can improve people’s health and help an ageing population stay healthier for longer,
- ✓ Make public transport more frequent and joined up, including by improving Pontypool and New Inn Train Station, will help provide a better alternative to the car.
- ✓ Deliver interventions that improve road safety will prevent issues from occurring and make our communities safer.
- ✓ Support the transition to low emission vehicles, including by installing charging infrastructure in our communities.
- ✓ Support the development sustainable sports infrastructure and club structures that are fit for the future.
- ✓ Help to build strong communities by supporting volunteering opportunities through the “Connect Torfaen” website.

Long-term



To help us develop our objective we have thought about long-term challenges and opportunities that could impact on connecting people and communities.

Welsh Government's Future Trends Report⁵ highlights that:

- The pandemic has highlighted how digital exclusion disproportionately impacts on certain groups in society, including older people, people from Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities, and social housing residents
- A growing reliance on digital technologies within society threatens to widen the inequalities caused by digital exclusion
- Purchases of electric vehicles have increased in recent years
- Exhaust emissions have fallen considerably in Wales over the last two decades, however levels of non-exhaust particulate matter remain high and are predicted to increase
- Travel behaviours and patterns are changing in the UK
- Demand for public services will increase in the future as demographic structures change and the population becomes older
- With internet use and access increasing over the past two decades, there has been growth in digital users of public services

Welsh Report of the Climate Change Risk Assessment⁶, headline risks:

- Damage to key infrastructure including energy, transport, water and ICT, especially from increased flooding and coastal erosion.

Our approach will:

- ✓ Improve important transport hubs such as Pontypool and New Inn Station to support Torfaen's transition to net zero carbon.
- ✓ Install charging infrastructure in our communities to support us to meeting our future travel needs.
- ✓ Improve customer experiences by better joining up systems and technological solutions to contribute to long-term secure and robust public services that are fit for the future.
- ✓ Improve sports infrastructure and facilities to support long-term good health.
- ✓ Factor in the changing climate and its impacts into the way we plan, to support our communities and the services we deliver to be resilient.

Integration



How this objective, impacts on the Council's other well-being objectives:

Raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives:

- Journey's to and from can contribute to local congestion, by working with schools, pupils and parents to develop school travel plans we can encourage more active travel.
- Supporting pupils to learn about the benefits of active travel on health and the environment will help them to develop as globally responsible citizens.
- Ensuring schools are digitally and technologically connected will support modern teaching methods.

⁵ Future Trends Report Wales 2021. Welsh Government. <https://gov.wales/future-trends-2021>

⁶ Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3). Summary for Wales. Dr. Alan Netherwood. Netherwood Sustainable Futures 2022.

Encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive:

- Involving children and young people in decisions relating to travel will encourage ownership.
- Safe active travel routes will support communities to be viable, well-connected and thriving.

Tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives:

- Feeling safe and being able to move around easily to get children to school, to access work and leisure and to connect with friends and family is important for inclusive thriving communities.
- Improving road safety will enable communities to connect with each other safely.
- Supporting digitally inclusive communities provides opportunities for people to connect with each other and to access many of the services they need

Respond to the climate and nature emergencies, recycle more and make improvements to the local environment:

- Factoring in the changing climate and its impacts into the way we plan, will support our communities and the services we deliver to be resilient.
- Reducing transport emissions through encouraging more active travel and encouraging ultra-low emission vehicles will help mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Our community Climate Ambassador Network provides opportunities for local people to help us find solutions to reducing and offsetting greenhouse gases in Torfaen. We have created an on-line platform for the public to share their ideas about the net zero emissions challenge.

Make Torfaen a great place to do business by working with local employers, encouraging new business start-ups and entrepreneurial activities:

- Through Torfaen Business Voice we will continue to support local businesses in their development and growth and better understand their needs and our One Stop Shop will provide a single point of contact for business customer journeys.
- Good, safe transport links are an important part of making Torfaen a good place to do business, they enable the movement of goods, services, and raw materials and people.
- Improvements to public transport and walking and cycling routes could help support people find employment or to access training.

Promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical wellbeing:

- The ability to travel is very important for reducing loneliness and isolation and can support mental well-being.
- Good transport links can help people access to access sports and leisure facilities, helping people to stay healthy and active.
- Supporting the shift towards greener transport solutions for the region will help reduce air pollution, exposure to which can adversely affect the health of the most vulnerable in the population.
- Providing opportunities for active travel can help Torfaen transition to net zero carbon emissions and support healthy lifestyles.

Support our local culture and heritage and make Torfaen a thriving, safe and attractive place to live and visit:

- Good transport links enable people to access the countryside for recreation, to visit historic and cultural attractions, and to access sports and leisure facilities.








Provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services:

- Empowering customers and staff to thrive in an increasingly digital world will help connect people and communities.



Objective 5 – Respond to the climate and nature emergencies, recycle more and make improvements to the local environment



We will:



- ✓ Increase the ambition of our Carbon Management Plan for our buildings and set interim targets to accelerate progress.
- ✓ Develop a net zero carbon fleet replacement programme.
- ✓ Embed carbon impact into our purchasing decisions.
- ✓ Increase renewable energy generation on our own estate.
- ✓ Adopt ambitious local renewable energy generation targets in our replacement Local Development Plan.
- ✓ Understand how much carbon is stored in the land we own to better direct our resources to where we can have most impact.
- ✓ Improve the management of our green infrastructure on Council owned land.
- ✓ Maximise biodiversity gain through the planning process.
- ✓ Deliver on the commitments of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Plan.
- ✓ Develop understanding of climate risks and work with partners to start developing effective local adaptation responses.
- ✓ Train our staff and Elected Members to understand their role in the net zero journey and responding to the nature emergency.
- ✓ Reduced, reused and recycle waste.
- ✓ Work with partners to deliver the Council’s litter and fly-tipping strategy.



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How this objective contributes to national well-being goals:



Healthy well-functioning natural resources underpin good health. They provide a place for people to be active, produce oxygen and cycling nutrients, help regulate climate, store carbon and have a role in water management (reducing flood-risk). They can also absorb air-borne pollutants that are harmful to health and provide a pollination resource which is important for food production.  




Health risks associated with a changing climate have the potential to impact greatest on the most vulnerable in society, so we need to be prepared.  



Fossil fuelled transport is having a negative impact on our environment and health, changing the climate and increasing pollution, so we need to look at different ways of meeting our travel needs. More active travel doesn't only mean less carbon emissions it is also good for our health by reducing air pollution and keeping us active.  

Using nature-based solutions to help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change can also foster strong, safe cohesive communities.  



Reducing anti-social behaviour and landscape crime including places where fly-tipping happens will make Torfaen's natural resources safer and more attractive for people to enjoy.    




Taking action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions locally will help to mitigate the global impacts of climate change. Improving how natural resources are managed locally will help address the global nature emergency.  



Taking action to reduce waste, improve the energy and water efficiency and reduce transport emissions will help support the transition to a low carbon society that uses resources efficiently and proportionately.   





The energy and environment employment sector has been identified as important to regional prosperity over coming decades, with the potential to contribute to Torfaen's local economy and provide future generations with jobs.  


Developing community energy projects can provide useful income that can be invested back into the places people live.    

Buying more locally means less emissions associated with transport but also supports the local economy.  

Improving the management of our natural resources will support biodiversity and ecological resilience and help support our capacity to adapt to climate change e.g. by managing water in the landscape and reducing the impact of temperature rise.   

Ensuring that everyone in our communities has access to good quality green space and its associated benefits, will contribute to a more equal Torfaen.  

Taking action to mitigate and adapt to impacts of climate change will help support local cultural identity which is linked to the environment. Extreme weather events have the potential to impact on the viability of outdoor activities, festivals and events, they also have the potential to impact on the historic buildings and townscapes. Historically and culturally Torfaen has a strong links to energy generation, exploring new opportunities related to decarbonisation will pave the way for a cleaner, greener future.    

Torfaen's natural environment is strongly influenced by its industrial past and this distinct landscape, important to our culture today, is also a significant ecological resource that needs to be protected and enhanced. 

Involvement



To help us develop our vision, priorities and objectives, we:

- ✓ Responded to elected members declaring a climate and nature emergency.
- ✓ Involved officers from across the Council including Leadership, the Policy Development Forum and the Heads of Service Forum in developing the Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan.
- ✓ Received recommendations from the Resources and Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- ✓ Asked our communities how they could help reduce carbon emissions across the borough.
- ✓ Asked our communities what they thought of the suggested actions set out in the draft climate and nature emergency action plan, and what other steps they think should be taken.

To help us involve people in our work, we will:

- ✓ Support our communities on the net zero journey and provide opportunities to contribute towards our climate and nature emergency objectives.
- ✓ Working with our community Climate Ambassador Network to identify barriers and solutions to reducing carbon emissions.
- ✓ Create volunteering opportunities for people to get involved in managing our natural resources.

Collaboration



To help us develop this objective we:

- ✓ Used recommendations from the Resources and Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee to shape development.
- ✓ Involved officers from across the Council including Leadership, the Policy Development Forum and the Heads of Service Forum.

To deliver our steps we will work with:

- ✓ Our officer support group to involve all parts of the Council in our journey
- ✓ The cabinet sub-group to help remove any barriers.
- ✓ Welsh Government to baseline our net zero journey
- ✓ Cardiff Capital Region and Welsh Government on Local Area Energy Planning.
- ✓ With regional Public Services Board partners to develop a Gwent Well-being Plan that responds to the climate and nature emergencies.

Prevention



Climate mitigation / Decarbonisation:

Historic emissions mean that the climate will continue to change over coming decades. What we do now will determine how much the climate

will change. Warming needs to be kept below 1.5 °C if we are to avoid extreme consequences.

To mitigate the risks of climate change and do our bit towards the global challenge we will:

- ✓ Aim to become net zero carbon by 2030 and support and encouraging our communities, residents and businesses towards net zero carbon by 2050.
- ✓ Understanding how much carbon is stored in the land we own to better direct our resources to where we can have most impact.
- ✓ Ensure our natural assets are well managed and in good condition so that future generations can experience their well-being benefits.
- ✓ Increase the amount of household waste that is re-used, recycled and composted in Torfaen, to help tackle the unsustainable consumption of goods and services.

Climate Adaptation:

Carbon dioxide released because of human activity is causing the climate to change. The earth's temperature has already increased by more than 1°C. We are already seeing the impact of climate change. In the future, Wales can expect more flooding, more heat waves, more droughts and water shortages, loss of important habitats for wildlife and more wildfires. Local and global impacts will increase risks to health, infrastructure, supply chains, our cultural heritage, and the environment.

To adapt to the changing climate, we will:

- ✓ Develop understanding of climate risks and work with partners to start developing effective local adaptation responses.

Responding to the Nature Emergency:

Land use pressures, lack of management, invasive species, landscape crime and climate change are causing habitat loss and fragmentation are all having a negative impact on our natural resources. Natural resources are vital to our well-being, providing basic things we need such as food, timber and clean water. They provide jobs in the agricultural, forestry and tourism sectors, and having access to greenspace is important for good physical and mental health. If we don't take preventative action to slow the decline of biodiversity and decreasing ecosystem resilience by tackling the root causes, then future generations won't be able to benefit from their well-being benefits.

We will:

- ✓ Identify priorities to address biodiversity loss in the borough by developing a local Nature Recovery Action Plan.
- ✓ Improve the management of our green infrastructure on Council owned land.
- ✓ Maximise biodiversity gain through the planning process.

Long-term

Taking action to reduce the carbon emissions and to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate will contribute to the well-being of future generations.



We have used Welsh Government's Future Trends Report⁷ and The Welsh Report of the Climate Change Risk Assessment⁸ to shape our approach:

- *In the future, Wales can expect more flooding, more heat waves, more droughts and water shortages, loss of important habitats for wildlife and more wildfires. Climate impacts will increase risks to health, infrastructure, supply chains, our cultural heritage, and the environment.*
- *Increasing climate risks will affect all of Wales, but some people and areas are especially vulnerable. This has the potential to widen inequalities.*
- *How we consume goods and services is contributing to the global depletion of natural resources.*
- *Ecosystem resilience in Wales is declining and certain species are declining and at risk.*
- *Purchases of electric vehicles have increased in recent years.*

Our approach will:

- ✓ Develop a better understanding of climate risks and identify where we can work with partners to developing effective local adaptation to help us to be better prepared.
- ✓ Do our bit to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by increasing the ambition of our Carbon Management Plan for our buildings and by setting interim targets to accelerate progress.
- ✓ Taking action to reduce, re-use and recycle waste
- ✓ Consider the carbon impact of our purchasing decisions.
- ✓ Ensuring that Torfaen's precious natural resources, and the biodiversity they support are protected and enhanced, so that future generations can experience their many well-being benefits.
- ✓ We will install more EV chargers, and we will also develop a net zero carbon fleet replacement programme, to help us reduce the carbon footprint of the council's own fleet.

Integration



How this objective, impacts on the Council's other well-being objectives:

Raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives:

- We will design our new schools with net zero considerations in mind, already we are working on our first Passivhaus school in Cwmbran.
- Rolling out water and energy efficiency improvements across our schools will contribute to our net zero carbon journey.
- We will continue to work with schools to share waste awareness messages and on energy awareness activities. We will also work with schools to encourage seed collecting and sapling growing within school grounds.

Encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive:

- The cost of living crisis may mean that more people are in fuel poverty and this can impact on family life. Achieving a just transition to net zero is essential, we need to

⁷ Future Trends Report Wales 2021. Welsh Government. <https://gov.wales/future-trends-2021>

⁸ Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3). Summary for Wales. Dr. Alan Netherwood. Netherwood Sustainable Futures 2022.

make sure that we leave no one behind. We will continue to promote warm home schemes and work with partners in the Cardiff City Region to develop a regional Eco-flex scheme.

- Making sure that children and young people have access to good quality green space and that Torfaen's natural resources are in good condition so they can best support well-being will help them to have the best start in life.
- Ensuring our natural assets are well managed and in good condition will mean that future generations of children and young people can experience their well-being benefits.

Tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives:

- The impacts of climate change have the potential to further increase inequalities within our communities and to have greater impact on vulnerable groups. Some communities will also be at greater risk to a changing climate due to where they are located.
- Rising energy costs mean that more people in our communities are experiencing fuel poverty. Whilst milder winters will help to reduce fuel use, we know that much of our housing stock has poor thermal efficiency making it harder and more expensive to heat in cold weather or cool in hot weather. We will continue to promote warm home schemes and work with partners in the Cardiff City Region to develop a regional Eco-flex scheme.
- Reducing outdoor air pollution, exposure to which can adversely affect the health of the most vulnerable in the population, will help create a more equal Wales.
- Ensuring that everyone in our communities has access to good quality green space and its associated well-being benefits, will contribute to a more equal Torfaen.

Make Torfaen more sustainable by connecting people and communities, socially, digitally and physically:

- Providing more services digitally can reduce the need to travel, with its associated carbon emissions.
- Active travel has an important part to play in connecting our communities
- Providing opportunities to connect with nature, including through volunteering can help bring people together.
- Torfaen community climate ambassador network consists of local people from all walks of life who are interested in finding solutions to reducing and offsetting greenhouse gases in Torfaen. As the voice of their communities, they will work with the Council to identify barriers and solutions to reducing carbon emissions
- Green infrastructure can help support our capacity to adapt to climate change, both now and for future generations e.g. regulate climate and water management (reducing flood-risk).

Make Torfaen a great place to do business by working with local employers, encouraging new business start-ups and entrepreneurial activities:

- Cardiff City Region has identified the energy and the environment employment sector as important to regional prosperity over the next 10 – 20 years. This has the potential to contribute to Torfaen's local economy and provide future generations with jobs.
- To ensure the workforce has the right decarbonisation skills to support the decarbonisation journey, we will work with Registered Social Landlords partners and

Coleg Gwent to identify and address skills gaps to support rollout of the Optimised Retrofit Programme.

- Significant renewable energy potential has been identified across Gwent, that if realised could support the zero-carbon journey and contribute to local prosperity. We will encourage business innovation in public priorities like climate change.

Promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical wellbeing:

- Healthy well-functioning natural resources underpin good health. They provide a place for people to be active, produce oxygen and cycling nutrients, help regulate climate, store carbon and have a role in water management (reducing flood-risk). They can also absorb air-borne pollutants that are harmful to health and provide a pollination resource which is important for food production.
- Health risks associated with a changing climate have the potential to impact greatest on the most vulnerable in society, so we need to be prepared.
- Moving away from a reliance on fossil fuels can lead to improvements in air quality and reductions in health conditions associated with air pollution.
- More active travel doesn't only mean less carbon emissions it is also good for our health by reducing air pollution and keeping us active.
- As well as supporting active travel, our networks of cycle paths are also important wildlife corridors. Being able to move between fragmented habitat is key to the survival of many plants and animals.
- Having access to greenspace is important for good physical and mental health.

Support our local culture and heritage and make Torfaen a thriving, safe and attractive place to live and visit:

- Torfaen's natural environment is strongly influenced by its industrial past and this distinct landscape, important to our culture today, is also a significant ecological resource that needs to be protected and enhanced.
- Land will always be required for housing, employment and energy generation, but we need to get better at considering well-being in the round and recognising the value of resilient and well-functioning natural resources.
- Designating a new Local Nature Reserve will protect land that is particularly valuable for nature and provide opportunities for community involvement.
- Developing Green Infrastructure, and Biodiversity Guidance for developers to help them to project and enhance biodiversity in their work.
- Torfaen's iconic landscape and natural resources are an important part of Torfaen's culture and heritage.
- More extreme weather events have the potential to impact on the viability of outdoor activities and events, they also have the potential to impact on the historic buildings and townscapes. Taking action to mitigate and adapt to impacts of climate change will help support local cultural identity which is linked to the environment.
- Historically and culturally Torfaen has a strong links to energy generation, exploring new opportunities related to decarbonisation will pave the way for a cleaner, greener future.
- Tackling landscape crime such as fly-tipping, arson and illegal off-roading which are causing damage to our natural resources will also contributing to making our communities safer and more attractive.








Provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services:

- Creating an on-line area for the public to share their ideas about responding to the climate emergency will help us respond to the net zero emissions challenge.
- We need the services we deliver for our customers to be resilient to a changing climate, developing our understanding of climate risks will help us prepare for future impacts.



Objective 6 – Make Torfaen a great place to do business by working with local employers, encouraging new business start-ups and entrepreneurial activities



We will:



- ✓ Create resilient, safe and attractive places which attract and anchor local companies
- ✓ Continue to create and sustain secure employment for our residents
- ✓ Create a competitive innovation economy
- ✓ Support Torfaen’s businesses to take an active role in regional priority-sector supply chains
- ✓ Create high skilled employment opportunities for local residents
- ✓ Support business innovation in public priorities like climate change, healthcare and manufacturing productivity
- ✓ Be social inclusive, supporting vulnerable groups into employment




	A prosperous Wales		A Wales of cohesive communities		A more equal Wales		A globally responsible Wales
	A resilient Wales		A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language		A healthier Wales		Key=National Well-being Goals


How this objective contributes to national well-being goals:


Having work has a positive impact on an individual’s health and a thriving economy needs a healthy workforce.  


Supporting the foundational economy will help ensure people have access to the everyday services they rely on, such as health and care provision which will support a healthier Torfaen.  


Having a wide range of skills and employment opportunities within communities helps make them more resilient to changes in the economy.  


The Medi Park will explore the newest technology and techniques and alongside the University Hospital and will enable continued learning and development of medicine and the life sciences within Wales and globally.   


Developing an Investment Prospectus to promote the refurbishment and establishment of new industrial land will help businesses grow trade both locally and overseas, and supporting local innovation, especially in relation to the employment sectors of the future, will provide local businesses with the potential to access global markets. 


Helping businesses collaborate in priority sectors, including through direct support for businesses who want to innovate and by growing skills programmes to develop the decarbonisation workforce will contribute to a prosperous region. 


Apprenticeships and work-placements and a relevant adult community learning will create and sustain high employment levels and raising aspirations and delivering targeted employability programmes will support vulnerable groups into employment. 


Creating inclusive employment opportunities and supporting the most disadvantaged into decent employment through our adult and community learning offer will help create a more equal Torfaen. 


Using Town Centre Place Plans as drivers for capital investment and the ongoing development of the British regeneration site, will support safe, resilient, attractive and productive places. 


Co-ordinating the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Partnership and managing the World Heritage Centre will provide a gateway into Wales and support globally important area. 

Land will always be required for employment but recognising the wider value and importance of resilient and well-functioning natural resources to our social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being will support the long-term well-being of our communities. 

How we manage our natural resources can help support our capacity to adapt to climate change and make Torfaen attractive place to do business. Also many jobs are linked to natural resources and there are many opportunities to improve local skills through the environment. Cardiff Capital Region has identified the environment and energy sector as being important for the regions prosperity over the next two decades. Historically and culturally Torfaen has strong links to energy generation; exploring new opportunities related to decarbonisation will pave the way for a cleaner, greener future. 

Greening our town centres will contribute to them become thriving hubs for living, leisure and business. 

Having decent, well paid and regular work gives people enough money to do the things they enjoy, including taking part in cultural activities. 

Maximising the opportunities from Torfaen's inspirational natural environment and cultural heritage can provide future employment opportunities. 

Involvement

To help us develop our objective, we:



- ✓ Engaged with the business community in developing the Economy & Skills strategy. Workshops were held with Torfaen Strategic Economic Forum (made up

of our larger employers from across the sectors) to develop the vision, priorities and objectives. Academics from Cardiff University also sense checked to make sure that the priorities and objectives were appropriate and would drive the changes that we wanted to see.

- ✓ Took the draft vision was through Scrutiny and the Forum was invited to make representations. The draft strategy and action plan went to a further forum meeting for comments before being issued for consultation with the wider business community.

To involve people in our work, we will:

- ✓ Continue to support local businesses in their development and growth and better understand their needs and through Torfaen Business Voice.
- ✓ Provide a single point of contact for business customer journeys through our One Stop Shop
- ✓ Work with our educational partners through the Positive Pathways group to look at opportunities for young people to progress into employment.

Collaboration



To help us develop this objective we have:

- ✓ Worked collaboratively with entrepreneurs, landowners, and communities to develop place plans so our towns become vibrant hubs that will meet people's everyday needs.

To deliver our steps we will work with:

- ✓ Torfaen Strategic Economic Forum to identify and establish innovation spaces across the Borough
- ✓ Working together with neighbouring local authorities, ABUHB, Welsh Government and local universities through initiatives such as the Life Sciences Medi Park Park and Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, will help to maximise opportunities for local businesses and skill development.

Prevention



Our approach will:

- ✓ Work with businesses to anticipate the skills needed in the future and enable people to become skilled in those areas will support future economic resilience.
- ✓ Bring new businesses to Torfaen through our investment prospectus will create employment opportunities for future generations living in Torfaen.
- ✓ Work to support the most disadvantaged into decent employment through our adult and community learning offer will help prevent economic hardship.

Long-term

To help us develop our objective we have thought about long-term challenges and opportunities that could impact on the local economy.



Welsh Government's Future Trend Report⁹ identifies that:

⁹ Future Trends Report Wales 2021. Welsh Government. <https://gov.wales/future-trends-2021>

-Technology will play an increasing role in work and employers will need people with the right skills for this evolution.

-Technology has enabled remote working meaning that for some jobs people can be located remotely.

-Younger people and women are more likely to be employed within jobs that have a high probability of being automated in the future

-We can expect greater automation of work in the future with women and young people, undertaking low skilled and routine jobs, most likely to be directly impacted.

-There will be new opportunities relating to technologic innovation, supporting local innovation will help ensure these are realised.

-Tackling in-work poverty through providing decent work opportunities will help inequalities widening.

The population is aging - This may mean that people are working for longer, but it may also mean that may be skills shortages in key industries as people retire.

Our approach will:

✓ Build our understanding of the future labour market requirements of Torfaen to help us plan for the future.

✓ Take into account current and future education and skills needs in business planning to help support an innovative and resilient local economy.

✓ Help people to access good quality work opportunities for as long as they wish will support them and their families to become economically resilient in the long-term.

Integration



How this objective, impacts on the Council's other well-being objectives:

Raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives:

- Improving educational outcomes and skills, especially for young people from low-income families, will support longer term economic well-being.

Encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive:

- Ensuring that Torfaen's children and families experience quality, inclusive and participatory education and skills development will help them meet their full potential will contribute towards a prosperous Torfaen.

Tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives:

- Creating inclusive employment opportunities and supporting the most disadvantaged into decent employment through our adult and community learning offer will help create a more equal Torfaen.

Make Torfaen more sustainable by connecting people and communities, socially, digitally and physically:

- Having a wide range of skills and employment opportunities within communities helps make them more resilient and cohesive.
- Our One Stop Shop will provide a single point of contact for business customer journeys.

- Good, safe transport links are an important part of making Torfaen a good place to do business, they enable the movement of goods, services, and raw materials and people.
- Improvements to public transport and walking and cycling routes could help support people find employment or to access training.
- Encouraging uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles will help promote an innovative, low carbon society that uses resources efficiently and proportionately and saves money.

Respond to the climate and nature emergencies, recycle more and make improvements to the local environment:

- Land will always be required for employment but recognising the wider value and importance of resilient and well-functioning natural resources to our social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being will support the long-term well-being of our communities.
- How we manage our natural resources can help support our capacity to adapt to climate change and make Torfaen attractive place to do business.
- Many jobs are linked to natural resources and there are many opportunities to improve local skills through the environment. Cardiff Capital Region has identified the environment and energy sector as being important for the regions prosperity over the next two decades.
- Significant renewable energy potential has been identified across Gwent, that if realised could support the zero-carbon journey and contribute to local prosperity.
- Developing community energy projects can provide useful income that can be invested back into the places people live.
- Buying more locally means less emissions associated with transport but also supports the local economy.

Promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical wellbeing:

- Having work can has a positive impact on a individual's health and a thriving economy needs a healthy workforce.
- Supporting the foundational economy will help ensure people have access to the everyday services they rely on, such as health and care provision which will support a healthier Torfaen.

Support our local culture and heritage and make Torfaen a thriving, safe and attractive place to live and visit:

- Place planning will support our towns become vibrant hubs that meet people's everyday needs.
- Helping local people find the skills & ambition to 'try out' a business idea in our towns will contribute towards thriving communities.
- Having a wide range of skills and employment opportunities within communities helps make them more resilient and cohesive.
- Coordinating the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Partnership will support local culture and heritage.








Provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services:

- Improving digital skills through our Adult and Community Learning offer will empowering people to thrive in an increasingly digital world.


Objective 7 – Promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical wellbeing


We will:


- ✓ Support schools to use the Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Mental Wellbeing Self-Assessment tool to identify good practice and areas of development
- ✓ Update the Gwent Whole School Food and Fitness Policy
- ✓ Work with Torfaen Leisure Trust to extend the sports and leisure offer within the borough
- ✓ Work with all people in Torfaen to provide sport and physical activity opportunities.
- ✓ Work with targeted groups through programmes aimed at developing physical, mental and health.
- ✓ Promote healthy lifestyles to improve children’s mental and physical wellbeing
- ✓ Increase volunteering opportunities and the numbers of people volunteering


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	A resilient Wales		A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language		A healthier Wales		Key=National Well-being Goals


How this objective contributes to national well-being goals:


Providing opportunities for people to adopt active lifestyles can support good health enabling them to achieve their educational potential, become part of a healthy workforce and sustain decent employment. A thriving local economy also needs a healthy workforce. Supporting people to be active and independent for as long as possible will support healthy lifestyles, including into older age. 


Ensuring that people and communities have their rights and cultures respected and feel safe from violence and abuse will help support mental and physical health and make our communities welcoming, including for those seeking asylum. 


Healthy well-functioning natural resources underpin good health. They provide places for people to be active, produce oxygen, cycling nutrients, help regulate climate, store carbon and have a role in water management (reducing flood-risk). They can also absorb air-borne pollutants that are harmful to health and provide a pollination resource which is important for food production. 


Health risks associated with a changing climate have the potential to impact greatest on the most vulnerable in society, so we need to be prepared. 


Moving away from a reliance on fossil fuels can lead to improvements in air quality and reductions in health conditions associated with air pollution. More active travel helps reduce carbon emissions, connects communities and keeps us active. 

Ensuring that everyone in our communities has access to good quality green space and its associated health benefits, will contribute to a more equal Torfaen. 

People who live in more deprived communities have fewer years of life that are free from ill health and are more likely to have shorter lives. Taking action to reduce inequalities will reduce the impact of poor health in our communities, supporting people to reaching their full potential, including in the workplace. 

Play schemes which will improve the availability and choice of play equipment for children with disabilities will promote inclusive play. 

Working to address barriers to participation in sports and other activities will help more people to lead healthy lifestyles. Providing opportunities for sports, leisure and play activities also provides opportunities for people to meet socially, have fun or try something new. Parks and play areas provide places for people to come together and support vibrant and cohesive communities. 

Participation in the arts, cultural activities and volunteering can have a positive impact on physical and mental health. 

Involvement

To help us develop our objective:

✓ About three-quarters of respondents to our residents survey¹⁰ (79.1%) feel sport and leisure activities are important and over half of respondents (55.8%) participate in sport or leisure activities at least weekly. A third of respondents (33.2%) feel the pandemic has affected their physical health. A half of respondents (48.0%) feel the pandemic has affected their mental and emotional health.

✓ National Youth ballot 'Make Your Mark' which took place in February 2022 told us Mental Health and Wellbeing was a top issue of concern for young people in Torfaen.

To involve people in our work:

✓ Gwent PSB will be consulting communities on its emerging work to tackling the inequalities that can impact on health and on how we can support each other to enable healthy lifestyles.



Collaboration

To help us develop this objective we worked with:

✓ Gwent Public Services Board through the well-being planning process and identified the importance of public sector partners working together to tackle health inequalities and of using the Marmot principles to support this work.

✓ 4 schools to pilot the Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Mental Wellbeing Self-Assessment tool.

✓ Torfaen Leisure Trust to explore approaches to extend the Sports and Leisure Offer within the Borough.

To deliver our steps we will work with:



¹⁰ Torfaen Together -Torfaen Residents' Survey 2021 Torfaen County Borough Council

- ✓ Members of Torfaen Young People’s Forum are working with the Regional Partnership Board to review the quality of mental health services for young people in Gwent. Ensuring Youth Voice is at the heart of mental health service planning.
- ✓ Gwent Public Services Board to tackle health inequalities and to become a Marmot region.
- ✓ School staff, learners, Dieticians and Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales, Local Public Health Practitioners to update the Gwent Whole School Food and Fitness Policy.
- ✓ Torfaen Leisure Trust and schools to enable wider community use of school sports facilities outside the school day and school term time.

Prevention



An ageing population and limited resources mean we must take action to keep people well and independent or demands on public services will become unsustainable.

Ensuring that people engage with sport and active lifestyles from an early age will support long-term good health.

Our approach will:

- ✓ Extend the Sports and Leisure Offer within the Borough
- ✓ Use a Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Mental well-being so that opportunities for supporting young people are maximised.
- ✓ Continue to increase opportunities and access to sport and physical activity for the residents of Torfaen
- ✓ Address barriers to participation and provide a range of opportunities to help more people to experience the benefits of being active including *by* showcasing successful targeted interventions such as *If-you-go-I-go*, school support and *Betterman* and sourcing funding to develop these programmes further.
- ✓ Keep people healthy and independent for as long as possible through our approach to reablement.

Long-term



To help us develop our objective we have thought about long-term challenges and opportunities that could impact on health and the services we deliver to support good health.

Working with partners to tackle the leading causes of premature death and illness, delaying frailty and helping working age adults to live healthier lives for longer by preventing health harming behaviours and promoting mental well-being, will help create a healthier Torfaen. Taking action to reduce inequalities which are often wider determinants of health, will reduce the impact of poor health on particular communities.

Welsh Government’s Future Trends Report¹¹ highlights that:

Healthy life expectancy in Wales is lower than the UK average, and has shown little change over time

-Self-reported health has shown little improvement in recent years, with the gap between the most and least deprived widening slightly

¹¹ Future Trends Report Wales 2021. Welsh Government. <https://gov.wales/future-trends-2021>

- With an ageing population, rates of certain diseases and chronic health conditions, including dementia, are projected to increase
- Demand for public services will increase in the future as demographic structures change and the population becomes older.

Welsh Report of the Climate Change Risk Assessment¹², headline risks:

- Impacts of increased temperature on people’s health.
- Impact of more extreme weather on the delivery of health and social care services.

Our approach will:

- ✓ Work with Gwent Public Services Board to address the wider determinants of health inequalities.
- ✓ Extend the Sports and Leisure Offer within the Borough to support long-term health.

Integration



How this objective, impacts on the Council’s other well-being objectives:

Raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives:

- Poor health can impact on educational performance and people’s ability to find or sustain decent work.
- Supporting children, young people and adults to take up opportunities for learning or employment, can have long term positive impacts on their health and well-being.

Encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive:

- Introducing measures to tackle crime, anti-social activity will improve feelings of safety will help support people’s mental and physical well-being.

Tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives:

- Taking action to reduce inequalities which are often wider determinants of health, will reduce the impact of poor health on particular communities.

Make Torfaen more sustainable by connecting people and communities, socially, digitally and physically:

- The ability to travel is very important for reducing loneliness and isolation and can support mental well-being.
- Good transport links can help people access to access sports and leisure facilities, helping people to stay healthy and active.
- Supporting the shift towards greener transport solutions for the region will help reduce air pollution, exposure to which can adversely affect the health of the most vulnerable in the population. More active travel doesn’t only mean less carbon emissions and air pollution it also keeps people active.

Respond to the climate and nature emergencies, recycle more and make improvements to the local environment:

¹² Evidence for the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3). Summary for Wales. Dr Alan Netherwood. Netherwood Sustainable Futures 2022.

- Healthy well-functioning natural resources underpin good health. They provide a place for people to be active, produce oxygen and cycling nutrients, help regulate climate, store carbon and have a role in water management (reducing flood-risk). They can also absorb air-borne pollutants that are harmful to health and provide a pollination resource which is important for food production.
- Health risks associated with a changing climate have the potential to impact greatest on the most vulnerable in society, so we need to be prepared.
- Moving away from a reliance on fossil fuels can lead to improvements in air quality and reductions in health conditions associated with air pollution.

Make Torfaen a great place to do business by working with local employers, encouraging new business start-ups and entrepreneurial activities:

- Having work can have a positive impact on an individual’s health and a thriving local economy needs a healthy workforce.
- Providing opportunities for people to adopt active lifestyles can support good health enabling them to achieve their educational potential, become part of a healthy workforce and sustain decent employment.

Support our local culture and heritage and make Torfaen a thriving, safe and attractive place to live and visit:

- Participation in the arts and cultural activities can have a positive impact on physical and mental health.

Provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services:




- The Connect Torfaen website connects residents to volunteering opportunities in their local community that can help to enhance mental health and well-being.

Objective 8 –Support our local culture and heritage and make Torfaen a thriving, safe and attractive place to live and visit


We will:


- ✓ Work with schools and services for young people to promote inclusion
- ✓ Support our residents in Torfaen to live in a safe and attractive place to live by working with partners at the community safety hub meetings and sharing information and resources to address issues for residents including neighbour disputes, hate incidents, ASB, low level crime
- ✓ Create resilient, safe and attractive places which attract and anchor local companies
- ✓ Keep our borough clean and make it an attractive place to be

	A prosperous Wales		A Wales of cohesive communities		A more equal Wales		A globally responsible Wales
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	A resilient Wales		A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language		A healthier Wales		Key=National Well-being Goals
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How this objective contributes to national well-being goals:


Participation in the arts and cultural activities can have a positive impact on physical and mental health. 


Improving feelings of safety will help support people’s mental and physical well-being e.g. people will feel able to enjoy the outdoors to walk, run, cycle and take part in other activities that keep them healthy. Introducing measures to tackle crime, anti-social activity and to improve safety will support greater cohesion in our communities. 


Supporting Torfaen’s rich and diverse cultural heritage will provide opportunities for people of different ages and backgrounds to come together. Equally cultural interests can bring people of different ages together. 


Working with our communities to tackle fly-tipping and litter will help keep our borough clean and make it an attractive place to be and helps to safeguard natural areas for future generations. Managing a communal green space can also help bring people and communities together, building pride and ownership in our communities. 


Working closely with schools and other young person support services through our Community Cohesion Team will help promote inclusive environments and a safer more tolerant Torfaen, where people feel safe and able to be involved in the places they live. 


Supporting minority communities, working to promote positive messages of awareness and championing diversity will help support a globally responsible Wales. Supporting diverse groups of people, including those of different cultures and ethnicity, to get on well together and feel safe in their communities is important for well-being and will help promote global responsibility. 


Blaenavon’s World Heritage designation attracts visitors to Torfaen from overseas who can contribute to the local economy. Protecting Torfaen’s globally recognised heritage is important in ensuring a sense of place and increasing community pride and well-being. 

Reducing the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on local businesses will help the economy to thrive. 

Many jobs are linked to our culture and heritage tourism and leisure industries, much of which is based around our local heritage and environmental assets. The creative economy has been identified by Cardiff Capital Region, as important to the prosperity of the regional economy going forward. 

Taking action to improve relations between individuals and communities and to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation will help to support a more equal Torfaen. 

Volunteering can be an opportunity to learn new skills and a gateway into future employment and cultural interests can bring people of different ages and backgrounds together. 

Increasing the number of Welsh speakers will also positively contribute to people's sense of place and well-being. 

Involvement



To help us develop this objective:

- ✓ Crime and ASB data provided by Gwent Police, along with information from local Councillors and the public has shaped the Community Safety Hub's priorities
- ✓ Over half of respondents (55.4%) to the Resident's Survey feel art and cultural activities are important. This has remained fairly consistent over time¹³.

To involve people in our work, we will:

- ✓ Continue to work with volunteers to look after and maintain our environment, bring people together and build pride and ownership in our communities.

Collaboration



To help us develop this objective, we:

- ✓ Worked with Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Partnership, ensuring effective stakeholder participation in management of the site.
- ✓ Worked through the multi-partner Community Safety Hub to identify priorities, share information and resources so that we are addressing the issues that are important for our residents.

To deliver our steps we will:

- ✓ Continue to work with our partners to manage Public Spaces Protection Orders to make our communities safer places to be.
- ✓ Continue to work with schools and other young person support services through our Community Cohesion Team to promote inclusive environments and a safer more tolerant Torfaen.
- ✓ Continue to work with and support to our key cultural organisations in Torfaen e.g., museum, theatre, Llantarnam Grange Arts.

Prevention



Our approach will:

- ✓ Focus on preventative interventions which tackle hate crime, hate speech and intolerance in our communities to create safer more tolerant communities.
- ✓ Focus on early detection, engagement and preventative interventions in areas that have been identified as hotspots for antisocial behaviour.
- ✓ Review our approach to enforcing fly-tipping, so we focus on preventing fly tipping from occurring.

¹³ Torfaen Together -Torfaen Residents' Survey 2021 Torfaen County Borough Council

✓ Focus on preventing serious violence in line with the new duty on local authorities to do so. This will be done through multi-agency pupil intervention, using the Strike approach in schools and 115 meetings for adults, as well as through mentoring.

Long-term

To help us develop our objective we have thought about long-term challenges and opportunities that could impact on *culture and heritage and making Torfaen a thriving, safe and attractive place to live and visit.*



Welsh Government's Future Trend Report, highlights¹⁴:

- Wales' population will continue to grow up to 2043, although the rate of growth will slow over time
- Populations are ageing across the globe
- The principal migration projection for Wales points to an increasing population up to 2037
- Non-EU net migration has been increasing in the UK since 2013, while EU net migration has stabilised since 2018
- Annual net international migration to Wales is projected to be at around 6,000 per year from mid-2025 onwards
- The number of people speaking Welsh is projected to increase. The increase is expected to be highest in younger age groups.
- Ecosystem resilience in Wales is declining and species are declining globally with the same pattern is occurring in Wales and the UK.

Our approach will:

- ✓ Work to reduce the likelihood of offending or antisocial behaviour through diversionary / educational activities we are fostering good citizenship for future generations.
- ✓ Take early intervention approaches to prevent escalation of community issues and to reduce the risk of harm and improve long-term well-being.
- ✓ Tackle the root-causes of fly-tipping and littering to safeguard our natural resources for future generations.
- ✓ Support key cultural organisations to help ensure that our cultural and heritage assets are sustained for future generations to enjoy.
- ✓ Support volunteering. An aging population may mean that there are more people able to support their communities through volunteering.

¹⁴ Future Trends Report Wales 2021. Welsh Government. <https://gov.wales/future-trends-2021>

Integration



How this objective, impacts on the Council's other well-being objectives:

Raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives:

- Working with schools and other young person support services through our Community Cohesion Team will promote inclusive environments and a safer more tolerant Torfaen.
- Supporting children and young people through multi-agency pupil intervention (MAPI) activity will help to prevent children entering the criminal justice system.
- Taking action to help support and grow the Welsh language will help preserve Welsh culture and identity for future generations.

Encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive

- Working closely with schools and other young person support services through our Community Cohesion Team will promote inclusive environments and a safer more tolerant Torfaen, where people feel safe and able to be involved in the places they live.

Tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives:

- Preventing children entering the criminal justice system and working to tackle anti-social behaviour will support more cohesive communities where people feel safe.
- Taking action to improve relations between individuals and communities and to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation will help to support a more equal Torfaen.
- Cultural interests can bring people of different ages together. We know that we have an aging population in Gwent, and this may mean that there are more people able to support their communities through volunteering.

Make Torfaen more sustainable by connecting people and communities, socially, digitally and physically:

- Heritage volunteering provides the opportunity to meet new people, to gain confidence and learn new skills for future employment.
- Good transport links enable people to access the countryside for recreation, to visit historic and cultural attractions, and to access sports and leisure facilities.

Respond to the climate and nature emergencies, recycle more and make improvements to the local environment:

- Educating children, young people and adults about the importance of protecting the environment, including from the damage caused by litter and fly-tipping will help protect and enhance Torfaen's precious natural resources.
- Environmental volunteering can be a great opportunity to communities and individuals to learn new skills.
- Torfaen can expect to experience a changing climate with more extreme weather events in the future. This could impact on historic and culturally important assets as

well as on outdoor events. Taking action to mitigate and adapt to impacts of climate change will help support local cultural identity which is linked to the environment.

- Torfaen's natural environment is strongly influenced by its industrial past and this distinct landscape, important to our culture today, is also a significant ecological resource that needs to be protected and enhanced.

Make Torfaen a great place to do business by working with local employers, encouraging new business start-ups and entrepreneurial activities:

- Reducing the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on local businesses will help the economy to thrive.
- Collaboratively developed place plans will support our towns become vibrant hubs that will meet people's everyday needs.
- Coordinating the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Partnership and managing the World Heritage Centre will provide a gateway into Torfaen and support local culture and heritage for future generations to enjoy.

Promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical wellbeing:

- Participation in the arts and cultural activities can have a positive impact on physical and mental health.
- Introducing measures to tackle crime, anti-social activity will improve feelings of safety will help support people's mental and physical well-being.

Provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services:








- Expanding Welsh language provision will help preserve Welsh culture and identity for future generations.
- Involving people and communities in matters that are important to them and the decisions that we make will help make Torfaen a cohesive and thriving place to live.

Objective 9 – *Provide efficient customer focused services that reflect the way people live their lives and wish to access services*


We will:



- ✓ Provide well-being advice and guidance to encourage social inclusion
- ✓ Create excellent and efficient services designed around the needs of our customers and informed by data insights and business intelligence
- ✓ Empower customers and staff to thrive in an increasingly digital world
- ✓ Develop innovative and effective, secure, robust and joined up systems and technology solutions which improve the customer experience, our efficiency and access to data insight
- ✓ Involve people and communities in matters that are important to them and the decisions that we make
- ✓ Support young people to access services and participate in political life
- ✓ Provide an effective and efficient registration service for Torfaen residents to support them at key stages in their lives.


✓ Provide equalities and diversity training for staff and elected Members.


	A prosperous Wales		A Wales of cohesive communities		A more equal Wales		A globally responsible Wales
	A resilient Wales		A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language		A healthier Wales		Key=National Well-being Goals


How this objective contributes to national well-being goals:





Improving the content on the council’s website works so that it becomes much easier to find information and complete services online will improve the accessibility of our services. 


Supporting young people to access services and to participate in political life will support a more social inclusive Torfaen.  



Provide an effective and efficient registration service for Torfaen residents to support them at key stages in their lives will support cohesive communities. 

Helping residents to access library resources online can support learning and skills development and act as a gateway into employment. 

Using assistive technology where appropriate, can support people to lead independent lives and to stay healthier for longer. 

Providing clean green spaces and built environments that are accessible to all, will support people to connect, access the services and facilities they need and enjoy the health benefits of nature.    

Delivering equalities and diversity training to staff and elected Members to equip them with the skills to promote equalities. 

Expanding Welsh language provision will help preserve Welsh culture and identity for future generations.  

Involvement



To help us develop our objective:

- ✓ We asked our residents for their views on the services we deliver through our *Torfaen Together* -Torfaen Residents’ Survey.
- ✓ We are also aware from Member, customer enquiries and social media engagement that residents value a quick and efficient response to service requests.

To involve people in our work we will:

- ✓ Increase opportunities for residents to contact us and complete transactions on our website by extending the functionality of our “chat bot”
- ✓ Create community hubs to provide advice, assistance and support to residents close to where they live.
- ✓ Continue to identify opportunities for young people to be involved at all levels of decision making within the local authority

- ✓ Use customer, stakeholder, and staff feedback to improve the registration process for births, deaths, and marriages.

Collaboration



To help us develop this objective:

- ✓ Our volunteer programmes tell us that there is an appetite from residents to become more involved in the way that services are delivered.

To deliver our steps we will:

- ✓ Create clear opportunities for customers to be involved in the design of our services
- ✓ Put additional resource into conversations around an Age-Friendly Plan and exploring the extent to which our services meet the needs of all older people.
- ✓ Continue to engage with Torfaen Access Forum to speak directly with disabled people and charities working with disabled people, to agree changes that will make our services, green spaces and built environments more accessible.
- ✓ Develop our relationships with groups that share protected characteristics to encourage their involvement in consultations, impact assessments and conversations about our services and communities.
- ✓ Create a resource package for staff and volunteers to enable them to effectively support quality child and youth engagement that upholds the National Participation Standards for children and young people (Wales).

Prevention



Answering queries from our residents in a timely fashion and directing them to the right support. at the right time, can help prevent problems from occurring.

We will:

- ✓ Create effective and efficient services designed around the needs of our customers and informed by data insights and business intelligence.
- ✓ Create community hubs to provide advice, assistance and support to residents close to where they live.

Long-term



To help us develop our objective we have thought about long-term challenges and opportunities that could impact on provide efficient customer focused services.

Welsh Government's Future Trend Report¹⁵ highlights that:

- The pandemic has shown how digital exclusion disproportionately impacts on certain groups in society, including older people, people from Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities, and social housing residents
- A growing reliance on digital technologies within society threatens to widen the inequalities caused by digital exclusion
- Demand for public services will increase in the future as demographic structures change and the population becomes older

¹⁵ Future Trends Report Wales 2021. Welsh Government. <https://gov.wales/future-trends-2021>

- With internet use and access increasing over the past two decades, there has been growth in digital users of public services
- How people access public sector services is changing due to a move toward digitisation
- People aged 35-54 were found to be most likely to access public service websites, while those aged 65 and over were least likely
- The number of people speaking Welsh is projected to increase. The increase is expected to be highest in younger age groups
- The population is ageing
- The changing climate will create several key risks for Wales and an increasing number of extreme weather events.

Our approach will:

- ✓ Help our residents to use our self-service facilities, will help us manage long-term demand for services.
- ✓ Put additional resource into conversations around an Age-Friendly Plan and exploring the extent to which our services meet the needs of all older people.
- ✓ Develop our relationships with groups that share protected characteristics to encourage their involvement in consultations, impact assessments and conversations about our services and communities.
- ✓ Create community hubs to provide advice, assistance and support to residents close to where they live.
- ✓ Develop our understanding of climate risks to help us to deliver resilient services.

Integration



How this objective, impacts on the Council's other well-being objectives:

Raise educational attainment, helping young people and adults to gain the qualifications and skills needed to lead positive lives:

- Improving digital skills through our Adult and Community Learning offer will empowering people to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Encourage and champion children, young people and families so they can thrive:

- Improving learning facilities and supporting modern teaching methods will support children and young people to thrive.

Tackle inequality by focusing on early identification and prevention activities that support people to live independent and fulfilling lives:

- Using assistive technology where appropriate, can support people to lead independent lives.

Make Torfaen more sustainable by connecting people and communities, socially, digitally and physically:

- Creating community hubs to provide advice, assistance and support to residents close to where they live will help support sustainable communities.

Respond to the climate and nature emergencies, recycle more and make improvements to the local environment:

- We need the services we deliver for our customers to be resilient to a changing climate, developing our understanding of climate risks will help us prepare for future impacts.
- Creating an on-line area for the public to share their ideas about responding to the climate emergency will help us respond to the net zero emissions challenge.

Make Torfaen a great place to do business by working with local employers, encouraging new business start-ups and entrepreneurial activities:

- Improving digital skills through our Adult and Community Learning offer will empowering people to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Promote healthier lifestyles in Torfaen to improve mental and physical wellbeing:

- Promoting the Connect Torfaen website will link residents to volunteering opportunities in their local community that can help to enhance mental health and well-being.

Support our local culture and heritage and make Torfaen a thriving, safe and attractive place to live and visit:

- Expanding Welsh language provision will help preserve Welsh culture and identity for future generations.
- Involving people and communities in matters that are important to them and the decisions that we make will help make Torfaen a cohesive and thriving place to live.

4. Governance and resource

Our well-being objectives will be managed through a robust approach to project management to ensure visibility of progress, risks and accountability for delivery.

In addition to the governance arrangements for the County Plan and continuous monitoring of key activities, measures and risks through our service planning process, our key plans and strategies will be monitored and will also have their own arrangements supporting effective delivery:

Economy & Skills Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance monitoring through Leadership Team, the Strategic Economic Forum, and the Prosperous Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
Children and Young People's Development Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct reporting and oversight to the Council's Leadership Team and Cabinet and Scrutiny. The Chief Executive will personally sponsor the programme to ensure a clear line of sight on progressing of the plan. - The development plan will follow a structured programme and project management approach under the guidance of a newly forming Programme Management Office (PMO) working alongside the services responsible for supporting children, families, and communities.

Climate and nature emergency Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Cabinet sub-group has been established to support delivery of the climate and nature emergency action plan by helping to find solutions to challenges and identifying areas for improvement. - Annual reporting of the Council’s Net Zero emission progress to Welsh Government - Regular reporting to the Council’s Leadership Team as part of its Performance Schedule - 3 yearly reporting on what has been done to comply with our Biodiversity Duty and setting out how we are contributing to the objectives of the national Nature Recovery Action Plan.
Community Well-being Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan is currently being drafted but once in place it will be subject to scrutiny at Leadership Team and through appropriate board structures.
Digital First Customer Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An annual delivery plan will underpin our Digital First Customer strategy allowing us to react to emerging trends and opportunities in the context of the wider strategic ambitions. - Governance will be provided via the Digital First Customer Strategy Delivery Board - A Digital Solutions Procurement Board will review and approve ICT and Digital related procurement requests.
Local Development Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Delivery Agreement will be produced, agreed by both Council and Welsh Government. This includes a timescale and Community Involvement Scheme for the numerous statutory steps in the production of the Local Development Plan resulting in adoption of the plan. - Following adoption of the Plan, an Annual Monitoring Report is required to be submitted to Welsh Government by end October each year, setting out how the plan is performing.

5. Meeting our well-being objectives

We will know if we’ve been successful, when:

Well-being Objective	What has changed by 2027:
1.Raising educational attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All children and young people will have access to good quality education and no schools will be in special measures. ✓ We will have reduced the proportion of young people leaving school not going into further education, employment or training. ✓ We will have successfully embedded the new Curriculum for Wales into our schools to better prepare children and young people for a changing world.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We will be better at meeting the Additional Learning Needs of children and young people helping them to overcome barriers to learning and reach their full potential. ✓ We will have increased support to address the negative impacts of Covid on young people’s education such as learning delay, increased anxiety, behavioural complexities and poor attendance. ✓ We will have helped address recruitment and workforce issues in our Welsh medium education schools. ✓ Proportionally more people will gain the GCSE or equivalent qualifications they need to lead positive lives. ✓ More people will undertake community learning and undertake basic skills that help them gain employment. ✓ We will develop the role of the school in the community and the role of the community to support our schools.
<p>2. Encouraging and championing young people and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ More children will receive childcare and education through the Welsh language, contributing to Welsh Government’s Cymraeg 2050 aspirations. ✓ More families will be accessing the Flying Start programme. ✓ More schools requiring investment from the 21st Century schools programme will be modernised. ✓ More children and young people will be directly involved in council decisions and shaping council services. ✓ We will have reduced our Children Looked After population and a greater proportion will be living with in-house foster carers. ✓ We will have increased the number of in-house foster carers with the skills to manage complex situations. ✓ We will have developed in-county therapeutic accommodation options for children with complex needs. ✓ We will work with more young people to reduce anti-social behaviour, preventing people entering the criminal justice system. ✓ We will have supported more refugees to settle into our communities. ✓ We will promote the role and needs of young carers within the community, in order for them to be able to access services equitably. ✓ We will protect children from harmful substances and products through undertaking test purchasing exercises with partners on the sale of age restricted goods, such as alcohol, tobacco and knives.
<p>3. Tackling inequality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We will aim to prevent all families and individuals from becoming homeless through targeted intervention and support. ✓ We will reduce homelessness by working with partners to ensure greater access to suitable accommodation and support services. ✓ We will work with communities to support them to become more resilient and less dependent on statutory services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ More people will retain greater independence at home and to access services in their community through further developing our community based reablement services. ✓ We will ensure that children with disabilities are provided with a quality service that promotes family life, independence and access to community facilities. ✓ We will have helped address some of the serious impacts of the cost-of-living crisis with a range of financial support for those most in need. ✓ We will bring new private and affordable housing to market through working with landowners to identify new parcels of land for housing. ✓ We will provide free school meals for all nursery and primary aged children. ✓ We will work with our partners and businesses to provide good sustainable jobs in the Borough which enable people to live well. ✓ We will improve housing standards and identify risks to health and safety by responding to and learning from complaints from residents about private rented properties. ✓ More people will live independently in their own homes through greater use of assistive technology.
<p>4. Connecting people and communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ More people will choose public transport as a means of travelling for social and business purposes with more trains stopping at Cwmbran and Pontypool and New Inn Rail Stations. ✓ We will have more active travel routes with more people walking and cycling including improving accessibility for disabled people to ensure they can enjoy their local environment. ✓ More people will be making journeys using electric vehicles supported by increasing the number of electric vehicle charging points in the county. ✓ We will work with more volunteers and community groups to improve local environments and communities. ✓ More people will be accessing council services using faster, more widely accessible wifi. ✓ We will use digital solutions to help us monitor how people use our town centre. ✓ Fewer people will be digitally excluded through improved access to broadband.
<p>5. Responding to the climate and nature emergencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We will have increased the area of Council owned land managed for biodiversity. ✓ We will be well on our way to meeting our target to be net zero carbon by 2030. ✓ We will have exceeded our recycling targets with a greater range of materials collected for recycling. ✓ We will crack down on environmental crimes to deter littering, fly-tipping and dog fouling.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We will foster greater pride in place by providing greater support for community environmental action. ✓ Council buildings will use less fossil fuels and suitable buildings will be used to generate renewable electricity. ✓ More of our vehicles will be ultra-low emission, reducing the Council's overall carbon footprint. ✓ We will have increased the borough's tree coverage and established new orchards to increase carbon capture and promote biodiversity. ✓ We will have trained over 1,000 staff climate champions so people understand the impact of their decisions on climate change. ✓ We will have developed a new local nature reserve to demonstrate our commitment to protect the environment and create valued spaces for our communities to enjoy. ✓ We will work with communities and maximise funding opportunities to enhance the local natural environment and the condition of local parks and public outdoor spaces. ✓ We will improve air quality within the Borough taking the necessary action to protect public health and the environment.
6. Making Torfaen a great place to do business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We will have supported businesses in the county to deliver economic growth by helping residents into skilled, prosperous and secure employment. ✓ We will have encouraged growth in the number of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), micro-enterprises and business start-ups. ✓ We will create an innovation ecosystem to promote local research and development in our businesses to help them grow and become more prosperous. ✓ We will have promoted Torfaen as a place for investment and worked with developers to transform brownfield sites for employment. ✓ We will have identified new parcels of industrial/employment land, working with landowners to bring them to market. ✓ We will have driven up spend in our local economy by improving local skills and through our own spending as a Council. ✓ We will have upskilled the local workforce to attract and retain employers. ✓ We will use some council buildings differently to encourage support new businesses and new industries.
7. Promoting healthy lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All schools will have plans to support emotional and mental well-being of staff and learners. ✓ All pupils should be able to participate in 60 minutes of activity every day. ✓ We will expand mental health support for people of all ages. ✓ We will expand inclusive play facilities suitable for all children.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We will work with communities to develop a range of provision so that more residents can access support and take part in volunteering activities. ✓ We will work with Torfaen Leisure Trust to provide greater access to facilities for school pupils. ✓ We will develop community support services and reduce the number of adults and children needing formal care. ✓ We will carry out inspections of food businesses in Torfaen to ensure the food is safe and is what it says it is. ✓ We will develop a sport and leisure strategy with our partners to engage more people in healthy activities and increase opportunities for more people to take part in sports and physical activity.
8. Supporting culture and heritage and making thriving, safe and attractive places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We will increase visitor numbers to destinations in Torfaen including a revitalised Greenmeadow Community Farm. ✓ We will rejuvenate our town centres and encourage a night-time economy with more visitors enjoying good quality places to eat and drink. ✓ The Blaengafog Brook on the British will be taken out of culverts and will flow in a new channel as the first stage of the British masterplan We will have reduced the level of anti-social behaviour and serious violence within our communities. ✓ We will work with communities and maximise funding opportunities that improve the appearance of communities and town centres that help promote pride in place. ✓ We will promote Torfaen as a 'Destination', working with our outstanding visitor attractions so that we can offer attractive packages for day and overnight visitors that include venues throughout the Borough.
9. Providing efficient customer focused services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We will be a digitally enabled and efficient Council providing excellent customer service, allowing more residents to complete their transactions online. ✓ We will be proactively signposting residents to a wider range of well-being information and preventative services to increase the number of people who access information and support from their community. ✓ More residents will be accessing public information, advice and guidance anytime, anyplace and anywhere. ✓ We will ensure our services are designed to reflect customer not business needs through involving, engaging and consulting customers to ensure services listen and improve.

6. How the steps to meet our well-being objectives will be kept under review

Activity will be managed through a robust approach to project management to ensure visibility of progress, risks, and accountability for delivery.

The involvement of residents and stakeholders in the development of services and projects is critical to ensure that we do the right things, at the right time and in the right way. As part of the Local Government and Elections Act, we have undergone a major review of our governance and participation arrangements, resulting in clarity on how members of the public can be involved in decision making, scrutiny and holding the council to account.

We recognise and value the role our employees play in delivering this plan and to running our many statutory services. We will continue to invest in activities that attract and retain a skilled and committed workforce, whilst making the most of working with external partners, to share expertise, to ensure this plan is delivered.

An annual Delivery Plan linking the activities in our plan to the identified well-being objectives has been put in place for 2022-23. This exercise will be undertaken annually and will be informed by the progress made in the previous year. Our County Plan 2022-27 shows the outputs we will monitor to demonstrate progress and the high-level outcomes, which will evidence the success of our ambitions. These will form the basis of quarterly monitoring and reporting for 2022/23 and beyond.

Our approach to service planning will be central to delivering upon our aspirations. We are developing the process to ensure each service area's plans are comprehensive, living documents that are the vehicle for delivering, reporting, and giving account of all high-level plans and strategies. We will continue to build a culture of high performance throughout the Council, regularly monitoring the delivery of our activities, risks, and performance data, that collectively will enable us to develop as an organisation and achieve our aspirations for Torfaen.

**TORFAEN
COUNTY
BOROUGH**



**BWRDEISTREF
SIROL
TORFAEN**

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