

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

Background

Torfaen Council values the opinions of people living and working in Torfaen. Our service areas encourage members of the community to actively participate in the decision-making process, and use their views and experiences to inform plans, policies and actions.

We also want to work with our communities in new creative ways to identify shared solutions and opportunities to co-produce and co-deliver.

Our teams use different methods to engage with individuals, communities, businesses, and partners. These methods

include a range of face-to-face, virtual and online events, and opportunities to provide residents with the information they need to make informed decisions about the way we work, and the services they receive.

All our engagement is guided by legislative requirements and nationally recognised standards and principles. More information about these can be found by clicking on the images below.



For us participation means:

'Enabling people to engage in processes where they determine their level of involvement. Their views are valued and inform decision making, leading to effective strategic planning, service improvement and personal empowerment.'

(Torfaen Local Services Board (2013))

Torfaen model of participation

Participation is a process, and you can engage in the whole process, or take part to any degree that suits you.



(Based on Arnstein's citizen participation ladder)

Our strategy

We will inform you of how and when you can engage with council services and the democratic process. We will provide a variety of different ways for you to have your say and we will let you know how your contributions have been used. We will continually review how we engage with residents to ensure we work for everyone.

Benefits of participation

- It is empowering and can help affect positive change for individuals and communities.
- Participation can improve the way the services are delivered.
- Working with residents to design services helps us direct our resources effectively.

Ways to participate

There are different ways to get involved to get your voice heard in Torfaen. For example:

- Get in touch with your local councillor. Find out more [here](#).
 - Become a local councillor. Find out more [here](#).
 - Find out more about **Overview and Scrutiny Committees**.
 - Watch Council meetings live or recorded via our [website](#).
 - Take part in consultations and debates via our **Get Involved Torfaen** online consultation hub.
 - Join our people's panel. **Visit the Get Involved Torfaen People's Panel page** or email getinvolved@torfaen.gov.uk
 - Get in touch with Torfaen 50+ forums. Email zoe.gibbs@torfaen.gov.uk
 - Join the Torfaen Young People's Forum. Contact philip.wilson@torfaen.gov.uk
- Plus....
- Find out about other local citizen panels, including Torfaen Climate Ambassadors, [here](#).
 - Join the Gwent PSB Citizen Panel. Contact citizenpanel@torfaen.gov.uk or 01495 761691.
 - Contact your local town or community council. Find out more [here](#).
 - Follow [@torfaen](#) and [@torfaencouncil](#) on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.